

- Development (UNCED) and World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD);
- Technical co-operation programme;
- Future role of formal safety assessment and human element issues;
- Work program of the Committee and subsidiary bodies;
- Application of the Committees' Guidelines; and
- Consideration of the report of the Committee.

Please note that hard copies of documents associated with MEPC 55 will not be available at this meeting. Documents will be available in Adobe Acrobat format on CD-ROM. To request documents please write to the address provided below, or request documents via the following Internet link: <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/mso/MOMEPC.htm>.

Members of the public may attend this meeting up to the seating capacity of the room. Interested persons may seek information by writing to Lieutenant Heather St. Pierre, Commandant (G-PSO-4), U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, 2100 Second Street, SW., Room 1601, Washington, DC 20593-0001 or by calling (202) 372-1432.

Dated: August 9, 2006.

Margaret Hayes,

Executive Secretary, Shipping Coordinating Committee, Department of State.

[FR Doc. E6-13681 Filed 8-17-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-09-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 5456]

Shipping Coordinating Committee; Notice of Meeting

The Working Group on Radiocommunications and Search and Rescue (COMSAR) of the Subcommittee on Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) will conduct open meetings at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, October 5, November 9, December 7, 2006 and January 4, February 8, 2007. The meetings will be held in suite 1060 of the Radio Technical Commission for Maritime Services (RTCM), 1800 North Kent Street, Arlington, VA 22209. This meeting is to prepare for the Eleventh Session of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) SOLAS COMSAR Sub-Committee scheduled for the week of February 19-23, 2007 in London, England.

Members of the public may attend these meetings up to the seating capacity of the rooms. Interested

persons may seek information, including meeting room numbers, by writing: Mr. Russell S. Levin, U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, Commandant (CG-622), Jemal Building Room JR10-1216, 1900 Half Street, SW., Washington, DC 20593 or by sending Internet electronic mail to rlevin@comdt.uscg.mil.

Dated: August 9, 2006.

Margaret Hayes,

Executive Secretary, Shipping Coordinating Committee, Department of State.

[FR Doc. E6-13682 Filed 8-17-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-09-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 5517]

Receipt of Application for a Permit for Pipeline Facilities To Be Constructed and Maintained on the Borders of the United States

AGENCY: Department of State.

The Department of State has received an application from TransCanada Keystone Pipeline, LP ("Keystone") for a Presidential permit, pursuant to Executive Order 11423 of August 16, 1968, as amended by Executive Order 12847 of May 17, 1993, and Executive Order 13284 of January 23, 2003 to construct, connect, operate, and maintain the Keystone Pipeline Project at the U.S.-Canadian border at Cavalier County, North Dakota, for the purpose of transporting Canadian crude oil production from the Western Canadian Sedimentary Basin ("WCSB") to existing terminals in Missouri, Illinois, and potentially, Oklahoma.

TransCanada Keystone Pipeline, LP, is a limited liability company, organized under the laws of the State of Delaware. Keystone is a wholly-owned subsidiary of TransCanada Oil Pipelines Inc., a Delaware Corporation, with its principal office located at 450 1st Street, SW., Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2P 5H1. The proposed new pipeline would consist in the U.S. of 1,018 miles of 30-inch diameter pipeline and 55 miles of 24-inch diameter pipeline ("Keystone Mainline") from the U.S.-Canadian border at Cavalier County, North Dakota, to Patoka, Illinois. If the extension to Cushing, Oklahoma ("Cushing Extension") is constructed, it will consist of an additional 291 miles of 30-inch pipeline for a total of 1365 miles of pipeline. In Canada, the project would involve the sale to Keystone of an existing 530 mile, 34-inch diameter natural gas transmission pipeline currently owned by TransCanada Limited and conversion of that line to crude oil service. In addition, Keystone

will construct 230 miles of pipeline from Hardisty to the converted line and an additional 62 miles of pipeline from the converted line to the U.S. border.

As required by E.O. 13337, the Department of State is circulating this application to concerned Federal agencies for comment.

DATES: Interested parties are invited to submit, in duplicate, comments relative to this proposal on or before September 18, 2006 to Elizabeth Orlando, Office of Environmental Policy, Department of State, Washington, DC 20520. The application and related documents that are part of the record to be considered by the Department of State in connection with this application are available for inspection in the Office of Environmental Policy during normal business hours.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Elizabeth Orlando, Office of Environmental Policy, Department of State, Washington, DC 20520, telephone 202-647-4284, facsimile 202-647-1052, E-mail orlandoea2@state.gov.

Dated: August 14, 2006.

John Thompson,

Acting Director, Office of Environmental Policy, U.S. Department of State.

[FR Doc. E6-13626 Filed 8-17-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-07-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Environmental Impact Statement; Smith County, TX

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that an environmental impact statement (EIS) will be prepared for the proposed U.S. Highway (U.S.) 69/Loop 49 North Lindale Reliever Route (LRR) project in Smith County, Texas.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Donald E. Davis, District Engineer, Federal Highway Administration—Texas Division, 300 E. 8th Street, Austin, Texas 78701, Telephone: 512-536-5960.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FHWA, in cooperation with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for a proposal to construct a Lindale Reliever Route in Smith County, Texas. The proposed improvement would involve construction of a new location roadway

from the planned Loop 49 West/IH 20 interchange to connect with the existing U.S. 69 north of the City of Lindale, a roadway distance of approximately 5–6 miles.

