

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[Docket No. 95-06; Notice 2]

Denial of Petition for Import Eligibility Decision

This notice sets forth the reasons for the denial of a petition submitted to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) under 49 U.S.C. 30141(a)(1)(A) (formerly section 108(c)(3)(C)(i)(I) of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act (the Act)). The petition, which was submitted by J.K. Motors, Inc. of Kingsville, Maryland (J.K.), a registered importer of motor vehicles, requested NHTSA to decide that 1993, 1994, and 1995 Mitsubishi 3000GT and 3000GT VR-4 passenger cars that were not originally manufactured to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards are eligible for importation into the United States because (1) They are substantially similar to the versions of 1993, 1994, and 1995 Mitsubishi 3000GT and 3000GT VR-4 passenger cars that were originally manufactured for importation into and sale in the United States and that were certified by their original manufacturer, Mitsubishi Motors Corporation, as complying with the safety standards, and (2) they are capable of being readily modified to conform to all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

NHTSA published a notice in the Federal Register on February 7, 1995 (60 FR 7266) that contained a thorough description of the petition, and solicited public comments upon it. One comment was received in response to this notice, from Mitsubishi Motors America Inc. ("Mitsubishi"), a U.S. subsidiary of the vehicle's original manufacturer.

In its comment, Mitsubishi stated that based upon its own evaluation of the vehicles involved, it believes that they are not capable of being readily altered to conform to all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards. In particular, Mitsubishi noted that non-U.S. certified versions of the 1993, 1994, and 1995 Mitsubishi 3000GT and 3000GT VR-4 do not have a seat belt telltale, as required by Standard No. 101, Controls and Displays, do not have a windshield wiper arm and blade that cover the area required by Standard No. 104, Windshield Wiping and Washing System, and have ABS symbols that do not conform to the lettering height requirements of Standard No. 105, Hydraulic Brake Systems. Additionally, Mitsubishi noted that the vehicles are equipped with "pop-up" headlamps that are part of an integrated system, and that this entire assembly does not

comply with Standard No. 108, Lamps, Reflective Devices, and Associated Equipment. Mitsubishi also asserted that some of the vehicles involved would have to be retrofitted with a different occupant restraint system to conform to the requirements of Standard No. 208, Occupant Crash Protection. Mitsubishi additionally observed that this restraint system may have to be tested to assure compliance with the standard, and that the front seat assembly may have to be repositioned to withstand the standard's injury criteria, which are more stringent than those of the corresponding European standard. Mitsubishi further noted that the non-U.S. certified versions of the 1993, 1994, and 1995 Mitsubishi 3000GT and 3000GT VR-4 do not have knee bolsters or metal inserts in their glove compartments, as found on the U.S. certified versions of these vehicles, and have seat belts that are manufactured to manufactured to specifications that differ from those found in Standard No. 209, Seat Belt Assemblies. Finally, Mitsubishi noted that contrary to J.K.'s assertion, the bumpers on the non-U.S. certified versions of the 1993, 1994, and 1995 Mitsubishi 3000GT and 3000GT VR-4 differ from those found on the U.S. certified versions of these vehicles, and have not been tested to assure compliance with the Bumper Standard found in 49 CFR part 581.

NHTSA accorded J.K. an opportunity to respond to Mitsubishi's comments. As of the date of this notice, J.K. has failed to submit such a response. This has compelled NHTSA to conclude, from the state of the record, that the petition does not clearly demonstrate that the non-U.S. certified versions of the 1993, 1994, and 1995 Mitsubishi 3000GT and 3000GT VR-4 are eligible for importation. The petition must therefore be denied under 49 CFR 593.7(e).

In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 30141(b)(1) (formerly section 108(c)(C)(ii) of the Act), NHTSA will not consider a new import eligibility petition covering this vehicle until at least three months from the date of this notice.

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 30141(a)(1)(A) and (b)(1); 49 CFR 593.7; delegations of authority at 49 CFR 1.50 and 501.8.

Issued on: September 18, 1995.

Marilynee Jacobs,

Director, Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance.

[FR Doc. 95-23485 Filed 9-20-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-59-M

Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA), DOT

[Docket No. PS-142; Notice 1]

Risk Management and the Pipeline Industry, Notice of Public Conference

SUMMARY: Pipeline regulators, pipeline operators, and the public are invited to a conference, Risk Management and the Pipeline Industry, on November 6, 1995 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. and on Nov. 7 from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. at the McLean Hilton at Tysons Corner in McLean, Virginia. Sponsoring the conference are the Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS), RSPA, U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT); the American Gas Association (A.G.A.); the American Petroleum Institute (API); the Interstate Natural Gas Association of America (INGAA); the Gas Research Institute (GRI); the American Public Gas Association (APGA); and the Association of Oil Pipe Lines (AOPL).

DATES: The conference will be held on November 6 through 9 at the McLean Hilton at Tysons Corner in McLean, Virginia. To register for the conference, please call up the Walcoff and Associates home page on the Internet, <http://www.walcoff.com/> or fax, mail, or use the Internet to e-mail the registration printed at the end of this notice to Ms. Debra Banks, Walcoff and Associates, 12015 Lee Jackson Highway, Suite 500, Fairfax, Virginia, 22033, office: (703) 218-1449, fax: (703) 934-9866, Internet e-mail address: rspa@walcoff.com. The charge for the conference lunch on November 7 is \$25. Checks should be made payable to and mailed to Walcoff and Associates. Walcoff also accepts MasterCard, Visa, and American Express.

Sponsors will have background material for participants to read before the conference. Background reading includes the Oil and Gas Risk Assessment Quality Team reports, the Harvard School of Public Health Center for Risk Analysis' Reform of Risk Regulation: Achieving More Protection at Less Cost, and the Gas Research Institute's Natural Gas Pipeline Risk Management Reports, Volumes One through Four.

To discuss the conference or to order reading material, please contact one of the sponsors: INGAA, Terry Boss, tdboss@ix.netcom.com, (202) 626-3234; API, Krista Mutch, (202) 682-8188; A.G.A., John Erickson, (703) 841-8450, jerick06@reach.com; GRI, Tina Thomas, (202) 662-8937, cthomas@gri.org; APGA, Bob Cave, (703) 352-3890; AOPL, Michele Joy, (202) 408-7970; or OPS, Melanie Barber, (202) 366-4560, barberm@rspa.dot.gov.

ADDRESSES: The conference will be held at the McLean Hilton at Tysons Corner Hotel, 7920 Jones Branch Drive, McLean, Virginia, 22102, phone: (703) 847-5000.

Send two copies of written comments on the eight questions to be discussed in the November 7 break-out sessions that are listed in the next to last paragraph of this notice to the Dockets Unit, Room 8421, Research and Special Programs Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C., 20590-0001. Identify the docket and notice numbers in the heading of this notice.

All comments and docketed material will be available for inspection and copying in Room 8421 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. each business day. A summary of the conference will be available from the Dockets Unit about two months after the conference.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The conference will focus on openly discussing how Government and pipeline industries may use risk management, learning how risk management may be used to invest resources more wisely in pipeline safety and environmental protection, and addressing how Government can oversee pipeline operations while allowing industry more latitude in choosing safety options.

Conference participants are encouraged to take part in the follow-on activities. On the morning of November 8, INGAA, GRI, and the Pipeline Research Committee are sponsoring a seminar on preventing, inspecting, identifying, and responding to third party damage to pipelines. Conferees are also invited to the Technical Pipeline Safety Advisory Committee meetings on

November 8 and 9 at the McLean Hilton. The Technical Advisory Committee meeting agendas will be published in the Federal Register at least thirty days before the November 8 and 9 meetings.

The conference will begin with a risk management primer on methods and tools for practitioners on November 6 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Gas Research Institute, Hartford Steam Boiler, and Chevron representatives will lead the primer. The November 7 session will start with an introduction to risk management principles and the value risk management brings to Government and industry. Keynote speakers will be Joe Martinelli, President, Chevron Pipe Line Company; John Riordon, President and CEO, MidCon Corporation; Robert Catell, President and CEO, Brooklyn Union Gas Company; Bruce Ellsworth, New Hampshire Public Utility Commissioner; and Richard Felder, Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety, OPS, RSPA, DOT.

