

trade. The FALCON LEADER has a deadweight capacity of 33,542 LTs and a cargo tank capacity of 224,096 barrels. The Applicant will hire Osprey-Acomarit Ship Management Inc., to manage the operation of the FALCON LEADER.

In summary, the Applicant requests the following under the Act:

(1) Approval under section 608 of the transfer of ODSA, Contract MA/MSB-439 from the Estates to Atlantic (and henceforth to the Applicant) and approval under section 605(c), section 601, and other provisions of the Act of financial aid for the operation of the FALCON LEADER in the worldwide carriage of liquid bulk cargo in the foreign commerce of the United States and the carriage of such cargo between foreign ports, and, if the Applicant amends this application, for two additional vessels in an essential service in the foreign commerce of the United States.

(2) Modification of the ODSA for the worldwide transportation of product in bulk and any other essential services, as described in an amendment to this application.

This application may be inspected in the Office of the Secretary, Maritime Administration. Any person, firm or corporation having any interest in such request and desiring to submit comments concerning the application must file written comments in triplicate with the Secretary, Maritime Administration, Room 7210, Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington D.C. 20590. Comments must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 9, 1996. The Maritime Subsidy Board will consider any comments submitted and take such action with respect thereto as may be deemed appropriate.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 2.804 Operating-Differential Subsidies)

By Order of the Maritime Subsidy Board.

Dated: April 22, 1996.

Joel C. Richard,  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-10253 Filed 4-24-96; 8:45 am]

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## Surface Transportation Board

[STB Special Tariff Authority No. 9601]

### Petition To Allow Short-Term Notice of Fuel Cost-Related Increases

**AGENCY:** Surface Transportation Board.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** On April 16, 1996, the American Trucking Associations, Inc., the Interstate Truckload Carriers Conference, and the American Movers Conference (collectively petitioners) jointly requested the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to permit motor carriers still subject to statutory tariff-filing requirements to implement fuel-related surcharges on one day's notice. The Board seeks public comment on petitioners' request with respect to motor carriers providing joint service with water carriers in the noncontiguous domestic trade, the only category of motor service for which carriers must file and maintain tariffs with the Board.

**DATES:** Comments are due on May 6, 1996.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments (an original and 10 copies) referring to STB Special Tariff Authority No. 9601 to: Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Branch, 1201 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20423.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ronald A. Hall, (202) 927-5639. [TDD for the hearing impaired: (202) 927-5721.]

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Petitioners request the above-described relief so that motor carriers may more quickly recover through rate surcharges their increased expenditures associated with rapidly rising diesel fuel prices. According to petitioners, fuel prices have risen by more than 17 cents per gallon, or 15 percent, in the past ten weeks, and by more than 5 cents in the past week alone. Petitioners also state that bulk fuel prices have increased even more sharply, rising as much as 35 cents per gallon, or 75 percent from their lows of the past year. Petitioners submit that, because fuel costs comprise approximately 20 percent of a carrier's operating costs, the rapid increases in fuel costs can cripple carriers that cannot pass them through quickly. As a result, petitioners state that carriers must be allowed to put tariff rate increases into effect promptly. Accordingly, they ask the Board to reinstate Special Tariff Authorities previously adopted by the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC), the Board's predecessor, which allowed for fuel-related surcharges to take effect on one day's notice in similar circumstances.

Petitioners recognize that, as a result of the ICC Termination Act of 1995, Pub. L. No. 104-88, 109 Stat. 803 (ICCTA), and the Trucking Industry Regulatory Reform Act of 1994, Pub. L. No. 103-311, 108 Stat. 1683 (TIRRA), tariff-filing

requirements for most motor carriers have been eliminated, and that most motor carriers may change their rates without government approval or oversight. Therefore, they seek relief only for household goods carriers and for motor carriers operating in the noncontiguous domestic trade. While household goods carriers must maintain tariffs available for inspection at their place of business, they are not required to file those tariffs with the Board, nor is the Board authorized to promulgate rules governing their contents or procedural requirements—including notice—associated with filing such tariffs. 49 U.S.C. 13702(c). Thus, like most other motor carriers, household goods carriers also remain free to adjust their rates to deal with fuel cost increases free from the Board's oversight. Tariff-filing requirements, including notice requirements, remain only for motor carriers engaged in noncontiguous domestic trade. 49 U.S.C. 13702(b).

It is not clear how much effect escalating fuel prices are having on the extremely limited amount of service that remains subject to the Board's tariff-filing jurisdiction, and hence over which the Board has authority to grant the relief sought by petitioners. Accordingly, the Board invites all interested parties to comment on petitioners' request as it pertains to motor carriers providing joint service with water carriers in the noncontiguous domestic trade.

#### Request for Comments

Comments (an original and 10 copies) must be in writing and are due 10 days after publication of this notice.

#### Small Entities

Because this is not a notice of proposed rulemaking within the meaning of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*), we need not conduct at this point an examination of impacts on small entities. Commentors may address whether our consideration of petitioners' requested relief would have significant economic effects on any substantial number of small entities.

#### Environment

The issuance of this notice and request for comments will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources. Commentors may address whether a determination to grant the requested relief would significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 721(a) and 13702(a).

Decided: April 19, 1996.

