

Schwihag roller assemblies and plates used in the Turnouts and Crossover installed in the Kingston Project. Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 24405(a)(4), FRA will publish this letter granting Amtrak's and RIDOT's request in the **Federal Register** and provide notice of such finding and an opportunity for public comment after which this waiver will become effective.

Questions about this letter can be directed to, John Johnson, Attorney-Advisor, at John.Johnson@dot.gov or (202) 493-0078.

Sincerely,

Sarah Feinberg
Acting Administrator

Issued in Washington, DC, on June 22, 2015.

Sarah L. Inderbitzin,
Deputy Chief Counsel.

[FR Doc. 2015-16064 Filed 6-30-15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

[Docket Number MARAD-2015-0086]

Maritime Environmental and Technical Assistance (META) Program Forum

AGENCY: Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Maritime Administration (MARAD), in cooperation with the Maryland Environmental Resource Center, will hold an open forum to solicit individual input to MARAD on the Agency's Maritime Environmental and Technical Assistance (META) Program and key environmental issues facing maritime transportation. Input received will enable the Agency to assess the effectiveness and utility of the Program thus far, and will inform MARAD and Department of Transportation decision making regarding possible future research, development and demonstration projects.

DATES: The forum will be held on Wednesday, July 22, 2015, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. EDT.

ADDRESSES: The event will be held at the Conference Center of the Maritime Institute of Technology and Graduate Studies (MITAGS), 692 Maritime Blvd., Linthicum Heights, Maryland 21090 (Telephone 866-656-5568). The facility has overnight accommodations. For those interested in reserving MITAGS accommodations please feel free to call 410-859-5700.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: You may contact Daniel Yuska, Office of Environment, U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590. Telephone (202) 366-0714. You may send electronic mail to Daniel.Yuska@dot.gov.

For access to the docket, go to <http://www.regulations.gov> at any time or to Room W12-140 of the Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590, between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays. To view the docket electronically, type the docket number "MARAD-2015-0086" in the "SEARCH" box and click "Search." Click and Open Docket Folder on the line associated with this forum.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The META program seeks to foster collaborative efforts among Federal agencies, academia, industry and the public to address critical marine transportation environmental issues. Among the areas of current focus are aquatic invasive species, ballast water and underwater hull growth, port and vessel air emissions, and alternative fuels and energy technologies. Through META, MARAD supports research, development and demonstration of innovative technologies for practical applications to balance freight, passenger and environmental concerns with sustainable solutions. This support includes financial support for research and development activities, and fostering the exchange of information and best practices.

MARAD is holding this forum to provide information on the META concept, gather public input on identifying the key environmental issues on which the META program should focus its activities, and on how MARAD might best structure the program for the future. Specific topics of discussion will include how MARAD might be able to better focus requests for proposals, and how to address various levels of technology readiness.

During the forum, MARAD representatives will explain the META program and discuss current areas of focus and projects, followed by small group discussions. Minutes will be kept of the discussion and posted by MARAD.

MARAD will release further details on this public forum, including times and agenda, on its Web page at <http://marad.dot.gov> and on the DOT docket as they become available.

Privacy Act Statement

All input received at the forum will be recorded and attributable to the individual commenter and where appropriate on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc. This information will be placed on the DOT public docket. You may review DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement in the **Federal Register** published on April 11, 2000 (65 FR 19476, 04/11/2011) or at <http://www.dot.gov/privacy.html>.

Authority: 49 CFR 1.93.

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Dated: June 25, 2015.

By Order of the Maritime Administrator.

T. Mitchell Hudson, Jr.,
Secretary, Maritime Administration.

[FR Doc. 2015-16180 Filed 6-30-15; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

Voluntary Intermodal Sealift Agreement/Joint Planning Advisory Group Table Top Exercise

AGENCY: Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Voluntary Intermodal Sealift Agreement (VISA) program requires a notice of the time, place, and nature of each Joint Planning Advisory Group (JPAG) meeting be published in the **Federal Register**. The full text of the VISA program, including these requirements, is published in **Federal Register**/Vol. 79, No. 209, 64462-64470, dated October 29, 2014.

On June 2-3, 2015, the Maritime Administration and the U.S. Transportation Command co-hosted the 2015 Voluntary Intermodal Sealift Agreement Joint Planning Advisory Group Table-Top Exercise at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois. Participants of the Table Top Exercise (TTX) were required to possess a secret clearance due to the classified nature of the meeting and attendance was by invitation only. The Maritime Administrator invited VISA carriers, Maritime Labor Unions, Longshoreman Labor and designated U.S. Strategic Seaport personnel. In addition, representatives from the Department of Transportation, the Maritime Administration and the Department of Defense (DOD) to include the Office of the Secretary of Defense, U.S. Transportation Command, the Military Sealift Command and the Surface Deployment and Distribution Command attended the meeting.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: You may contact William G. Kurfehs, Acting Director, Office of Sealift Support, U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590. Telephone (202) 366-2318. You may send electronic mail to Bill.Kurfehs@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Colonel Martin Chapin, USAF, Deputy Director, Operations and Planning, U.S. Transportation Command, and Mr. Kevin Tokarski, Associate Administrator for Strategic Sealift, Maritime Administration, welcomed the participants. Mr. Tokarski thanked the industry participants for their continued support and stated he was pleased with the large number of attendees at the JPAG meeting. He expressed a hope that the JPAG TTX would serve to prepare all attendees for what could actually occur during a VISA activation. Col. Chapin remarked that the classified TTX will focus on VISA participants' ability to meet DOD requirements for moving contingency cargo from CONUS Sea Ports of Embarkation to designated OCONUS Ports of Debarkation. Col. Chapin also stated that the TTX will address mariner availability to support VISA activation. Further, both gentlemen requested participants complete a survey at the end of the TTX and provide recommendations to improve the JPAG.

