SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Release of Waybill Data

The Surface Transportation Board has received a request from the Association of American Railroads (WB21–50–7/28/21) for permission to use data from the Board’s 2019 Masked Carload Waybill Sample along with continued access to previously received datasets (1972–2018). A copy of this request may be obtained from the Board’s website under docket no. WB21–50.

The waybill sample contains confidential railroad and shipper data; therefore, if any parties object to these requests, they should file their objections with the Director of the Board’s Office of Economics within 14 calendar days of the date of this notice. The rules for release of waybill data are codified at 49 CFR 1244.9.

Contact: Alexander Dusenberry, (202) 245–0319.

Eden Besera,
Clearance Clerk.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration
[Docket No. FRA–2020–0014]

Petition for Approval: Canadian National Railway

AGENCY: Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice of petition for approval to move to phase 3 of track inspection test program.

SUMMARY: This document provides the public notice that on July 23, 2021, Canadian National Railway (CN) petitioned the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to transition from phase 2 to phase 3 of a previously approved Test Program and associated temporary suspension of some visual track inspections. The Test Program is designed to test track inspection technologies (i.e., an autonomous track geometry measurement system) and new operational approaches to track inspections (i.e., combinations of autonomous inspection and traditional visual inspections).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Yu-Jiang Zhang, Staff Director, Track and Structures Division, Office of Railroad Safety, FRA, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590, telephone (202) 493–6460 or email yujiang.zhang@dot.gov; Aaron Moore, Attorney, Office of Chief Counsel, FRA, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590, telephone (202) 493–7009 or email aaron.moore@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On April 3, 2020, FRA conditionally approved the Test Program and CN’s petition under 49 CFR 211.51 to suspend §§ 213.233(b)(3) and 213.233(c) as applied to operations under the Test Program. A copy of the Test Program, FRA’s conditional approval of the Test Program, and a previously published Federal Register notice explaining FRA’s rationale for approving the Test Program and related suspension are available for review in the docket.

As approved, the Test Program included four separate phases over 12 months, as outlined in Exhibit C of the Program. Accordingly, CN began the Test Program on April 19, 2020. On December 6, 2020, CN transitioned from phase 1 to phase 2. Subsequently, CN requested, and FRA approved, an extension of the Test Program until February 19, 2022.

CN is requesting to transition from phase 2 to 3 on October 24, 2021. In support of its request, CN states that it has met the Test Program conditions required to move to phase 3 and has met the Test Program’s baseline safety metric of less than 0.19 unprotected geometry defects per 100 miles tested as established in phase 1 of the Test Program. Specifically, for the 90 days prior to petitioning to move to phase 3, CN achieved an average of 0.15 unprotected geometry defects per 100 miles tested.

A copy of the petition, as well as any written communications concerning the petition, if any, are available for review online at www.regulations.gov.

Interested parties are invited to participate in these proceedings by submitting written views, data, or comments.

All communications concerning these proceedings should identify the appropriate docket number and may be submitted by any of the following methods:

1. https://www.regulations.gov/document/FRA-2020-0014-0004 (Test Program);
2. https://www.regulations.gov/document/FRA-2020-0014-0002 (FRA’s approval decision);

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration
[Docket No. FRA–2020–0013]

Petition for Approval Extension: CSX Transportation

AGENCY: Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice of petition for an extension of approval of track inspection test program.

SUMMARY: This document provides the public notice that on July 27, 2021, CSX Transportation (CSX) petitioned the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to extend an existing temporary suspension of some visual track inspections to allow for a continuation of a previously approved Test Program designed to test track inspection technologies (i.e., an autonomous track geometry measurement system) and new operational approaches to track inspections (i.e., combinations of autonomous inspection and traditional visual inspections).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Yu-Jiang Zhang, Staff Director, Track and Structures Division, at (202) 493–6460.