

- Follow-up to UNCED and WSSD;
- Technical cooperation program;
- Future role of formal safety assessment and human element issues; and
- Work program of the Committee and subsidiary bodies.

Immediately following the meeting, there will be an extended technical discussion on the topic of greenhouse gases, which is part of the agenda item regarding prevention of air pollution from ships. The focus of this discussion will be on draft voluntary guidelines for developing carbon dioxide indexes for ships. These draft guidelines were developed at MEPC 52 and will be discussed at MEPC 53.

Please note that hard copies of documents associated with MEPC 53 will not be available at this meeting. Documents will be available in Adobe Acrobat format on CD-ROM. To request documents please write to the address provided below, or request documents via the following Internet link: <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/gm/mso/mso4/mepc.html>.

Members of the public may attend this meeting up to the seating capacity of the room. Interested persons may seek information by writing to Ensign Christina Sullivan, Commandant (G-MSO-4), U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, 2100 Second Street, SW., Room 1601, Washington, DC 20593-0001 or by calling (202) 267-2079.

Dated: June 9, 2005.

Clay Diamond,

Executive Secretary, Shipping Coordinating Committee, Department of State.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

[Waiver Petition Docket Number FRA-2002-11809]

North County Transit District; Supplementary Notice of Waiver Request; Notice of Public Hearing; and Extension of Comment Period

As a supplement to North County Transit District's (NCTD) Petition for Approval of Shared Use and Waiver of Certain Federal Railroad Administration Regulations (the Waiver was granted by the FRA on June 24, 2003), NCTD seeks permanent waiver of compliance from additional sections of Title 49 of the CFR for operation of its SPRINTER rail line between Oceanside, CA., and Escondido, CA. See Statement of Agency Policy Concerning Jurisdiction

Over the Safety of Railroad Passenger Operations and Waivers Related to Shared Use of the Tracks of the General Railroad System by Light Rail and Conventional Equipment, 65 FR 42529 (July 10, 2000). See also Joint Statement of Agency Policy Concerning Shared Use of the Tracks of the General Railroad System by Conventional Railroads and Light Rail Transit Systems, 65 FR 42626 (July 10, 2000).

In this regard, NCTD has advanced the design and construction of the SPRINTER rail line towards implementation and in the process, has identified the following additional regulations from which it hereby seeks waivers: 49 CFR part 223 Safety Glazing Standards—Locomotives, Passenger Cars and Caboose, Section 223.9(c); and part 229 Railroad Locomotive Safety Standards, Section 229.125(a).

As a result of the comments received by FRA concerning this waiver petition, FRA has determined that a public hearing is necessary before a final decision is made on this petition. Accordingly, a public hearing is set to begin at 9 a.m., on July 27, 2005, in the Room 3328 at the Department of Transportation Headquarters Nassif Building, 400 7th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Interested parties are invited to present oral statements at this hearing.

The hearing will be informal and will be conducted in accordance with FRA's Rules of Practice (49 CFR 211.25) by a representative designated by FRA. FRA's representative will make an opening statement outlining the scope of the hearing, as well as any additional procedures for the conduct of the hearing. The hearing will be a non-adversarial proceeding in which all interested parties will be given the opportunity to express their views regarding this waiver petition, without cross-examination. After all initial statements have been completed, those persons wishing to make a brief rebuttal will be given an opportunity to do so in the same order in which initial statements were made. Additional procedures, if necessary for the conduct of the hearing, will be announced at the hearing.

In addition, FRA is extending the comment period in this proceeding until August 12, 2005. FRA reserves the right to announce a further extension of the comment period for the purpose of receiving post-hearing submissions should that appear appropriate in the judgment of the Federal Railroad Administration Safety Board based on testimony received at the public hearing. All communications concerning these proceedings should

identify the appropriate docket number (Waiver Petition Docket Number FRA-2002-11809), and must be submitted to the Docket Clerk, DOT Docket Management Facility, Room PL-401 (Plaza Level), 400 7th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. All written communications concerning these proceedings are available for examination during regular business hours (9 a.m.–5 p.m.) at the above facility. All documents in the public docket are also available for inspection and copying on the Internet at the docket facility's web site at <http://dms.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). The Statement may also be found at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

Issued in Washington, DC, on June 8, 2005.

Grady C. Cothen, Jr.,

Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Standards and Program Development.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

[Docket Number 2005-21427]

Requested Administrative Waiver of the Coastwise Trade Laws

AGENCY: Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Invitation for public comments on a requested administrative waiver of the Coastwise Trade Laws for the vessel BLACK PEARL.

SUMMARY: As authorized by Pub. L. 105-383 and Pub. L. 107-295, the Secretary of Transportation, as represented by the Maritime Administration (MARAD), is authorized to grant waivers of the U.S.-build requirement of the coastwise laws under certain circumstances. A request for such a waiver has been received by MARAD. The vessel, and a brief description of the proposed service, is listed below. The complete application is given in DOT docket 2005-21427 at <http://dms.dot.gov>. Interested parties may comment on the effect this action may have on U.S. vessel builders or businesses in the U.S. that use U.S.-flag vessels. If MARAD determines, in