

Research Program. The agenda will include status reports on both the agency's research activities and on the activities of the Advanced Air Bag Technology Working Group. The Advanced Air Bag Technology Working Group was established by the MVSAC Crashworthiness Subcommittee with the goal of presenting technical information and data to the Crashworthiness Subcommittee.

The meeting is open to the public, and participation by the public will be moderated by the Subcommittee Chairperson.

A public reference file (Number 88-01—Crashworthiness Subcommittee) has been established to contain the products of the Subcommittee and will be open to the public during the hours of 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Technical Information Services in Room 5108 at 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590, telephone: (202) 366-2768.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rita Gibbons, Office of Research and Development, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Room 6206, Washington, DC 20590, telephone: (202) 366-4862, telefax: (202) 366-5930.

Issued: November 28, 1997.

Joseph N. Kaniyantra,

Acting Chairperson, Crashworthiness Subcommittee, Motor Vehicle Safety Research Advisory Committee.

[FR Doc. 97-31743 Filed 12-2-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Research and Development Programs Meeting

AGENCY: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a public meeting at which NHTSA will describe and discuss specific research and development projects. Further, the notice requests suggestions for topics to be presented by the agency.

DATES AND TIMES: The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration will hold a public meeting devoted primarily to presentations of specific research and development projects on December 17, 1997, beginning at 1:30 p.m. and ending at approximately 5:00 p.m. The deadline for interested parties to suggest agenda topics is 4:15 p.m. on December 8, 1997. Questions may be submitted in advance

regarding the agency's research and development projects. They must be submitted in writing by December 10, 1997, to the address given below. If sufficient time is available, questions received after the December 10 date will be answered at the meeting in the discussion period. The individual, group, or company asking a question does not have to be present for the question to be answered. A consolidated list of answers to questions submitted by December 10 will be available at the meeting and will be mailed to requesters after the meeting.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Clarion Inn, Detroit Metro Airport, 9191 Wickham Road, Romulus, MI 48174. Suggestions for specific R&D topics as described below and questions for the December 17, 1997, meeting relating to the agency's research and development programs should be submitted to the Office of the Associate Administrator for Research and Development, NRD-01, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Room 6206, 400 Seventh St., S.W., Washington, DC 20590. The fax number is (202) 366-5930.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NHTSA intends to provide detailed presentations about its research and development programs in a series of public meetings. The series started in April 1993. The purpose is to make available more complete and timely information regarding the agency's research and development programs. This nineteenth meeting in the series will be held on December 17, 1997.

NHTSA requests suggestions from interested parties on the specific agenda topics to be presented. NHTSA will base its decisions about the agenda, in part, on the suggestions it receives by close of business at 4:15 p.m. on December 8, 1997. Before the meeting, it will publish a notice with an agenda listing the research and development topics to be discussed. The agenda can also be obtained by calling or faxing the information numbers listed elsewhere in this notice or from NHTSA's Web site under Announcements/Public Meetings at URL <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/nhtsa/announce/meetings/>. NHTSA asks that the suggestions be limited to six, in priority order, so that the presentations at the December 17 R&D meeting can be most useful to the audience. Specific R&D topics are listed below. Many of these topics have been discussed at previous meetings. Suggestions for agenda topics are not restricted to this listing, and interested parties are invited to suggest other R&D topics of specific interest to their organizations.

Additionally, if any interested parties would like to make a presentation regarding technical issues concerning any of NHTSA's research programs, information concerning the proposed topic and speaker should be submitted in writing by close of business December 8, 1997.

Specific R&D topics are:

- Fiscal Year 1998 R&D Research Efforts,
 - International Harmonized Research Activities (IHRA),
 - On-line tracking system for NHTSA's research projects, and
 - Crash Injury Research and Engineering Network (CIREN).
- Specific Crashworthiness R&D topics are:
- Automatic lifesaving system—improved triage, transport, and treatment decisionmaking for automatic collision notification technologies,
 - Status of advanced air bag research,
 - Demonstration of CD ROM for child restraint/vehicle compatibility,
 - Preparation of new dummies for assessment of advanced air bag technology,
 - Status of research on restraint systems for rollover protection,
 - Improved frontal crash protection (program status, problem identification, offset testing),
 - Advanced glazing research,
 - Vehicle aggressivity and fleet compatibility,
 - Upgrade side crash protection,
 - Upgrade seat and occupant restraint systems,
 - Child safety research (ISOFIX),
 - Child restraint/air bag interaction (CRABI) dummy testing,
 - Truck crashworthiness/occupant protection,
 - National Transportation Biomechanics Research Center (NTBRC),
 - Head and neck injury research,
 - Lower extremity injury research,
 - Thorax injury research,
 - Human injury simulation and analysis,
 - Refinements to the Hybrid III dummy, and
 - Advanced frontal test dummy.
- Specific Crash Avoidance R&D topics are:
- National Advanced Driving Simulator (NADS),
 - Intelligent vehicle initiative,
 - Status and plans for anti-lock brake system (ABS) research,
 - Truck tire traction,
 - Human factors guidelines for crash avoidance warning devices,
 - Drowsy driver monitoring,
 - Driver workload assessment,
 - Rear-end collision avoidance system guidelines,

Road departure collision avoidance system guidelines,

Intersection collision avoidance system guidelines, and

Lane change/merge collision avoidance system guidelines.

