

5725; Email: [secretary@fmc.gov](mailto:secretary@fmc.gov). For technical questions, contact: Peter J. King, Deputy Managing Director; Phone (202) 523-5800; Email: [OMD@fmc.gov](mailto:OMD@fmc.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Introduction

On March 6, 2020, the Lake Carriers' Association (Petitioner), a trade association made up of U.S. owners and operators of vessels serving the Great Lakes (Lakers), filed a petition alleging that conditions created by Transport Canada, an agency of the Government of Canada, are unfavorable to shipping in the United States/Canada trade, pursuant to Section 19(1)(b) of the Merchant Marine Act, 1920 (Section 19) codified in 46 U.S.C. 42101. Section 19 authorizes the Federal Maritime Commission (Commission) to investigate these conditions and to adopt regulations to adjust or meet such conditions. In this instance, Petitioner requests that the Commission adopt regulations in order to remedy a condition it alleges will result in irreparable harm to Petitioner's members.

##### II. Summary of Petition

Petitioner argues that Transport Canada's proposed regulations to require the installation of ballast water management systems (BWMS) on Laker vessels will effectively drive out U.S.-flag vessels from the cross-lakes U.S. export trade to Canada. These regulations, which were proposed by Transport Canada on June 8, 2019, would require Canadian vessels and vessels in waters under Canadian jurisdiction to develop and implement a ballast water management plan and comply with a performance standard that would limit the number of organisms discharged, with a compliance date of September 8, 2024. *Ballast Water Regulations*, Canada Gazette, Part 1, Vol. 153, No. 23 at 15.

The proposed regulations would exempt vessels of a non-signatory party to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) International Convention on the Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, such as the United States, if those vessels operate exclusively within the Great Lakes Basin and do not load ballast water from or release ballast water into Canadian waters. Petitioner alleges that this exemption would not apply to its members' vessels because they need to load ballast water after offloading export cargo at Canadian ports, and that in order for its members' vessels to comply with the proposed regulations, they would need to install a BWMS on each vessel.

Petitioner argues that because of the vessel type and age differences between the Canadian and U.S. fleets, the respective costs of implementing the proposed regulations will be very different. Transport Canada estimates the cost of implementing the requirements on all Canadian vessels currently serving the trade would be approximately 632 million Canadian dollars. Petitioner argues that implementing these same regulations on all U.S. vessels currently serving the trade would cost nearly 1.132 billion Canadian dollars. Ultimately, Petitioner argues the proposed regulations will essentially double the U.S. Laker cost of participating in the trade while Canadian carriers would experience a less than 1 Canadian dollar per ton cost increase.

Petitioner argues that its members cannot comply with the regulations because of the prohibitive cost, and they cannot avoid the regulations and continue to carry United States exports to Canada because they must load ballast water as they offload cargo at Canadian ports. Petitioner also states that its members cannot operate their vessels outside of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River because of their ship design and current U.S. Coast Guard certification is restricted to service on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River. Should the regulations be finalized and if U.S. vessels were thereby forced out of the trade, Petitioner contends that Canadian vessels would enjoy a monopoly on the cross-lakes U.S. export trade to Canada.

Petitioner argues that prohibiting the loading of ballast water without a BWMS serves no environmental purpose because, unlike discharging ballast water, loading ballast water in Canadian waters does not result in the potential introduction of nonnative organisms into Canadian waters. Petitioner asserts that the regulations serve no environmental purpose and the cost of compliance is prohibitively high for U.S. vessels, and suggests that the real purpose of the regulations is to drive out U.S. vessels from this trade.

Petitioner is asking the Commission to issue a regulation to meet the unfair competitive conditions created by Transport Canada. Petitioner has provided a proposed regulation that would assess a fee of 300,000.00 U.S. dollars each time a Canadian vessel enters any U.S. port.

##### III. Investigation and Initial Request for Comments

The Commission has reviewed the Petition and determined that it meets the threshold requirements for

consideration under the Commission's regulations. See 46 CFR part 550, subpart D. The Commission has therefore determined to initiate an investigation into whether the proposed Transport Canada regulations create unfavorable conditions to shipping in the foreign trade of the United States. To that end, the Commission has designated the Deputy Managing Director to lead an investigation into the Petitioner's allegations and to prepare a report on the investigation's findings and recommendations for Commission consideration.

As an initial step in the investigation, interested persons are requested to submit views, arguments and/or data on the Petition. Comments may address any aspect of the Petition.

As the Commission proceeds with this investigation, it may determine the need to request additional comment or gather information through other means as authorized under 46 U.S.C. 42104 and 46 CFR part 550.

By the Commission.

**Rachel Dickon,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2020-13313 Filed 6-19-20; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[Docket No. NIOSH 278]

#### Board of Scientific Counselors, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (BSC, NIOSH)

**AGENCY:** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting and request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the CDC announces the following virtual meeting of the Board of Scientific Counselors, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (BSC, NIOSH). This meeting is open to the public, limited only by the availability of telephone ports and webinar capacity. Time will be available for public comment. If you wish to attend by webcast or teleconference, please register at the NIOSH website <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/bsc/> or call (404-498-2581) at least five business days in advance of the meeting.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on August 4, 2020, from 1:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m., EDT.

Written comments received by July 27, 2020 will be provided to the Board prior to the meeting. Docket number NIOSH–278, will close August 4, 2020, and will be considered by the National Firefighter Registry Program when developing the final protocol.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments, identified by Docket No. NIOSH–278 by mail. CDC does not accept comment by email.

- *Mail:* Docket number NIOSH–278 c/o Sherri Diana, NIOSH Docket Office, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, 1090 Tusculum Avenue, MS C–34, Cincinnati, Ohio 45226.

*Instructions:* All submissions received must include the Agency name and Docket Number. Written public comments submitted by August 4, 2020 will be provided to the BSC, NIOSH prior to the meeting. Docket number NIOSH–278 will close August 4, 2020 and will be considered by the National Firefighter Registry Program when developing the final protocol.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Emily J.K. Novicki, M.A., M.P.H., Executive Secretary, BSC, NIOSH, CDC, 1600 Clifton Road, MS V24–4, Atlanta, GA, 30329, telephone (404) 498–2581, or email at [enovicki@cdc.gov](mailto:enovicki@cdc.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Purpose:* The Secretary, the Assistant Secretary for Health, and by delegation the Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, are authorized under Sections 301 and 308 of the Public Health Service Act to conduct directly or by grants or contracts, research, experiments, and demonstrations relating to occupational safety and health and to mine health. The Board of Scientific Counselors provides guidance to the Director, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health on research and prevention programs. Specifically, the Board provides guidance on the Institute's research activities related to developing and evaluating hypotheses, systematically documenting findings and disseminating results. The Board evaluates the degree to which the activities of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health: (1) Conform to appropriate scientific standards, (2) address current, relevant needs, and (3) produce intended results.

*Meeting Information:* Adobe Connect webcast will be available at <https://odniosh.adobeconnect.com/nioshbbsc/>, and teleconference is available toll-free at (855) 644–0229, Participant Pass Code

9777483. This meeting is open to the public, limited only by the number of Adobe license seats available, which is 100.

**Public Participation**

Comments received are part of the public record and are subject to public disclosure. Do not include any information in your comment or supporting materials that you consider confidential or inappropriate for public disclosure. If you include your name, contact information, or other information that identifies you in the body of your comments, that information will be on public display. CDC will review all submissions and may choose to redact, or withhold, submissions containing private or proprietary information such as Social Security numbers, medical information, inappropriate language, or duplicate/near duplicate examples of a mass-mail campaign. CDC will carefully consider all comments submitted into the docket. CDC does not accept comment by email.

*Oral Public Comment:* The public is welcome to participate during the public comment period, from 2:00 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. EDT on August 4, 2020. Please note that the public comment period ends at the time indicated above. Comments should be specifically related to the National Firefighter Registry protocol draft report which can be found in docket number NIOSH–278 or by visiting the subcommittee website: <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/bbsc/nfrs/>. Each commenter will be provided up to five minutes for comment. A limited number of time slots are available and will be assigned on a first come-first served basis.

*Procedure for Oral Public Comment:* Members of the public who wish to address the NIOSH BSC are requested to contact the Executive Secretary for scheduling purposes (see contact information above).

*Written Public Comment:* Written comments will also be accepted from those unable to attend the public session per the instructions provided in the address section above. Written comments received in advance of the meeting will be included in the official record of the meeting.

*Matters to be Considered:* The agenda for the meeting addresses occupational safety and health issues related to: The Board of Scientific Counselors Subcommittee for the National Firefighter Registry (the Subcommittee) report pertaining to the protocol including the questionnaire, enrollment process, and data sharing. The Subcommittee will present their report and recommendations to BSC, who will

then discuss and finalize the report and recommendations to the NIOSH Director. Agenda items are subject to change as priorities dictate. For more information on the meeting agenda visit the NIOSH website (<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/bbsc/>).

The Director, Strategic Business Initiatives Unit, Office of the Chief Operating Officer, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, has been delegated the authority to sign **Federal Register** notices pertaining to announcements of meetings and other committee management activities, for both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

**Kalwant Smagh,**

*Director, Strategic Business Initiatives Unit, Office of the Chief Operating Officer, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.*

[FR Doc. 2020–13300 Filed 6–19–20; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

**Notice of Closed Meeting**

Pursuant to section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, notice is hereby given of the following meeting.

The meeting will be closed to the public in accordance with the provisions set forth in sections 552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), Title 5 U.S.C., as amended, and the Determination of the Director, Strategic Business Initiatives Unit, Office of the Chief Operating Officer, CDC, pursuant to Public Law 92–463. The grant applications and the discussions could disclose confidential trade secrets or commercial property such as patentable material, and personal information concerning individuals associated with the grant applications, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

*Name of Committee:* Disease, Disability, and Injury Prevention and Control Special Emphasis Panel (SEP)—RFA–CE–20–005, Rigorously Evaluating Approaches to Prevent Adult-Perpetrated Child Sex Abuse (CSA).

*Date:* July 22–23, 2020.

*Time:* 8:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m., EDT.

*Place:* Zoom Video Conference/ Teleconference.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications.