will be subject to the technical direction and approval of NHTSA;

d. Attend Two Technical Workshops;

e. Progress Reports. The grantee will provide 1-2 page letter-type written progress reports with each request for funds or payment to the NHTSA COTR. These reports will compare what was proposed in the Plan of Action with actual accomplishments during the period of performance; what commitments have been generated; what follow up and support are expected; what problems have been experienced and what may be needed to overcome the problems; and what is specifically planned to be accomplished during the period of performance;

f. Reports of Meetings of CODES Board of Directors and Advisory Committee. Copies of the agenda and minutes for each Board of Directors and Advisory Committee Meeting will be attached to the Progress Report submitted to NHTSA immediately following the meeting;

g. Final Report. The grantee shall deliver to NHTSA, at the end of the project, a final report describing the following:

(1) A description of the state's linked crash and injury data;

(2) A description of the file preparation, linkage, validation processes implemented, the results of the implementation and how they were documented;

(3) A discussion of the limitations of the linked data;

(4) A description of how the State will institutionalize data linkage and continue to use linked data for decision-making;

(5) An estimate of the resources that will be needed to replicate the linkage for subsequent years of data;

(6) A copy of the public-use formats that were successful for incorporating linked data into the State's decision-making processes for highway safety and injury control; and,

(7) A camera ready report describing the highway traffic safety application of linked data implemented by the state and the impact of that application on reducing death, disability, and health care costs resulting from highway traffic safety crashes.

h. CODES Linked Database: The deliverables will include:

(1) The linked database in an electronic media and format acceptable to NHTSA.

(2) Documentation of the definitions and file structure for the linked data file and each of the data elements contained in the linked data files.

(3) An analysis of the quality of the linked data and a description of any data bias which may exist based on an analysis of the false positive and false negative linked records.

3. Cooperative Agreements awarded as a result of this announcement shall be subject to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's General Provisions for Assistance Agreements.

Issued: February 2, 1998.

Patricia Breslin,

Director, National Center for Statistics and Analysis, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

[FR Doc. 98–2925 Filed 2–6–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–59–M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[Docket No. NHTSA–97–3125; Notice 01]

RIN 2127–AH04

Preliminary Theft Data; Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Standard

AGENCY: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Publication of preliminary theft data; request for comments.

SUMMARY: This document requests comments on data about passenger motor vehicle thefts that occurred in calendar year (CY) 1996, including theft rates for existing passenger motor vehicle lines manufactured in model year (MY) 1996. The theft data preliminarily indicate that the vehicle theft rate for CY/MY 1996 vehicles (3.28 thefts per thousand vehicles) decreased by 8.1 percent from the theft rate for CY/MY 1995 vehicles (3.57 thefts per thousand vehicles).

Publication of these data fulfills NHTSA's statutory obligation to periodically obtain accurate and timely theft data, and publish the information for review and comment.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before April 10, 1998.

ADDRESSES: All comments should refer to the docket number and notice number cited in the heading of this document and be submitted, preferably with two copies to: U.S. Department of Transportation, Dockets, Room PL–401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Docket hours are from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Orron Kee, Office of Planning and Consumer Programs, NHTSA, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590. Mr. Kee's telephone number is (202) 366–0846. His fax number is (202) 493–2739.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NHTSA administers a program for reducing motor vehicle theft. The central feature of this program is the Federal Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Standard, 49 CFR Part 541. The standard specifies performance requirements for inscribing or affixing vehicle identification numbers (VINs) onto certain major original equipment and replacement parts of high-theft lines of passenger motor vehicles.

The agency is required by 49 U.S.C. 33104(b)(4) to periodically obtain, from the most reliable source, accurate and timely theft data, and publish the data for review and comment. To fulfill the § 33104(b)(4) mandate, this document reports the preliminary theft data for CY 1996, the most recent calendar year for which data are available.

In calculating the 1996 theft rates, NHTSA followed the same procedures it used in calculating the MY 1995 theft rates. (For 1995 theft data calculations, see 62 FR 44416, August 21, 1997). As in all previous reports, NHTSA's data were based on information provided to the agency by the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The NCIC is a governmental system that receives vehicle theft information from nearly 23,000 criminal justice agencies and other law enforcement authorities throughout the United States. The NCIC data also include reported thefts of self-insured and uninsured vehicles, not all of which are reported to other data sources.