The purpose of the JPAG TTX was to: (1) Affirm industry's ability to meet DOD requirements by exposing them to the most demanding DOD scenario; (2) exercise commercial sealift capacity in relation to scenario requirements; (3) validate scenario planning assumptions; and (4) recommend revisions, as appropriate, on how we model specified scenarios and/or other related planning documents and associated planning assumptions. The JPAG TTX was considered a success as industry participants were able to provide capacity and resources to meet DOD requirements. However, the participants identified specific "lessons learned" that will be addressed to improve the JPAG. The JPAG TTX participants agreed to work on the lessons learned to assure that they are adequately addressed for the efficient coordination of VISA activation procedures.

The following are VISA participants: A Way To Move, Inc.
American International Shipping, LLC
American Marine Corporation
American President Lines, Ltd.
American Roll-On Roll-Off Carrier, LLC
APL Marine Services, Ltd.
Argent Marine Operations, Inc.

Beyel Brothers Inc.
Central Gulf Lines, Inc.
Columbia Coastal Transport, LLC
CRC Marine Services, Inc.
Crimson Shipping Co., Inc.
Crowley Puerto Rico Services, Inc.
Crowley Marine Services, Inc.
Curtin Maritime, Corp.
Dann Marine Towing, LC
Farrell Lines Incorporated
Fidelio Limited Partnership
Foss International, Inc.
Foss Maritime Company
Hapag-Lloyd USA, LLC
Horizon Lines, LLC
LA Carriers, LLC
Laborde Marine, L.L.C.
Liberty Global Logistics, LLC
Liberty Shipping Group, LLC
Lockwood Brothers, Inc.
Lynden Incorporated
Maersk Line, Limited
Marine Transport Management
Matson Navigation Company, Inc.
McAllister Towing and Transportation Co., Inc.
McCulley Marine Services, Inc.
Moran Towing Corp.
National Shipping of America, LLC
Northcliffe Ocean Shipping & Trading Company
Pasha Hawaii Transport Lines LLC
Patriot Shipping, L.L.C
Resolve Towing & Salvage, Inc.
Samson Tug & Barge Company, Inc.
Schuyler Line Navigation Company, LLC
Sea Star Line, LLC
SeaTac Marine Services, LLC
Seabridge, Inc.
Sealift Inc.
Smith Maritime, Inc.
Stevens Towing Co., Inc.
Stevens Transportation, LLC
Superior Maritime Services, Inc.
Tactical Shipping, LLC
Teras BBC Ocean Navigation Enterprises Houston, LLC
Totem Ocean Trailer Express
Trailer Bridge, Inc.
TransAtlantic Lines, LLC
Western Towboat Company
Weeks Marine, Inc.
Waterman Steamship Corporation
Young Brothers Limited

AUTHORITY: 49 CFR 1.93(l), Pub. L. 111-67.

Dated: June 25, 2015.

By Order of the Maritime Administrator.

T. Mitchell Hudson, Jr.,
Secretary, Maritime Administration.

[FR Doc. 2015-16178 Filed 6-30-15; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

Voluntary Intermodal Sealift Agreement Open Season

AGENCY: Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Notice of open season for enrollment in the VISA program.

SUMMARY: The Maritime Administration (MARAD) announces that the open season for Fiscal Year 2016 applications for participation in the Voluntary Intermodal Sealift Agreement (VISA) program will run for 30 days beginning today and ending July 31, 2015. The purpose of this notice is to invite interested, qualified U.S.-flag vessel operators that are not currently enrolled in the VISA program to apply. This is the only planned enrollment period for carriers to join the VISA program and derive benefits for Department of Defense (DOD) peacetime contracts initiated during the period from October 1, 2015, through September 30, 2016.

Any U.S.-flag vessel operator organized under the laws of a state of the United States, or the District of Columbia, who is able and willing to commit militarily useful sealift assets and assume the related consequential risks of commercial disruption, may be eligible to participate in the VISA program.

The mission of VISA is to provide commercial sealift and intermodal shipping services and systems, including vessels, vessel space, intermodal systems and equipment, terminal facilities, and related management services, to the Department of Defense (DOD), as necessary, to meet national defense contingency requirements or national emergencies. Carriers enrolled in the VISA program provide DOD with assured access to such services during contingencies. In return for their VISA commitment, DOD gives VISA participants priority for peacetime cargos.

DATES: VISA Program applications must be received on or before July 31, 2015.

ADDRESSES: Submit applications and questions related to this notice to William G. Kurfehs, Acting Director, Office of Sealift Support, U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William G. Kurfehs, Acting Director, Office of Sealift Support, U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590.