After risk management is explained, key risk management initiatives being developed will be explained. Government/Industry Oil and Gas Risk Assessment Quality Team (RAQT) members will discuss making the transition from prescriptive regulations to pipeline company specific risk management plans. Conferees will hear presentations from and ask questions of Federal, State, and Local Government officials and gas and liquid industry representatives expressing views and raising concerns about implementing risk management programs.

Among featured speakers on November 7 are William Burnett, Senior Vice President, GRI; Bernie Selig, Vice President, Hartford Steam Boiler; Don Stursma, Iowa Commerce Department; Ruth Kretschmer, Illinois Commerce

Commission; Andy Drake, Panhandle Eastern; Mike Neuhard, Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department; and Jim Thomas, OPS Southwestern Regional Director.

Following the perspective presentations and questions and answers, conferees will meet in break-out sessions to address issues raised in the presentations and the participants' concerns, including: (1) How can industry use resources more effectively to improve pipeline safety? (2) How can one determine if risk management equals or improves the current safety level? (3) Why is risk management good for a company? (4) How much flexibility will a company gain by developing an approved risk management program? (5) How much information are industry and Government comfortable sharing? (6) What are good benchmarks to judge the risk management demonstration projects? (7) How will standards be created and applied? (8) What roles do State and local agencies play?

After the break-out sessions, all participants will return to the main meeting room. The break-out session leaders will summarize each break-out group's concerns and issues for all conferees to discuss. The conference is designed (1) for all pipeline stakeholders to share concerns about and discuss issues inherent to implementing risk management and (2) for government and industry to respond to these concerns and issues with strong action.

Issued in Washington, D.C. on September 14, 1995.

Richard B. Felder,
Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.

BILLING CODE 4910-60-P

**CONFERENCE REGISTRATION
RISK MANAGEMENT AND
THE PIPELINE INDUSTRY
NOVEMBER 6 THROUGH 9, 1995
MCLEAN HILTON AT TYSONS CORNER**

NAME

TITLE AND ORGANIZATION

ADDRESS

PHONE NUMBER

FAX NUMBER

INTERNET E-MAIL ADDRESS

1. The conference is being held at the McLean Hilton at Tysons Corner, McLean, Virginia. The conference rate for single and double rooms is \$114.00. You will need to make reservations directly with the McLean Hilton by calling (800) HIL-TONS or (703) 847-5000.

2. The sponsors need to know how many people will take part in the conference and how many will be staying at the McLean Hilton as space is limited and we need to reserve

enough meeting space and order enough material for all. Please list the number of rooms _____ and the dates you will need them, November _____.

3. The cost of the November 7 lunch is \$25. I will _____ will not _____ attend the November 7 lunch.

Please make checks payable to Walcoff and Associates. If you would like to pay with American Express _____, Visa _____, or MasterCard _____, please write your name as it appears on the credit card number _____, the card number _____, and the expiration date _____.

4. Will you take part in the:

(a) Risk Management Primer on November 6 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.?
Yes _____ No _____

(b) November 7 conference from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.? Yes _____ No _____

(c) External Damage Seminar that Gas search Institute, Interstate Natural Gas Association of America, and Pipeline Research Committee are sponsoring on the morning of November 8? Yes _____ No _____

d) November 8 and 9 Technical Pipeline Safety Advisory Committee meetings? Yes _____ No _____

You may register:

(1) on the Internet by completing this form on Walcoff and Associates home page, <http://www.walcoff.com/> or

(2) by mailing, faxing, or e-mailing this completed form to:

Ms. Debra Banks
Walcoff and Associates
12015 Lee Jackson Highway
Suite 500
Fairfax, Virginia, 22033
Fax: (703)934-9866
Office: (703) 218-1449
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Conference Sponsors:

American Petroleum Institute (API),
American Gas Association (A.G.A.),
Interstate Natural Gas Association
(INGAA), American Public Gas
Association (APGA), Gas Research
Institute (GRI), Association of Oil Pipe
Lines (AOPL), and Office of Pipeline
Safety (OPS), U.S. Transportation
Department.

List the risk management issues that interest you most:
