

Conference Center, 2nd Floor. This will be the forty-first meeting of the COMSTAC.

The proposed agenda for the meeting will be the release of the 2005 Commercial Space Transportation Market Forecasts, a financial report on the U.S. industry, and an activities report from FAA's Office of Commercial Space Transportation. An agenda will be posted on the FAA Web site at <http://ast.faa.gov>. Meetings of the COMSTAC Working Groups (Technology and Innovation, Reusable Launch Vehicle, Risk Management, and Launch Operations and Support) will be held on Wednesday, May 25, 2005. For specific information concerning the times and locations of the working group meetings, contact the Contact Person listed below.

Individuals who plan to attend and need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations, should inform the Contact Person listed below in advance of the meeting.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brenda Parker (AST-100), Office of the Commercial Space Transportation (AST), 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 331, Washington, DC 20591, telephone (202) 267-3674; e-mail brenda.parker@faa.dot.gov.

Issued in Washington, DC, April 1, 2005.

Patricia G. Smith,

Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket No. FRA-2000-7257; Notice No. 34]

Railroad Safety Advisory Committee (RSAC); Working Group Activity Update

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

ACTION: Announcement of Railroad Safety Advisory Committee (RSAC) Working Group Activities.

SUMMARY: The FRA is updating its announcement of RSAC's Working Group activities to reflect its current status.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patricia Butera or Lydia Leeds, RSAC Coordinator, FRA, 1120 Vermont Avenue, NW., Mailstop 25, Washington, DC 20590, (202) 493-6212/6213 or Grady Cothen, Deputy Associate

Administrator for Safety, FRA, 1120 Vermont Avenue, NW., Mailstop 25, Washington, DC 20590, (202) 493-6302.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice serves to update FRA's last announcement of working group activities and status reports of October 19, 2004, (69 FR 61550). The 25th full Committee meeting was held January 26, 2005.

Since its first meeting in April of 1996, the RSAC has accepted nineteen tasks. Status for each of the tasks is provided below:

Open Tasks

Task 96-4—Reviewing the appropriateness of the agency's current policy regarding the applicability of existing and proposed regulations to tourist, excursion, scenic, and historic railroads. This Task was accepted on April 2, 1996, and a Working Group was established. The Working Group monitored the steam locomotive regulation task. Planned future activities involve the review of other regulations for possible adaptation to the safety needs of tourist and historic railroads. Contact: Grady Cothen, (202) 493-6302.

Task 97-1—Developing crashworthiness specifications to promote the integrity of the locomotive cab in accidents resulting from collisions. This Task was accepted on June 24, 1997. On April 14, 2004, the RSAC reached consensus on the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM). The NPRM is a new standard to increase the crashworthiness of conventional wide- and narrow-nose locomotives and codifies requirements for monocoque locomotives. On November 2, 2004, FRA published an NPRM in the **Federal Register** (69 FR 63990) proposing to establish comprehensive, minimum standards for locomotive crashworthiness. In that NPRM, FRA established a January 3, 2005, deadline for submission of written comments. FRA received a request to extend the comment period to give interested parties additional time to review, analyze, and submit comments on the NPRM. After considering the request, FRA extended the comment period until February 3, 2005. The Working Group will be asked to review the comments and offer recommendations for responding to them. Contact: Charles Bielitz, (202) 493-6314 or Darrell Tardiff, (202) 493-6037.

Task 97-2—Evaluating the extent to which environmental, sanitary, and other working conditions in locomotive cabs affect the crew's health and the safe operation of locomotives, proposing standards where appropriate. This Task was accepted June 24, 1997.

(Sanitation) (Completed)
(Noise exposure) On June 27, 2003, the full RSAC gave consensus by ballot on the NPRM. The NPRM was published in the **Federal Register** on June 23, 2004. The comment period ended September 21, 2004. Task Force and Working Group meetings were held March 1, and March 2 and 3, 2005, respectively, to review the public comments and recommend a final rule. The Working Group reached agreement on all issues, and its report will be presented to the full Committee on May 18, 2005.

(Cab Temperature) (Completed)

Note: Additional related topics such as vibration may be considered by the Working Group in the future. Contact: Jeffrey Horn, (202) 493-6283.

Task 97-3—Developing event recorder data survivability standards. This Task was accepted on June 24, 1997. On November 12, 2003, the RSAC gave consensus by ballot on the NPRM. The NPRM was published on June 30, 2004. A public hearing was held September 30, and the comment period was extended until October 11. The Locomotive Event Recorder Working Group met on December 15-16, 2004, to discuss all comments received in response to the NPRM. FRA staff is drafting the final rule based on these discussions. The draft final rule will be circulated for review and ballot approval. Contact: Edward Pritchard, (202) 493-6247.

Task 97-4 and *Task 97-5*—Defining Positive Train Control (PTC) functionalities, describing available technologies, evaluating costs and benefits of potential systems, and considering implementation opportunities and challenges, including demonstration and deployment. *Task 97-6*—Revising various regulations to address the safety implications of processor-based signal and train control technologies, including communications-based operating systems. These three Tasks were accepted on September 30, 1997, and assigned to a single Working Group.

(Report to the Administrator) A Data and Implementation Task Force, formed to address issues such as assessment of costs and benefits and technical readiness, completed a report on the future of PTC systems. The report was accepted as RSAC's Report to the Administrator at the September 8, 1999, meeting. The FRA enclosed the report with a letter to Congress signed May 17, 2000.

(Regulatory development) The Standards Task Force, formed to develop PTC standards, assisted in

developing draft recommendations for performance-based standards for processor-based signal and train control systems. The NPRM was approved by consensus at the full RSAC meeting held on September 14, 2000. The NPRM was published in the **Federal Register** on August 10, 2001. A meeting of the Working Group was held December 4–6, 2001, in San Antonio, Texas, to formulate recommendations for resolution of issues raised in the public comments. Agreement was reached on most issues raised in the comments. A meeting was held May 14–15, 2002, in Colorado Springs, Colorado, at which the Working Group approved creation of teams to further explore the “base case” issue. Briefing of the full RSAC on the “base case” issue was completed on May 29, 2002, and consultations continued within the working group. The full Working Group met October 22–23, 2002, and again March 4–6, 2003. Resolution of the remaining issues was considered by the Working Group at the July 8–9, 2003, meeting. The Working Group achieved consensus on recommendations for resolution of a portion of the issues in the proceeding. The full Committee considered the Working Group recommendations by mail ballots scheduled for return on August 14, 2003; however, a majority of the members voting did not concur. FRA has proceeded with preparation of a final rule. FRA completed the final rule and placed it in review and clearance within the Executive Branch on September 29, 2003. After the rule was withdrawn and resubmitted, OMB completed review of the final rule on December 29, 2004. The final rule was published in the **Federal Register** on March 7, 2005, (70 FR 11051). Contact: Grady Cothen, (202) 493–6302.

Task 03–01—Passenger Safety. This Task was accepted on May 20, 2003, and a Working Group was established. Prior to embarking on substantive discussions of a specific task, the Working Group set forth in writing a specific description of the task. The Working Group will report any planned activity to the full Committee at each scheduled full RSAC meeting, including milestones for completion of projects and progress toward completion. At the first meeting held September 9–10, 2003, a consolidated list of issues was completed. At the second meeting held November 6–7, 2003, five task groups were established: crashworthiness/glazing; emergency preparedness; mechanical—general issues; mechanical—safety appliances; and track/vehicle interaction. The task groups met and reported on activities

for Working Group consideration at the third meeting held May 11–12, 2004, and a fourth meeting was held October 26–27, 2004. Initial recommendations on mechanical issues (revisions to 49 CFR Part 238) were approved by the full Committee on January 26, 2005. At the Working Group meeting of March 9–10, 2005, the Working Group received and approved the consensus report of the Emergency Preparedness Task Force related to emergency egress and rescue access. These recommendations will be presented to the full Committee on May 18, 2005. Contact: Charles Bielitz, (202) 493–6314.

Task 05–01—Review of Roadway Worker Protection issues. This Task was accepted on January 26, 2005, to review 49 CFR 214, Subpart C, Roadway Worker Protection, and related sections of Subpart A; recommend consideration of specific actions to advance the on-track safety of railroad employees and contractors engaged in maintenance-of-way activities throughout the general system of railroad transportation, including clarification of existing requirements. A Working Group will be established and will report to the RSAC any specific actions identified as appropriate. The first meeting of the Working Group has been set for April 12–14, 2005. The Working Group will report planned activity to the full Committee at each scheduled Committee meeting, including milestones for completion of projects and progress toward completion. Contact: Christopher Schulte, (202) 493–6251.

Completed Tasks

Task 96–1—(Completed) Revising the Freight Power Brake Regulations.

Task 96–2—(Completed) Reviewing and recommending revisions to the Track Safety Standards (49 CFR Part 213).

Task 96–3—(Completed) Reviewing and recommending revisions to the Radio Standards and Procedures (49 CFR Part 220).

Task 96–5—(Completed) Reviewing and recommending revisions to Steam Locomotive Inspection Standards (49 CFR Part 230).

Task 96–6—(Completed) Reviewing and recommending revisions to miscellaneous aspects of the regulations addressing Locomotive Engineer Certification (49 CFR Part 240).

Task 96–7—(Completed) Developing Roadway Maintenance Machines (On-Track Equipment) Safety Standards.

Task 96–8—(Completed) This Planning Task evaluated the need for action responsive to recommendations contained in a report to Congress

entitled, Locomotive Crashworthiness & Working Conditions.

Task 97–7—(Completed) Determining damages qualifying an event as a reportable train accident.

Task 00–1—(Completed—task withdrawn) Determining the need to amend regulations protecting persons who work on, under, or between rolling equipment and persons applying, removing or inspecting rear end marking devices (Blue Signal Protection).

Task 01–1—(Completed) Developing conformity of FRA’s regulations for accident/incident reporting (49 CFR Part 225) to revised regulations of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), U.S. Department of Labor, and to make appropriate revisions to the FRA Guide for Preparing Accident/Incident Reports (Reporting Guide).

Please refer to the notice published in the **Federal Register** on March 11, 1996, (61 FR 9740) for more information about the RSAC.

Issued in Washington, DC, on April 5, 2005.

Grady C. Cothen, Jr.,

Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Standards and Program Development.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 34660]¹

Georgia Central Railway, L.P.— Acquisition and Operation Exemption—Rail Line of CSX Transportation, Inc.

Georgia Central Railway, L.P. (Georgia Central), a Class III rail carrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.41 to acquire, by purchase from CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT), and operate approximately 57.92 miles of rail line between milepost SK 0.08 at Macon, and milepost SK 58.0 at East Dublin, in Bibb, Twiggs, Wilkinson, and Laurens Counties, GA.²

¹ This notice of exemption was previously served and published in the **Federal Register** on March 3, 2005 (70 FR 10476–77). By letter filed on April 4, 2005, Georgia Central’s counsel notified the Board of an error in the milepost designation at Macon and, consequently, the rail miles involved in the transaction. Accordingly, the Board is republishing the notice to reflect the correct milepost and mileage.

² Georgia Central has been, prior to the transaction, leasing the line and underlying right-of-way from CSXT. After the transaction, Georgia Central will own the track and improvements on the line but continue to lease the underlying real