The 1996 theft rate for each vehicle line was calculated by dividing the number of reported thefts of MY 1996 vehicles of that line stolen during calendar year 1996, by the total number of vehicles in that line manufactured for MY 1996, as reported to the Environmental Protection Agency.

The preliminary 1996 theft data show a decrease in the vehicle theft rate when compared to the theft rate experienced in CY/MY 1995. The preliminary theft rate for MY 1996 passenger vehicles stolen in calendar year 1996 decreased to 3.28 thefts per thousand vehicles produced, a decrease of 8.1 percent from the rate of 3.57 thefts per thousand vehicles experienced by MY 1995 vehicles in CY 1995. For MY 1996 vehicles, out of a total of 203 vehicle lines, 71 lines had a theft rate higher than 3.5826 per thousand vehicles, the established median theft rate for MYs 1990/1991. (See 59 FR 12400, March 16, 1994). Of the 71 vehicle lines with a theft rate higher than 3.5826, 67 are

passenger car lines, 4 are multipurpose passenger vehicle lines, and none are light-duty truck lines.

In Table I, NHTSA has tentatively ranked each of the MY 1996 vehicle lines in descending order of theft rate. Public comment is sought on the accuracy of the data, including the data for the production volumes of individual vehicle lines.

Comments must not exceed 15 pages in length (49 CFR Part 553.21). Attachments may be appended to these submissions without regard to the 15 page limit. This limitation is intended to encourage commenters to detail their primary arguments in a concise fashion.

If a commenter wishes to submit certain information under a claim of confidentiality, three copies of the complete submission, including purportedly confidential business information, should be submitted to the Chief Counsel, NHTSA, at the street address given above, and two copies from which the purportedly confidential information has been deleted should be submitted to Dockets. A request for confidentiality should be accompanied by a cover letter setting forth the information specified in the agency's confidential business regulation. 49 CFR Part 512.

All comments received before the close of business on the comment closing date indicated above for this document will be considered, and will be available for examination in the docket at the above address both before and after that date. To the extent possible, comments filed after the closing date will also be considered. Comments on this document will be available for inspection in the docket. NHTSA will continue to file relevant information as it becomes available for inspection in the docket after the closing date, and it is recommended that interested persons continue to examine the docket for new material.

Those persons desiring to be notified upon receipt of their comments in the rules docket should enclose a self-addressed, stamped postcard in the envelope with their comments. Upon receiving the comments, the docket supervisor will return the postcard by mail.

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 33101, 33102 and 33104; delegation of authority at 49 CFR 1.50.

THEFT RATES OF MODEL YEAR 1996 PASSENGER MOTOR VEHICLES STOLEN IN CALENDAR YEAR 1996

Manufacturer	Make/model (line)	Thefts 1996	Production (Mfr's) 1996	1996 (per 1,000 vehicles produced) theft rate
1 MITSUBISHI	DIAMANTE	28	600	46.6667
2 MAZDA	MX–3	1	27	37.0370
3 ROLLS-ROYCE	SILVER DAWN	1	31	32.2581
4 TOYOTA	SUPRA	7	275	25.4545
5 CHRYSLER CORP	INTREPID [1]	8	465	17.2043
6 MITSUBISHI	MIRAGE	364	31,933	11.3989
7 TOYOTA	LEXUS GS	27	2,535	10.6509
8 MITSUBISHI	MONTERO	112	11,026	10.1578
9 NISSAN	300ZX	28	2,893	9.6785
10 CHRYSLER CORP	DODGE STEALTH	3	358	8.3799
11 NISSAN	STANZA ALTIMA	719	92,478	7.7748
12 CHRYSLER CORP	PLYMOUTH NEON	779	103,871	7.4997
13 BMW	8	2	267	7.4906
14 TOYOTA	LEXUS SC	34	4,785	7.1055
15 CHRYSLER CORP	DODGE NEON	926	131,821	7.0247
16 CHRYSLER CORP	JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE	1,978	281,814	7.0188
17 SAAB	SAAB 9000	23	3,284	7.0037
18 MITSUBISHI	GALANT	371	54,673	6.7858
19 GENERAL MOTORS	CHEVROLET CORVETTE	137	21,008	6.5213
20 ROLLS-ROYCE	SILVER SPUR	1	155	6.4516
21 HYUNDAI	ACCENT	300	46,691	6.4252
22 MITSUBISHI	ECLIPSE	323	51,055	6.3265
23 CHRYSLER CORP	DODGE STRATUS	622	99,683	6.2398
24 HONDA/ACURA	NSX	3	486	6.1728
25 SUZUKI	SWIFT	12	2,087	5.7499
26 NISSAN	MAXIMA	893	156,602	5.7024
27 MITSUBISHI	EXPO	7	1,230	5.6911
28 FORD MOTOR CO	MERCURY TRACER	74	13,199	5.6065
29 HYUNDAI	SONATA	54	9,694	5.5700
30 TOYOTA	TERCEL	335	60,704	5.5186
31 FORD MOTOR CO	MUSTANG	696	126,357	5.5082
32 CHRYSLER CORP	NEW YORKER/LHS	209	38,284	5.4592
33 TOYOTA	COROLLA	1,136	210,277	5.4024
34 SUZUKI	ESTEEM	32	5,926	5.3999
35 NISSAN	SENTRA/200SX	894	168,554	5.3039
36 GENERAL MOTORS	OLDSMOBILE CUTLASS CIERA	658	124,817	5.2717
37 MERCEDES BENZ	129 (SL–CLASS)	29	5,530	5.2441
38 TOYOTA	LEXUS LS	120	22,919	5.2358
39 HONDA	PRELUDE	50	9,683	5.1637
40 CHRYSLER CORP	DODGE INTREPID	714	145,289	4.9143
41 GENERAL MOTORS	OLDSMOBILE ACHIEVA	173	35,605	4.8589
42 MAZDA	MILLENNIA	56	11,669	4.7990
43 CHRYSLER CORP	PLYMOUTH BREEZE	224	46,718	4.7947
44 CHRYSLER CORP	SEBRING	381	80,480	4.7341
45 FORD MOTOR CO	ASPIRE	143	30,287	4.7215

