

its existing one-person crew operations and gather background information.

General Concerns

For both subjects, FRA solicits written and oral comments on such topics as:

- Equipment standards
- Design requirements
- Employee training
- Employee safety
- Standard operating procedures
- Train size and makeup
- Terrain limitations
- Communications
- Inspections and tests
- Operations security

This list of issues is not meant to be all-inclusive. Other concerns may also be raised and discussed at the hearing.

Authority: Secs. 6, 9, Pub. L. 89-670, 80 Stat. 937, 944 (49 U.S.C. 1655, 1657); the statutes referred to in sec. 6(e) (1), (2), (3), (6)(A) of Pub. L. 89-670, 80 Stat. 939 (49 U.S.C. 1655); sec. 202 of Pub. L. 91-458, 84 Stat. 971 as amended by sec. 5(a) of Pub. L. 94-438 (45 U.S.C. 431); and 49 CFR 1.49, unless otherwise noted.

Jolene M. Molitoris,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. 96-29547 Filed 11-15-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-06-P

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 11, 1996, 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 November 22, 1996. Questions may be submitted in advance regarding the agency's research and development projects. They must be submitted in writing by November 29, 1996, to the address given below. If sufficient time is available, questions received after the November 29 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 the questions submitted by November 29 will be available at the meeting and will be mailed to requesters after the meeting.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Royce Hotel, Detroit Metro Airport, 31500 Wick Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174. Suggestions for specific R&D topics as described below and questions for the December 11, 1996, 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., SW, 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 fifteenth meeting in the series will be held on December 11, 1996.

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 November 22, 1996. 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. NHTSA asks that the suggestions be limited to six, in priority order, so that the presentations at the December 11 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.

Specific R&D Topic is

On-line tracking system for NHTSA's research projects.

Specific Crashworthiness R&D Topics Are

Air bag assessment research, 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, Crash Injury Research and Engineering Network (CIREN), 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

Strategic plan for NHTSA's Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) crash avoidance research, Anti-lock brake systems (ABS) research plan, Truck tire traction, Portable data acquisition system for crash avoidance research (DASCAR), Systems to enhance EMS response (automatic collision notification), Crash causal analysis, Human factors guidelines for crash avoidance warning devices, Longer combination vehicle safety, Drowsy driver monitoring, Driver workload assessment, Pedestrian detection devices for school bus safety, Preliminary rear-end collision avoidance system guidelines, Preliminary road departure collision avoidance system guidelines, Preliminary intersection collision avoidance system guidelines, and Preliminary lane change/merge collision avoidance system guidelines.

National Center for Statistics and Analysis (NCSA) Topics Are

Status of National Accident Sampling System (NASS), including implementation of electronic data collection and changes in sampling, New Crash Outcome Data Evaluation System (CODES) grants, and 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 November 29, 1996, 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 in the NHTSA's Technical Reference Division,

Room 5108, 400 Seventh St., SW, Washington, DC 20590. Copies of the transcript will then be available at 10 cents a page, upon request to NHTSA's Technical Reference Division. The Technical Reference Division is open to the public from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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 by close of business December 2, 1996.

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

Issued: November 12, 1996.

William A. Boehly,

Associate Administrator for Research and Development.

[FR Doc. 96-29409 Filed 11-15-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-59-P

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 1997 user fee assessments for pipeline facilities will be mailed to pipeline operators on or about December 10, 1996. The fees to be assessed for natural gas transmission, hazardous liquid and liquefied natural gas (LNG) are as indicated below:

Natural gas transmission pipelines: \$67.46 per mile (based on 295,217 miles of pipeline).

Hazardous liquid pipelines: \$61.27 per mile (based on 155,180 miles of pipeline).

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

Total storage capacity BBLs	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 Programs 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 195, are not included. 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, as shown below, is a result of increased program resources to the hazardous liquid program because of environmental protection activities:

Year(s)	General program costs (gas) (percent)	General program costs (liquid) (percent)
1986-1990	80	20
1991-1992	75	25
1993	75 (¾yr) ... 60 (¼yr) ...	25 (¾yr) 40 (¼yr)
1994	60	40
1995	75	25
1996	65	35
1997	55	45

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

Issued in Washington, DC November 12, 1996.

Richard B. Felder

Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.

[FR Doc. 96-29478 Filed 11-15-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-60-P

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33287]

Delaware Valley Railway Company, Inc.—Acquisition and Operation Exemption—Gettysburg Railroad Company

Delaware Valley Railway Company, Inc., a Class III shortline carrier, has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.41 to acquire and operate approximately 23.4 route miles from Gettysburg Railroad Company between approximately milepost 31.2, at Gettysburg, PA, and milepost 7.8, at Mount Holly Springs, PA.

The transaction is expected to be consummated on or about November 15, 1996.

If the notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*. Petitions to revoke the exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) may be filed at any time. The filing of a petition to revoke does not automatically stay the transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 33287, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Branch, 1201 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20423. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on: Robert A. Wimbish, Esq., Rea, Cross & Auchincloss, Suite 420, 1920 N Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20036. Telephone: (202) 785-3700.

Decided: November 7, 1996.

By the Board, David M. Konschnik, Director, Office of Proceedings.

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-29433 Filed 11-15-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

[STB Finance Docket No. 33291]

Genesee & Wyoming Inc.—Control Exemption—Rail Link, Inc.

Genesee & Wyoming Inc. (GWI), a noncarrier holding company, has filed a notice of exemption to acquire control through stock ownership of Rail Link, Inc. (Rail Link), a noncarrier holding company. Rail Link controls three separate Class III railroads as follows: Carolina Coastal Railway, Inc. (CLNA); Commonwealth Railway, Inc. (CWRY); and Talleyrand Terminal Railroad (TRR).¹

The transaction will be consummated on or after November 8, 1996.

¹ GWI is acquiring all of the outstanding capital stock of Rail Link and will indirectly control CLNA, CWRY, and TRR.