

inconsequential impact on motor vehicle safety.

Interested persons are invited to submit written views, arguments, and data on the application described above. Comments must refer to the docket and notice number cited at the beginning of this notice and be submitted by any of the following methods: Mail: Docket Management Facility; U.S. Department of Transportation, Nassif Building, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC, 20590-0001. Hand Delivery: Room PL-401 on the plaza level of the Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC. Fax: 1-202-493-2251, or submit to Federal Rulemaking Portal: Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

It is requested, but not required, that two copies of the comments be provided. The Docket Section is open on weekdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. except Federal Holidays. Comments may be submitted electronically by logging onto the Docket Management System Web site at <http://dms.dot.gov>. Click on "Help" to obtain instructions for filing the document electronically.

The application and supporting materials and all comments received before the close of business on the closing date indicated below will be considered. All comments received after the closing date will also be filed and will be considered to the extent possible. When the application is granted or denied, the notice will be published in the **Federal Register** pursuant to the authority indicated below.

Comment closing date: *November 13, 2003.*

**Authority:** (49 U.S.C. 301118, 301120; delegations of authority at 49 CFR 1.50 and 501.8)

Issued on: October 7, 2003.

**Stephen R. Kratzke,**

*Associate Administrator for Rulemaking.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Research and Special Programs Administration

[Docket No. RSPA-03-16273]

#### Pipeline Safety: Stress Corrosion Cracking (SCC) Workshop

**AGENCY:** Office of Pipeline Safety, Research and Special Programs Administration, DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice; Workshop on Stress Corrosion Cracking (SCC).

**SUMMARY:** The Research and Special Programs Administration's (RSPA) Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) and the National Association of Pipeline Safety Representatives (NAPSR) are cosponsoring a workshop on stress corrosion cracking (SCC) with the pipeline industry trade associations (American Petroleum Institute, Association of Oil Pipelines, Interstate Natural Gas Association of America, American Gas Association, and NACE International). The workshop will provide a forum for the discussion of SCC phenomena in both gas and hazardous liquid pipelines.

**DATES:** Tuesday, December 2, 2003, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The public may attend the meeting at the Westin Oaks Hotel, 5011 Westheimer Blvd., Houston, TX 77056 (telephone: 713-960-8100; fax: 713-960-6553). Operators of natural gas transmission and hazardous liquid pipelines are urged to attend. To facilitate meeting planning, advance registration for these meetings is strongly encouraged and can be accomplished online at the following Web site: <http://primis/rspa.dot.gov/meetings>.

Members of the public are welcome to attend the workshop. An opportunity will be provided for the public to ask questions or make short statements on the topics under discussion. You may submit written comments by mail or deliver to the Dockets Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001. It is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. You also may submit written comments to the docket electronically. To do so, log onto the following Internet Web address: <http://dms.dot.gov>. Click on "Help & Information" for instructions on how to file a document electronically. All written comments should identify the docket and notice numbers which appear in the heading of this notice. Anyone who would like confirmation of mailed comments must include a self-addressed stamped postcard.

Anyone may search the electronic form of all comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the comment, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). You may review DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement in the April 11, 2000, issue of the **Federal Register** (Volume 65, Number 70; Pages

19477-78) or you may visit <http://dms.dot.gov>.

*Information on Services for Individuals with Disabilities:* For information on facilities or services for individuals with disabilities or to request special assistance at the meeting, contact Juan Carlos Martinez (telephone: 202-366-1933; E-mail: [juan.martinez@rspa.dot.gov](mailto:juan.martinez@rspa.dot.gov)).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Janice Morgan (telephone: 404-562-3552; E-mail

[janice.morgan@rspa.dot.gov](mailto:janice.morgan@rspa.dot.gov)) regarding the subject matter of this notice. You can read comments and other material in the docket on the Internet at: <http://dms.dot.gov>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The first recorded SCC failure of a pipeline in the United States was in 1965. SCC continues to be a threat to the integrity of both gas transmission and hazardous liquid pipelines under certain conditions. Recent incidents throughout North America and elsewhere, including Australia, Russia, Saudi Arabia, and South America, have highlighted the threats to pipelines from SCC failures. Although SCC failures on hazardous liquid pipelines have been very rare compared with other threats to hazardous liquid pipelines and compared with SCC occurrences on natural gas pipelines, three SCC-caused failures of hazardous liquid pipelines have occurred in 2003.

RSPA/OPS recently issued an Advisory Bulletin to remind owners and operators of gas transmission and hazardous liquid pipelines to consider SCC as a risk factor when developing and implementing Integrity Management Plans. All owners and operators of pipeline systems, whether or not their pipeline systems are subject to the Integrity Management Plan rules, should determine whether their pipeline system is susceptible to SCC and assess the impact of SCC on pipeline integrity. Based on this evaluation an operator should prioritize application of internal inspection, hydrostatic testing, or other forms of integrity verification.

The workshop on December 2, 2003, will address the following topics:

1. Stress Corrosion Cracking—description, science, and history.
2. Practical application of SCC principles—how to assess SCC in operating pipelines within the context of integrity management.
3. Response to the occurrence of SCC—guidelines for response and remediation; addressing public concerns.

4. Research and development—knowledge gaps and next steps.

This is a technical workshop aimed at sharing information on SCC in pipelines among operators and technical experts, providing regulators with information they can use in pipeline inspection and oversight, and reviewing priorities for research to address the problems posed by SCC in operating gas and hazardous liquid pipelines.