THEFT RATES OF MODEL YEAR 1996 PASSENGER MOTOR VEHICLES STOLEN IN CALENDAR YEAR 1996—Continued

Manufacturer	Make/model (line)	Thefts 1996	Production (Mfr's) 1996	1996 (per 1,000 vehicles produced) theft rate
46 GENERAL MOTORS	CHEVROLET CORSICA	675	149,133	4.5262
47 NISSAN	INFINITI J30	24	5,340	4.4944
48 FORD MOTOR CO	ESCORT	553	125,391	4.4102
49 TOYOTA	4-RUNNER	295	67,361	4.3794
50 MERCEDES BENZ	140 (S-CLASS)	58	13,320	4.3544
51 HONDA	ACCORD	1,629	377,911	4.3105
52 CHRYSLER CORP	STRATUS [1]	1	232	4.3103
53 GENERAL MOTORS	CHEVROLET LUMINA APV	101	23,522	4.2939
54 GENERAL MOTORS	CHEVROLET CAMARO	261	61,449	4.2474
55 GENERAL MOTORS	BUICK CENTURY	391	92,430	4.2302
56 GENERAL MOTORS	GEO METRO	355	84,371	4.2076
57 TOYOTA	CAMRY	1,447	344,599	4.1991
58 NISSAN	INFINITI Q45	17	4,059	4.1882
59 MITSUBISHI	3000GT	21	5,127	4.0960
60 TOYOTA	PASEO	28	6,837	4.0954
61 NISSAN	240SX	30	7,334	4.0905
62 FORD MOTOR CO	CONTOUR	653	167,572	3.8968
63 BMW	M3	6	1,561	3.8437
64 GENERAL MOTORS	PONTIAC GRAND AM	790	206,435	3.8269
65 MAZDA	626/MX–6	320	84,528	3.7857
66 GENERAL MOTORS	PONTIAC FIREBIRD	116	31,038	3.7374
67 GENERAL MOTORS	CHEVROLET CAVALIER	1,001	269,595	3.7130
68 FORD MOTOR CO	MERCURY MYSTIQUE	189	51,666	3.6581
69 BMW	3	140	38,444	3.6417
70 HONDA	DEL SOL	11	3,034	3.6256
71 HONDA/ACURA	INTEGRA	177	49,077	3.6066
72 CHRYSLER CORP	CIRRUS	156	43,695	3.5702
73 SUZUKI	SIDEKICK	67	18,982	3.5297
74 GENERAL MOTORS	CHEVROLET BERETTA	152	43,270	3.5128
75 HONDA/ACURA	TL	132	37,629	3.5079
76 FORD MOTOR CO	LINCOLN TOWN CAR	314	90,750	3.4601
77 GENERAL MOTORS	PONTIAC TRANS SPORT	56	16,355	3.4240
78 HYUNDAI	ELANTRA	96	28,040	3.4237
79 FORD MOTOR CO	EXPLORER	1,427	419,288	3.4034
80 CHRYSLER CORP	EAGLE VISION	43	12,830	3.3515
81 KIA MOTORS	SEPHIA	89	27,048	3.2904
82 MAZDA	PROTEGE	196	59,602	3.2885
83 CHRYSLER CORP	DODGE AVENGER	126	38,949	3.2350
84 CHRYSLER CORP	EAGLE SUMMIT	3	932	3.2189
85 AUDI	CABRIOLET	4	1,258	3.1797
86 CHRYSLER CORP	DODGE B1500/B2500 VAN	5	1,594	3.1368
87 BMW	7	19	6,134	3.0975
88 CHRYSLER CORP	JEEP CHEROKEE	575	187,936	3.0596
89 FORD MOTOR CO	THUNDERBIRD	259	85,015	3.0465
90 GENERAL MOTORS	PONTIAC GRAND PRIX	232	77,375	2.9984
91 TOYOTA	LEXUS ES	121	41,140	2.9412
92 GENERAL MOTORS	GEO PRIZM	215	73,200	2.9372
93 GENERAL MOTORS	BUICK SKYLARK	121	41,856	2.8909
94 CHRYSLER CORP	EAGLE TALON	33	11,518	2.8651
95 NISSAN	PATHFINDER	161	56,635	2.8428
96 NISSAN	INFINITI I30	100	35,950	2.7816
97 CHRYSLER CORP	DODGE VIPER	5	1,812	2.7594
98 TOYOTA	CELICA	28	10,293	2.7203
99 ISUZU	TROOPER	48	17,881	2.6844
100 GENERAL MOTORS	CADILLAC DEVILLE	285	107,649	2.6475
101 FORD MOTOR CO	PROBE	79	30,146	2.6206
102 FORD MOTOR CO	TAURUS	1,031	393,897	2.6174
103 ISUZU	RODEO	115	44,067	2.6097
104 GENERAL MOTORS	PONTIAC SUNFIRE	251	97,143	2.5838
105 CHRYSLER CORP	DODGE DAKOTA PICKUP	249	96,653	2.5762
106 GENERAL MOTORS	GEO TRACKER	138	53,907	2.5600
107 HONDA	CIVIC	598	233,620	2.5597
108 FORD MOTOR CO	LINCOLN MARK VIII	34	13,331	2.5504
109 PORSCHE	911	19	7,456	2.5483
110 TOYOTA	TACOMA PICKUP TRUCK	322	132,011	2.4392
111 VOLKSWAGEN	JETTA	202	83,898	2.4077
112 GENERAL MOTORS	PONTIAC BONNEVILLE	166	69,642	2.3836
113 FORD MOTOR CO	MERCURY SABLE	293	123,305	2.3762

