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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Research and Special Programs Administration

#### International Standards on the Transport of Dangerous Goods; Public Meetings

**AGENCY:** Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA), Department of Transportation.

**ACTION:** Notice of public meetings.

**SUMMARY:** This notice is to advise interested persons that RSPA will conduct public meetings in preparation for and to report the results of the 26th session of the United Nations Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (UNSCOE) to be held November 29–December 7, 2004, in Geneva, Switzerland.

**DATES:** November 23, 2004, 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Room 6200. December 15, 2004, 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Room 6200.

**ADDRESSES:** Both meetings will be held at DOT Headquarters, Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC 20590.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Bob Richard, International Standards Coordinator, or Mr. Duane Pfund, Assistant International Standards Coordinator, Office of Hazardous Materials Safety, Department of Transportation, Washington, DC 20590; (202) 366-0656.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The primary purpose of the first meeting will be to prepare for the 26th session of the UNSCOE and to discuss draft U.S. positions on UNSCOE proposals. The primary purpose of the second meeting will be to provide a briefing on the outcome of the UNSCOE session and to prepare for the 27th session of the UNSCOE. The 26th session of the UNSCOE is the final meeting in the current biennium cycle and will finalize amendments considered for the 14th Revised Edition of the United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods Model Regulations. Topics to be covered during the public meeting include:

(1) Harmonization of the Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods with the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals, (2) Hazards to the aquatic environment, (3) Transport of Dangerous Goods in limited quantities and consumer commodities, (4) Infectious Substances,

(5) Vibration design type testing, (6) Entries for fuel cell devices and cartridges, (7) Procedures for incident reporting, (8) Harmonization with the IAEA Regulations for the safe transport of radioactive materials, (9) Miscellaneous proposals related to listing and classification and the use of packagings and tanks. The public is invited to attend without prior notification. Due to heightened security measures participants are encouraged to arrive early to allow time for security checks necessary to obtain access to the building.

#### Documents

Copies of documents for the UNSCOE meeting and the meeting agenda may be obtained by downloading them from the United Nations Transport Division's Web site at: <http://www.unece.org/trans/main/dgbd/dgsubc/c32004.html>. This site may also be accessed through RSPA's Hazardous Materials Safety home page at <http://hazmat.dot.gov/instandards.htm>. RSPA's site provides additional information regarding the UNSCOE and related matters such as a summary of decisions taken at previous sessions of the UNSCOE.

Issued in Washington, DC, on October 20, 2004.

**Frits Wybenga,**

*Deputy Associate Administrator for Hazardous Materials Safety.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Research and Special Programs Administration

[Docket No. RSPA-04-19091; Notice 1]

#### Pipeline Safety: Petition for Waiver; Tuscarora Gas Transmission Company

**AGENCY:** Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA), U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT).

**ACTION:** Notice; Petition for Waiver.

**SUMMARY:** Tuscarora Gas Transmission Company has petitioned the Research and Special Programs Administration, Office of Pipeline Safety (RSPA/OPS) for a waiver of the pipeline safety regulation that requires each onshore gas transmission pipeline in a Class 1 location to have sectionalizing block valves spaced at a maximum distance of 20 miles.

**DATES:** Persons interested in submitting written comments on the waiver request described in this notice must do so by November 26, 2004. Late filed

comments will be considered so far as practicable.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit written comments by mailing or delivering an original and two copies to the Dockets Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001. The Dockets Facility is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on Federal holidays when the facility is closed. Alternatively, you may submit written comments to the docket electronically at the following Web address: <http://dms.dot.gov>.

All written comments should identify the docket and notice numbers stated in the heading of this notice. Anyone who wants confirmation of mailed comments must include a self-addressed stamped postcard. To file written comments electronically, after logging on to <http://dms.dot.gov>, click on "Comment/Submissions." You can also read comments and other material in the docket. General information about the Federal pipeline safety program is available at <http://ops.dot.gov>.

Anyone is able to 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 **Federal Register** published on April 11, 2000 (volume 65, number 70; pages 19477-78), or you may visit <http://dms.dot.gov>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** James Reynolds by phone at 202-366-2786, by fax at 202-366-4566, by mail at DOT, RSPA, Office of Pipeline Safety, 400 7th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590, or by e-mail at [james.reynolds@rspa.dot.gov](mailto:james.reynolds@rspa.dot.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The pipeline safety regulations at 49 CFR 192.179 require that each point on an onshore gas pipeline in a Class 1 location must be within 10 miles of a sectionalizing block valve, unless in a particular case the RSPA Administrator finds that alternative spacing would provide an equivalent level of safety. This means that the distance between valves in a Class 1 location may not exceed 20 miles. During a recent review of its records, Tuscarora Gas Transmission Company (Tuscarora) discovered that during construction the upstream portions of its pipeline in Lassen County, California, were slightly re-routed to avoid a sensitive environmental habitat. As a result, the spacing between main line valves MLV-