RSPA/OPS will soon publish a final rule to require gas transmission pipelines to develop Integrity Management Plans for high consequence areas that incorporates requirements for addressing SCC threats by referencing Appendix A3 of standard ASME B31.8S. Although criteria and mitigation plans for near-neutral pH (6–8) SCC is not addressed in this standard, NACE International (NACE) is currently developing a standard on Direct Assessment of Stress Corrosion Cracking. Also, NACE will soon issue a technical committee report, *External Stress Corrosion Cracking of Underground Pipelines*, to provide information on SCC for hazardous liquid pipelines.

RSPA/OPS is cosponsoring this workshop with NAPS and major pipeline industry trade groups, including the American Petroleum Institute (API) Association of Oil Pipelines (AOPL), Interstate Natural Gas Association of America (INGAA), American Gas Association (AGA), and a professional association, NACE International.

**Authority:** 49 U.S.C. 60102, 60109, 60117.

Issued in Washington, DC on October 7, 2003.

**Jeffrey D. Wiese,**

*Manager, Program Development, Office of Pipeline Safety.*

[FR Doc. 03–25894 Filed 10–10–03; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Research and Special Programs Administration

[Docket No. RSPA–03–14793 (Notice No. 03–11)]

#### Hazardous Materials: Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material (TS–R–1); Public Meeting

**AGENCY:** Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** RSPA will conduct a public meeting pertaining to the proposed changes to the International Atomic

Energy Agency's (IAEA) Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Materials, TS–R–1, scheduled for revision in the year 2005. Interested persons are invited to attend.

**DATES:** *Public meeting.* The public meeting will be held on November 5, 2003 from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:** *Public meeting.* The meeting will be held at Department of Transportation Headquarters, Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590–0001, in room 8236–8240.

*Docket:* For access to the docket to read background documents or comments received, go to <http://dms.dot.gov> at any time or to the Docket Management System; U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Nassif Building, Room PL–401, Washington, DC 20590–0001.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Rick Boyle, Office of Hazardous Material Technology, U.S. Department of Transportation, Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590–0001; (202) 366–2993; [rick.boyle@rspa.dot.gov](mailto:rick.boyle@rspa.dot.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the U.S. Department of Transportation comments forwarded to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on the proposed changes to the IAEA Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Materials, TS–R–1. These comments will be presented as the U.S. positions at the IAEA regulatory review meeting scheduled for November 10–14, 2003, in Bonn, Germany. The public is invited to attend without prior notification. Due to heightened security measures at DOT Headquarters, participants are encouraged to arrive early to allow time to undergo the security checks necessary to obtain access to the building.

The regulatory changes proposed by IAEA are available on the Internet at [http://hazmat.dot.gov/files/IAEA\\_TS-R-1\\_rev\\_prop.pdf](http://hazmat.dot.gov/files/IAEA_TS-R-1_rev_prop.pdf). A consolidated draft of the endorsed proposed TS–R–1 revision may be downloaded at [http://hazmat.dot.gov/files/IAEA\\_TS-R-1\\_rev\\_draft.pdf](http://hazmat.dot.gov/files/IAEA_TS-R-1_rev_draft.pdf). A summary of the U.S. DOT positions forwarded to the IAEA may be downloaded at [http://hazmat.dot.gov/files/IAEA\\_TS-R-1\\_dot\\_position.pdf](http://hazmat.dot.gov/files/IAEA_TS-R-1_dot_position.pdf).

Issued in Washington, DC on October 7, 2003.

**Robert A. McGuire,**

*Associate Administrator for Hazardous Materials Safety.*

[FR Doc. 03–25895 Filed 10–10–03; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB–290 (Sub–No. 239X)]

#### The Alabama Great Southern Railroad Company—Abandonment Exemption—in New Orleans, LA

The Alabama Great Southern Railroad Company (AGS)<sup>1</sup> has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F—*Exempt Abandonments* to abandon approximately 1.28 miles of railroad between milepost 1.22–NT and milepost 2.50–NT, in New Orleans, LA. The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Code 70112.

AGS has certified that: (1) No local traffic has moved over the line for at least 2 years; (2) any overhead traffic on the line can be rerouted over other lines; (3) no formal complaint filed by a user of rail service on the line (or by a state or local government entity acting on behalf of such user) regarding cessation of service over the line either is pending with the Board or with any U.S. District Court or has been decided in favor of complainant within the 2-year period; and (4) the requirements at 49 CFR 1105.7 (environmental reports), 49 CFR 1105.8 (historic reports), 49 CFR 1105.11 (transmittal letter), 49 CFR 1105.12 (newspaper publication), and 49 CFR 1152.50(d)(1) (notice to governmental agencies) have been met.

As a condition to this exemption, any employee adversely affected by the abandonment shall be protected under *Oregon Short Line R. Co.—Abandonment—Goshen*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979). To address whether this condition adequately protects affected employees, a petition for partial revocation under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) must be filed. Provided no formal expression of intent to file an offer of financial assistance (OFA) has been received, this exemption will be effective on November 13, 2003, unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay that do not involve environmental issues,<sup>2</sup> formal

<sup>1</sup> AGS is a wholly owned subsidiary of Norfolk Southern Railway Company.

<sup>2</sup> The Board will grant a stay if an informed decision on environmental issues (whether raised by a party or by the Board's Section of