THEFT RATES OF MODEL YEAR 1996 PASSENGER MOTOR VEHICLES STOLEN IN CALENDAR YEAR 1996—Continued

Manufacturer	Make/model (line)	Thefts 1996	Production (Mfr's) 1996	1996 (per 1,000 vehicles produced) theft rate
114 JAGUAR	XJ6	18	7,658	2.3505
115 GENERAL MOTORS	OLDSMOBILE SILHOUETTE	14	6,128	2.2846
116 GENERAL MOTORS	CHEVROLET CAPRICE	135	60,201	2.2425
117 CHRYSLER CORP	PLYMOUTH VOYAGER	411	183,469	2.2402
118 GENERAL MOTORS	CHEVROLET BLAZER S–10	569	254,875	2.2325
119 HONDA/ACURA	SLX	8	3,589	2.2290
120 CHRYSLER CORP	NEON [1]	2	909	2.2002
121 TOYOTA	AVALON	145	65,924	2.1995
122 MAZDA	MX–5 MIATA	41	18,994	2.1586
123 NISSAN	INFINITI G20	33	15,509	2.1278
124 GENERAL MOTORS	OLDSMOBILE CUTLASS SUPREME	157	74,371	2.1110
125 TOYOTA	T100 PICKUP TRUCK	80	37,941	2.1085
126 FORD MOTOR CO	MERCURY COUGAR	80	38,919	2.0556
127 GENERAL MOTORS	GMC JIMMY S–15	170	83,199	2.0433
128 GENERAL MOTORS	CADILLAC ELDORADO	40	20,040	1.9960
129 GENERAL MOTORS	BUICK REGAL	199	99,729	1.9954
130 MERCEDES BENZ	202 (C-CLASS)	48	24,200	1.9835
131 GENERAL MOTORS	CHEVROLET LUMINA/MONTE CARLO	596	302,631	1.9694
132 JAGUAR	XJ12	1	509	1.9646
133 HONDA	PASSPORT	49	25,041	1.9568
134 VOLKSWAGEN	CABRIO	10	5,155	1.9399
135 VOLVO	850	118	60,899	1.9376
136 GENERAL MOTORS	CHEVROLET ASTRO VAN	143	74,183	1.9277
137 TOYOTA	RAV4	81	42,646	1.8994
138 CHRYSLER CORP	DODGE CARAVAN	629	344,553	1.8256
139 NISSAN	PICKUP TRUCK	179	99,156	1.8052
140 TOYOTA	PREVIA VAN	14	8,022	1.7452
141 FORD MOTOR CO	RANGER PICKUP TRUCK	490	282,203	1.7363
142 HONDA/ACURA	RL	26	15,176	1.7132
143 GENERAL MOTORS	CHEVROLET S–10 PICKUP	350	208,469	1.6789
144 FORD MOTOR CO	WINDSTAR VAN	376	231,107	1.6270
145 GENERAL MOTORS	SATURN SC	82	50,439	1.6257
146 AUDI	A4	25	15,407	1.6226
147 GENERAL MOTORS	OLDSMOBILE BRAVADA APV	20	12,525	1.5968
148 MAZDA	B SERIES PICKUP TRUCK	73	45,730	1.5963
149 VOLKSWAGEN	GOLF/GTI	36	22,747	1.5826
150 JAGUAR	XJS	5	3,235	1.5456
151 GENERAL MOTORS	OLDSMOBILE 88	83	53,916	1.5394
152 MERCEDES BENZ	124 (E–CLASS)	29	19,001	1.5262
153 FORD MOTOR CO	LINCOLN CONTINENTAL	41	27,829	1.4733
154 GENERAL MOTORS	GMC SONOMA PICKUP TRUCK	73	50,795	1.4371
155 FORD MOTOR CO	MERCURY GRAND MARQUIS	136	95,020	1.4313
156 SUZUKI	X–90	7	4,907	1.4265
157 GENERAL MOTORS	GMC SAFARI VAN	32	22,540	1.4197
158 CHRYSLER CORP	CONCORDE	71	50,123	1.4165
159 GENERAL MOTORS	CADILLAC SEVILLE	46	33,641	1.3674
160 VOLKSWAGEN	PASSAT	25	18,770	1.3319
161 GENERAL MOTORS	SATURN SL	273	210,472	1.2971
162 JAGUAR	VANDEN PLAS	6	4,688	1.2799
163 FORD MOTOR CO	AEROSTAR VAN	75	59,468	1.2612
164 NISSAN	QUEST	56	45,543	1.2296
165 GENERAL MOTORS	BUICK RIVIERA	20	17,389	1.1502
166 GENERAL MOTORS	BUICK PARK AVENUE	53	47,008	1.1275
167 MAZDA	MPV	16	14,595	1.0963
168 VOLVO	960	20	18,266	1.0949
169 CHRYSLER CORP	TOWN & COUNTRY MPV	113	105,993	1.0661
170 KIA MOTORS	SPORTAGE	9	8,638	1.0419
171 SUBARU	LEGACY	82	79,809	1.0275
172 ISUZU	HOMBRE PICKUP TRUCK	13	12,993	1.0005
173 ISUZU	OASIS	4	4,001	0.9998
174 FORD MOTOR CO	MERCURY VILLAGER MPV	53	57,403	0.9233
175 GENERAL MOTORS	OLDSMOBILE AURORA	20	22,349	0.8949
176 FORD MOTOR CO	CROWN VICTORIA	95	108,250	0.8776
177 CHRYSLER CORP	CARAVAN [1]	1	1,140	0.8772
178 SUBARU	IMPREZA	14	16,337	0.8570
179 GENERAL MOTORS	SATURN SW	14	16,539	0.8465
180 SAAB	SAAB 900	19	22,516	0.8438
181 GENERAL MOTORS	CADILLAC FLEETWOOD	7	8,346	0.8387