By the Board, Chairman Morgan, Vice Chairman Simmons, and Commissioner Owen.

Vernon A. Williams,  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-10261 Filed 4-24-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

## National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

### Safety Performance Standards, Research and Safety Assurance Programs Meetings

**AGENCY:** National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of NHTSA Industry Meetings.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces a public meeting at which NHTSA will answer questions from the public and the automobile industry regarding the agency's vehicle regulatory, safety assurance and other programs. In addition, NHTSA will hold a separate public meeting to describe and discuss specific research and development projects.

**DATES:** The Agency's regular, quarterly public meeting relating to its vehicle regulatory, safety assurance and other programs will be held on June 13, 1996, beginning at 9:45 a.m. and ending at approximately 12:30 p.m. Questions relating to the above programs must be submitted in writing by June 3, 1996, to the address shown below. If sufficient time is available, questions received after June 3, may be answered at the meeting. The individual, group or company submitting a question(s) does not have to be present for the question(s) to be answered. A consolidated list of the questions submitted by June 3, 1996, and the issues to be discussed will be transmitted to interested persons by June 7, 1996, and will be available at the meeting. Also, the agency will hold a second public meeting on June 12, devoted exclusively to a presentation of research and development programs. This meeting will begin at 1:30 p.m. and end at approximately 5:00 p.m. That meeting is described more fully in a separate announcement. After the June meetings, the next NHTSA Technical Industry Public Meeting will be held on September 12 at the Best Western Tysons Westpark Hotel, 9401 Westpark Drive, McLean, Virginia. The Research and Development (R&D) Industry meeting will be held on September 11 at the same location beginning at 1:30 p.m. The last NHTSA Industry Meeting

of this year will be held on December 12, 1996 from 9:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Royce Hotel, 31500 Wick Road, Romulus, MI. The Research and Development Industry meeting will be held December 11, 1996 from 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the same location.

**ADDRESSES:** Questions for the June 13, NHTSA Technical Industry Meeting, relating to the agency's vehicle regulatory and safety assurance programs, should be submitted to Barry Felrice, Associate Administrator for Safety Performance Standards, NPS-01, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Room 5401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590, Fax number (202) 366-4329. The meeting will be held at the Royce Hotel—Detroit Metro Airport, 31500 Wick Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** NHTSA will hold this regular, quarterly meeting to answer questions from the public and the regulated industries regarding the agency's vehicle regulatory, safety assurance and other programs. Questions on aspects of the agency's research and development activities that relate to ongoing regulatory actions should be submitted, as in the past, the agency's Safety Performance Standards Office. The purpose of this meeting is to focus on those phases of NHTSA activities which are technical, interpretative or procedural in nature. Transcripts of these meetings will be available for public inspection in the NHTSA Technical Reference Section in Washington, DC, within four weeks after the meeting. Copies of the transcript will then be available at ten cents a page, (length has varied from 100 to 150 pages) upon request to NHTSA Technical Reference Section, Room 5108, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington DC 20590.

The Technical Reference Section is open to the public from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

We would appreciate the questions you send us to be organized by categories to help us to process the questions into agenda form more efficiently.

Sample format as follows:

- I. Rulemaking
  - A. Crashavoidance
  - B. Crashworthiness
  - C. Other Rulemakings
- II. Consumer Information
- III. Miscellaneous

NHTSA will provide auxiliary aids to participants as necessary. Any person desiring assistance of "auxiliary aids" (e.g., sign-language interpreter, telecommunications devices for deaf persons (TDDs), readers, taped texts,

Brailled materials, or large print materials and/or a magnifying device), please contact Barbara Carnes on (202) 366-1810, by COB May 31, 1996.

Barry Felrice,

Associate Administrator for Safety Performance Standards.

[FR Doc. 96-10122 Filed 4-24-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-59-M

## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Domestic Finance; Notice of Open Meeting of the Advisory Committee; U.S. Community Adjustment and Investment Program

The Department of the Treasury, pursuant to the North American Free Trade Agreement ("NAFTA") Implementation Act (Pub. L. No. 103-182), established an advisory committee (the "Advisory Committee") for the community adjustment and investment program (the "Program"). The Program will provide financing to businesses and individuals to create new jobs in communities adversely impacted by NAFTA. The charter of the Advisory Committee has been filed in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act of October 6, 1972 (Pub. L. No. 92-463), with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury.

The Advisory Committee consists of nine members of the public, appointed by the President, who collectively represent: (1) Community groups whose constituencies include low-income families; (2) scientific, professional, business, nonprofit, or public interest organizations or associations, which are neither affiliated with, nor under the direction of, a government; and (3) for-profit business interests.

The objectives of the Advisory Committee are to: (1) Provide informed advice to the President regarding the implementation of the Program; and (2) review on a regular basis, the operation of the Program, and provide the President with the conclusions of its review. Pursuant to Executive Order No. 12916, dated May 13, 1994, the President established an interagency committee to implement the Program and to receive, on behalf of the President, advice of the Advisory Committee. The committee is chaired by the Secretary of the Treasury.

A meeting of the Advisory Committee, which will be open to the public, will be held on Friday, May 10, 1996 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Jamie L. Whitten Administration Building, Room 107A, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250 (main