The proposed Lindale Reliever Route would serve as a connector between Loop 49 and U.S. 69 and address safety, mobility, connectivity and capacity needs.

Alternatives under consideration include (1) taking no action (the no-build alternative), (2) constructing a proposed Lindale Reliever Route facility built to current highway standards, and (3) improvements to existing highways. The proposed facility will be evaluated as a toll road project. A Feasibility Study prepared in 2001 evaluated four corridor alternatives along new location right-of-way and a No-Build alternative, resulting in the identification of a recommended study corridor. Subsequent public involvement opportunities have identified additional study corridors. Evaluation of a reasonable number of alignment alternatives will be documented in the EIS, as well as the no-build and existing highway improvement alternatives, based on input from federal, state, and local agencies, as well as private organizations and concerned citizens.

The EIS will evaluate potential impacts from construction and operation of the proposed roadway including, but not limited to, the following: Impacts to residences and businesses, including potential relocations and displacements; transportation impacts (construction detours, construction traffic, and mobility improvement); air and noise impacts from construction equipment and operation of the roadway; social and economic impacts; impacts to cultural resources; water quality impacts from construction and roadway runoff; impacts related to tolling; and impacts to waters of the U.S. including wetlands from right-of-way encroachment.

Correspondence describing the proposed project and soliciting comments will be sent to appropriate federal, state, and local agencies, and to private organizations and citizens who have previously expressed interest in the proposal. TxDOT completed a Feasibility Study for the project in May 2001. In conjunction with the Feasibility Study, TxDOT developed a steering committee, provided project information at two public meetings, and met with interested stakeholders. An agency scoping meeting is anticipated to be held by TxDOT in September 2006 to coordinate and solicit agency representatives' input on project plans

including the purpose and need and the range of alternatives, introduce project team members, obtain comments pertaining to the scope of the EIS, identify important issues, set goals, develop project schedule, and respond to questions. A continuing public involvement program will include a project mailing list, project newsletters, a public scoping meeting (public notice will be given of the time and place), and numerous informal meetings with interested citizens and stakeholders. In addition, a public hearing will be held after the publication of the Draft EIS. Public notice will be given of the time and place of the hearing. The Draft EIS will be available for public and agency review and comment prior to the public hearing.

To ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposed action are addressed and all significant issues identified, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments or questions concerning this proposed action and the EIS should be directed to the FHWA at the address provided above.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway Research Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12373 regarding intergovernmental consultation on Federal programs and activities apply to this program.)

Donald E. Davis,

District Engineer.

[FR Doc. 06–7012 Filed 8–17–06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–22–M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

Adoption of Environmental Impact Statement, Participation in a Section 106 Programmatic Agreement, and Notice of Availability of Section 4(f)/303 Statement

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

ACTION: Adoption and Recirculation of Final Environmental Impact Statement and Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement; Participation as a Concurring Party to a Section 106 Programmatic Agreement; and Notice of Availability of a Draft Section 4(f)/303 Statement.

SUMMARY: FRA is issuing this notice to advise the public and interested agencies that FRA has decided to adopt the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Supplemental Environmental

Impact Statement (SEIS) issued by the Surface Transportation Board (STB) for construction and operation of a new rail line and related improvements by the Dakota, Minnesota and Eastern Railroad Corporation (DM&E). Under applicable regulations, FRA is allowed to adopt and recirculate the STB's Final EIS and Final SEIS as its own, since FRA's proposed action is substantially the same as the action covered by the STB's EISs. The FRA further announces the availability of a draft Section 4(f)/303 Statement prepared for the Project by the FRA pursuant to Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act (49 U.S.C. § 303(c)). The draft Section 4(f)/303 Statement and STB's EISs are available and comments may be submitted as indicated below.

This project, known as the Powder River Basin Expansion Project (Project), would involve construction of approximately 280 miles of new rail line to reach the coal mines of Wyoming's Powder River Basin and reconstruction of another approximately 600 miles of DM&E's existing rail line that would allow operation of unit coal trains along the reconstructed route to and from the new line. The Project takes place in the States of Minnesota, South Dakota and Wyoming. The DM&E has applied to the FRA for a \$2.3 billion loan under the Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing (RRIF) program to finance the Project.

DATES: Submit comments on the Final EIS, Final SEIS, or the draft Section 4(f)/303 Statement no later than October 10, 2006 to David Valenstein, Environmental Program Manager, at the address listed below.

ADDRESSES: The EIS documents and the draft Section 4(f)/303 Statement can be inspected at the FRA office at the address listed below. The draft Section 4(f)/303 Statement may be obtained from the FRA Web site at <http://www.fra.dot.gov> or by contacting the FRA. Additionally, the STB's Draft EIS, Final EIS, Draft SEIS and Final SEIS are available in electronic format on the STB Web site at <http://www.stb.dot.gov> under Environmental Matters, Key Cases, DM&E Links and one or more of the EISs may be viewed in 70 libraries in the Project area as listed on FRA's Web site.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David Valenstein, Environmental Program Manager; 1120 Vermont Avenue, NW.; Mail Stop 20; Washington, DC 20590; Phone (202) 493–6368.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The DM&E filed an application in 1998 with the STB for authority to construct and