

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Office of the Secretary****Notice of Applications for Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity and Foreign Air Carrier Permits Filed Under Subpart Q**

The following Applications for Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity and Foreign Air Carrier Permits were filed under Subpart Q of the Department of Transportation's Procedural Regulations (See 14 CFR 302.1701 et. seq.). The due date for Answers, Conforming Applications, or Motions to Modify Scope are set forth below for each application. Following the Answer period DOT may process the application by expedited procedures. Such procedures may consist of the adoption of a show-cause order, a tentative order, or in appropriate cases a final order without further proceedings.

Docket Number: 49105.

Date Filed: September 1, 1993.

Due Date for Answers, Conforming Applications, or Motions to Modify Scope: September 29, 1993.

Description: Application of Allcanada Express Limited d./b/a Allcanada Express pursuant to Section 402 and Subpart Q, applies for authority to engage in charter air transportation of property and mail between any point or points in Canada and any point or points in the United States.

Docket Number: OST-1996-1327.

Date Filed: April 30, 1996.

Due Date for Answers, Conforming Applications, or Motions to Modify Scope: May 28, 1996.

Description: Application of Inter-Canadien (1991) Inc./Inter-Canadian (1991) Inc. pursuant to 49 U.S.C. Section 41301 and Subpart Q of the Regulations, applies for a foreign air carrier permit to provide scheduled and charter foreign air transportation services available to Canadian carriers pursuant to the Air Transport Agreement between the Government of Canada and the Government of the United States.

Dorothy W. Walker,

Federal Register Liaison.

[FR Doc. 98-21983 Filed 8-14-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-62-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Federal Aviation Administration****Research, Engineering and Development (R,E&D) Advisory Committee**

Pursuant to section 10(A)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463; 5 U.S.C. App. 2), notice is hereby given of a meeting of the FAA Research, Engineering and Development Advisory Committee. The meeting will be held on September 15-16, at the Holiday Inn Rosslyn Westpark Hotel, 1900 North Fort Myer Drive, Arlington, Virginia.

On Tuesday, September 15 the meeting will begin at 9 a.m. and end at 5 p.m. On Wednesday, September 16 the meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at 12 noon.

The meeting agenda will include receiving guidance from the Committee for FAA's fiscal year 2001 research and development investments in the areas of air traffic services, airports, aircraft safety, security, human factors and environment and energy. The Committee will also receive updates on the Free Flight Phase I program and the Flight 2000 program.

Attendance is open to the interested public but limited to space available. Persons wishing to attend the meeting or obtain information should contact Lee Olson at the Federal Aviation Administration, AAR-200, 800 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20591 (202) 267-7358. Attendance must be confirmed to receive a meeting package.

Members of the public may present a written statement to the Committee at any time.

Issued in Washington, DC on August 11, 1998.

Jan Brecht-Clark,

Deputy Director, Office of Aviation Research.

[FR Doc. 98-22006 Filed 8-14-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Federal Highway Administration****Environmental Assessment: Warwick, Rhode Island**

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: The FHWA, in cooperation with the Rhode Island Department of Transportation, is issuing this notice to advise the public that an Environmental Assessment (EA) will be prepared for

the proposed intermodal station and airport connection project in Warwick, Rhode Island.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ralph J. Rizzo, Transportation Planner, Federal Highway Administration, 380 Westminster Mall, Room 547, Providence, Rhode Island 02903. Telephone (401) 528-4548, or William Chuck Alves, Chief, Intermodal Transportation Planning, Rhode Island Department of Transportation, Two Capitol Hill, Room 372, Providence, Rhode Island, 02903. Telephone (401) 222-4203 ext. 4233.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FHWA, in cooperation with the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT), will prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) on a proposal to construct an intermodal station on the Northeast Corridor (NEC) with an airport connection to the T.F. Green Airport, located within the City of Warwick, Rhode Island. This notice is issued in the event that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required.

The proposed improvement would involve the construction of new combined commuter rail/Amtrak intermodal station with a connection to the existing T.F. Green Airport terminal. The purpose of the project is to provide a seamless intermodal link between intercity and commuter rail services on Amtrak's Northeast Corridor and T.F. Green State Airport. The need for this link arises from projected increases in passengers utilizing the airport, especially those from outside the State of Rhode Island. This intermodal link should affect a modal shift among a portion of those passengers thereby reducing future congestion on local roadways and the associated impacts to air quality and noise in the Hillsgrove area of Warwick.

Alternatives under consideration include: (1) Taking no action; (2) Construction of an intermodal station including station building with passenger waiting and ticketing facilities, passenger platforms, and an airport shuttle connection to the airport; (3) Construction of an intermodal station including station building with passenger waiting and ticketing facilities, passenger platforms, and an automated people mover connection to the airport. Additional reasonable alternatives may be identified during the scoping process.

A public scoping meeting with interested agencies and members of the public will be held on August 27, 1998 at 9:00 a.m. at the RIDOT Traffic Operations Center (TOC) Conference

Room. The meeting will continue on August 27, 1998 in Warwick, Rhode Island at the Radisson Airport Hotel, 2081 Post Road at 6:30 p.m. The second part of the scoping meeting will be preceded by a workshop to explain the components of the projects. The workshop will open at 5:00 p.m. and project planners and engineers will be in attendance to answer questions from 7-8:00 p.m. Written comments received by September 28, 1998 will be incorporated into this NEPA scoping process.

To ensure that a full range of issues related to this proposed project are addressed and all significant issues identified, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments and/or questions concerning this proposed project may be presented at the August 27, 1998 scoping session or directed to FHWA and RIDOT at the addresses provided above.

Authority: 23 U.S.C. 315; 49 CFR 1.48.

Issued: August 11, 1998.

Gordon G. Hoxie,

Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration, Providence, Rhode Island.

[FR Doc. 98-21990 Filed 8-14-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

Voluntary Intermodal Sealift Agreement (VISA)

AGENCY: Maritime Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of Open Season For Enrollment in Fiscal Year (FY) 1999 VISA Program.

Introduction

The VISA program was established pursuant to section 708 of the Defense Production Act of 1950, as amended, which provides for voluntary agreements for emergency preparedness programs. After review of a one-year prototype, VISA was approved January 30, 1997, and published in the **Federal Register** on February 13, 1997 (62 FR 6837). As implemented, VISA is open to U.S.-Flag Vessel Operators of militarily useful vessels, including bareboat charter operators if satisfactory signed agreements are in place committing the assets of the owner to the bareboat charterer for purposes of VISA. By order of the Maritime Administrator on August 4, 1997, participation of U.S.-flag deepwater tug/barge Operators in VISA was encouraged. Time, voyage, and space charterers are not considered

U.S.-Flag Vessel Operators for purposes of VISA eligibility.

Participation in VISA, as evidenced by a fully executed VISA Agreement with the Maritime Administration (MARAD), satisfies the requirement of section 653 of the Maritime Security Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-239) for Maritime Security Program (MSP) participants to enter into an Emergency Preparedness Agreement with the Secretary of Transportation and to receive DoD peacetime contract award priority by participation in a Emergency Preparedness Program, approved by the Secretary of Defense (SECDEF).

VISA Concept

The mission of VISA is to provide commercial sealift and intermodal shipping services and systems, including vessels, vessel space, intermodal equipment and related management services, to the Department of Defense (DoD), as necessary, to meet national defense contingency requirements or national emergencies.

VISA provides for the staged, time-phased availability of participants' shipping services/systems to meet contingency requirements through prenegotiated contracts between the Government and participants. Such arrangements will be jointly planned with MARAD, USTRANSCOM, and participants in peacetime to allow effective and best valued use of commercial sealift capacity, to provide DoD assured contingency access, and to minimize commercial disruption, whenever possible.

VISA Stages I and II provide for prenegotiated contracts between the DoD and participants to provide sealift capacity to meet all projected DoD contingency requirements. These contracts will be executed in accordance with approved DoD contracting methodologies. VISA Stage III will provide for additional capacity to the DoD when Stage I and II commitments or volunteered capacity are insufficient to meet contingency requirements, and adequate shipping services from non-participants are not available through established DoD contracting practices or U.S. Government treaty agreements.

FY 1999 VISA Enrollment Open Season

The purpose of this notice is to invite interested, qualified U.S.-Flag Vessel Operators to participate in the VISA program for FY 1999 (October 1, 1998 thru September 30, 1999). This is the first annual enrollment period since the commencement of VISA during which time participants have been enrolled in the program on an ad-hoc basis. This enrollment method was adequate during

the early period of the program while the DoD VISA contracting process was under development. However, now that VISA has been fully integrated into DoD's priority for award of cargo to VISA participants, it is necessary to link the VISA enrollment cycle with DoD's peacetime cargo contracting cycle.

Existing VISA participants and new applicants are required to enroll/re-enroll for the FY 1999 VISA program as described in this Notice. This alignment of VISA enrollment and eligibility for VISA priority will solidify the linkage between commitment of contingency assets by VISA participants and receiving VISA priority consideration for award of FY 1999 DoD peacetime cargo.

It is the only planned enrollment period for carriers to join VISA and derive benefits for DoD peacetime contracts during FY 1999. The only exception to this open season period for VISA enrollment will be for a non-VISA carrier that reflags a vessel into U.S. registry. That carrier may join VISA upon completion of reflagging at any time during the fiscal year.

Advantages of Peacetime Participation

Because enrollment of carriers in VISA provides the DoD with assured access to sealift services during contingencies based on a level of commitment, as well as a mechanism for joint planning, the DoD awards peacetime cargo contracts to VISA participants on a priority basis. This applies to liner trades and charter contracts alike. Award of DoD cargoes to meet DoD peacetime and contingency requirements is made on the basis of the following priorities:

- U.S.-flag vessel capacity operated by VISA participants, and U.S.-flag Vessel Sharing Agreement (VSA) capacity held by VISA participants.
- U.S.-flag vessel capacity operated by non-participants.
- Combination U.S.-flag/foreign-flag vessel capacity operated by VISA participants, and combination U.S.-flag/foreign-flag VSA capacity held by VISA participants.
- Combination U.S.-flag/foreign-flag vessel capacity operated by non-participants.
- U.S.-owned or operated foreign-flag vessel capacity and VSA capacity held by VISA participants.
- U.S.-owned or operated foreign-flag vessel capacity and VSA capacity held by non-participants.
- Foreign-owned or operated foreign-flag vessel capacity of non-participants.