National Center for Statistics and Analysis (NCSA) topic is: Special crash investigation studies of air bag cases.

Separately, questions regarding research projects that have been submitted in writing not later than close of business on December 10, 1997, will be answered. A transcript of the meeting, copies of materials handed out at the meeting, and copies of the suggestions offered by commenters will be available for public inspection at NHTSA's Technical Information Services, Room 5108, 400 Seventh St., S.W., Washington, DC 20590. Copies of the transcript will then be available at 10 cents a page, upon request to NHTSA's Technical Information Services. The Technical Information Services section is open to the public from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The transcript will also be available on NHTSA's Web site under Announcements/Public Meetings at URL <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/nhtsa/announce/meetings/>.

NHTSA will provide technical aids to participants as necessary, during the Research and Development Programs Meeting. Thus, any person desiring the assistance of "auxiliary aids" (e.g., sign-language interpreter, telecommunication devices for deaf persons (TTDs), readers, taped texts, braille materials, or large print materials and/or a magnifying device), please contact Rita Gibbons on (202) 366-4862 or by telefax on (202) 366-5930 by close of business December 8, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rita Gibbons, Staff Assistant, Office of Research and Development, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20590. Telephone: (202) 366-4862. Fax number: (202) 366-5930.

Issued: November 26, 1997.

Raymond P. Owings,

Associate Administrator for Research and Development.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Research and Special Programs Administration

Pipeline Safety User Fees

AGENCY: Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces that the fiscal year 1998 user fee assessments for pipeline facilities will be mailed to pipeline operators on or about December 15, 1997. The fees to be assessed for natural gas transmission, hazardous liquid and liquefied natural gas (LNG) are indicated below:

Natural gas transmission pipelines: \$67.98 per mile (based on 291,765 miles of pipeline).

Hazardous liquid pipelines: \$59.59 per mile (based on 155,558 miles of pipeline).

LNG is based on the number of plants and total storage capacity:

Total storage capacity (bbl)	Assessment/plant
<10,000	=\$1,250
10,000-100,000	=\$2,500
100,000-250,000	=\$3,750
250,000-500,000	=\$5,000
>500,000	=\$7,500

Section 60301 of Title 49, United States Code, authorizes the assessment and collection of pipeline user fees to fund the pipeline safety activities conducted under 49 U.S.C. 60101 *et seq.* The Research and Special Program Administration (RSPA) assesses each operator of regulated interstate and intrastate natural gas transmission pipelines (as defined in 49 CFR Part 192), and hazardous liquid pipelines carrying petroleum, petroleum products, anhydrous ammonia and carbon dioxide (as defined in 49 CFR Part 195) a share of the total Federal pipeline safety program costs in proportion to the number of miles of pipeline each operator has in service. Onshore pipelines excluded from regulation by 49 CFR Part 195 are not included in this mileage. Operators of LNG facilities are assessed based on total storage capacity (as defined in 49 CFR Part 193).

In accordance with the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 60301, Departmental resources were taken into consideration for determining total program costs. The apportionment ratio between gas and liquid pipeline programs (as shown below) is a result of the shift of program resources to the hazardous liquid program because of increased emphasis on environmental protection:

Year(s)	General program costs (gas)	General program costs (liquid)
1986-1990.	80%	20%.
1991-1992.	75%	25%.

Year(s)	General program costs (gas)	General program costs (liquid)
1993	75% (¾ yr.) 60% (¼ yr.)	25% (¾ yr.) 40% (¼ yr.)
1994	60%	40%.
1995	75%	25%.
1996	65%	35%.
1997-1998.	55%	45%.

In accordance with the regulations of the Department of the Treasury, user fees will be due 30 days after the date of assessment. Interest, penalties, and administrative charges will be assessed on delinquent debts in accordance with 31 U.S.C. 3717.

Issued in Washington, D.C. November 28, 1997.

Richard B. Felder,

Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.

[FR Doc. 97-31742 Filed 12-2-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-32 (Sub-No. 65X)]

Boston and Maine Corporation—Abandonment Exemption—in Carroll County, NH

Boston and Maine Corporation (B&M) has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR part 1152 Subpart F—*Exempt Abandonments and Discontinuances* to abandon an approximately 10.80-mile line of railroad on the Conway Branch between milepost B-111.0 and milepost B-121.80 in Ossipee, Carroll County, NH. The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Codes 03814, 03864 and 03468.

B&M has certified that: (1) No local traffic has moved over the line for at least 2 years; (2) overhead traffic has been rerouted over other lines; (3) no formal complaint filed by a user of rail service on the line (or by a state or local government entity acting on behalf of such user) regarding cessation of service over the line either is pending with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) or with any U.S. District Court or has been decided in favor of complainant within the 2-year period; and (4) the requirements at 49 CFR 1105.7 (environmental reports), 49 CFR 1105.8 (historic reports), 49 CFR 1105.11 (transmittal letter), 49 CFR 1105.12 (newspaper publication), and 49 CFR 1152.50(d)(1) (notice to governmental agencies) have been met.

As a condition to this exemption, any employee adversely affected by the abandonment shall be protected under