THEFT RATES OF MODEL YEAR 1996 PASSENGER MOTOR VEHICLES STOLEN IN CALENDAR YEAR 1996—Continued

Manufacturer	Make/model (line)	Thefts 1996	Production (Mfr's) 1996	1996 (per 1,000 vehicles produced) theft rate
182 GENERAL MOTORS	BUICK FUNERAL COACH/HEARSE	1	1,457	0.6863
183 GENERAL MOTORS	BUICK LESABRE	33	52,129	0.6330
184 BMW	Z3	6	11,542	0.5198
185 GENERAL MOTORS	BUICK ROADMASTER	11	21,495	0.5117
186 HONDA	ODYSSEY	8	19,266	0.4152
187 GENERAL MOTORS	OLDSMOBILE 98	5	14,383	0.3476
188 AUDI	A6	3	9,269	0.3237
189 FIAT	FERRARI F355	0	286	0.0000
190 GENERAL MOTORS	GMC C1500 SIERRA PICKUP	0	5,912	0.0000
191 GENERAL MOTORS	GMC G1500/2500 SAVANA VAN	0	2,113	0.0000
192 GENERAL MOTORS	CHEVROLET G1500/2500 CHEVYVAN	0	9,271	0.0000
193 GENERAL MOTORS	CHEVROLET C1500 PICKUP	0	14,441	0.0000
194 GENERAL MOTORS	CADILLAC LIMOUSINE	0	1,598	0.0000
195 JAGUAR	XJR	0	506	0.0000
196 LAMBORGHINI	DB132/DIABLO	0	35	0.0000
197 MITSUBISHI	PICKUP TRUCK	0	725	0.0000
198 ROLLS-ROYCE	BENTLEY CONTINENTAL R	0	47	0.0000
199 ROLLS-ROYCE	BENTLEY BROOKLANDS	0	87	0.0000
200 ROLLS-ROYCE	BENTLEY AZURE	0	84	0.0000
201 ROLLS-ROYCE	BENTLEY TURBO R/TURBO RL	0	66	0.0000
202 SUBARU	SVX	0	852	0.0000
203 VECTOR AEROMOTIVE	AVTECH SC/M12	0	11	0.0000

[1] Special production of vehicles for sale only in Puerto Rico under the Chrysler nameplate.

Issued: January 29, 1998.

L. Robert Shelton,

Associate Administrator for Safety Performance Standards.

[FR Doc. 98–3196 Filed 2–6–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–59–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Research and Special Programs Administration

[Notice No. 98–1]

Supplemental Emergency Preparedness Grant Program

AGENCY: Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: RSPA is providing notice of the availability of grant funds in the amount of $250,000 and soliciting applications from national nonprofit employee organizations engaged solely in fighting fires to train instructors to conduct hazardous materials response training programs. RSPA also seeks comments on the provisions contained in this notice in order to improve operation of the program. Grant application packages, reflecting comments made, will be available on April 1, 1998.

DATES: *Comments.* Comments must be submitted on or before March 10, 1998.

Applications. Applications must be submitted by May 15, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Address comments and applications to the Grants Unit, DHM–64, Room 8104, Research and Special Programs Administration, Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh St., SW, Washington, DC 20590–0001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Charles G. Rogoff, Grants Manager, Office of Hazardous Materials Planning and Analysis, Research and Special Programs Administration, Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh St., SW, Washington, DC 20590–0001, telephone: (202) 366–0001.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Introduction

The Hazardous Materials Transportation Authorization Act of 1994 (HMTAA; Pub. L. 103–311) amended 49 U.S.C. 5116 and added a new subsection (j) concerning supplemental training grants. These supplemental grants are intended to further the purposes of the State and Indian tribe grants under section 5116(b) to train public sector employees to respond to accidents and incidents involving hazardous material. Section 5116(j)(1) provides that the Secretary of Transportation shall, subject to the availability of funds, make grants to national nonprofit employee organizations engaged solely in firefighting to train instructors to conduct training programs for individuals responding to hazardous materials accidents. Section 5116(j)(2) requires the Secretary to consult with interested organizations to identify regions or locations in which fire departments are in need of training and prioritize those needs. Section 5116(j)(3) provides that funds granted to an organization may only be used to train instructors to conduct hazardous materials response training programs, to purchase equipment used to train those instructors, and to disseminate information necessary to conduct those training programs. Section 5116(j)(4) provides that a grantee must agree to use courses developed under the National Training Curriculum, and section 5116(j)(5) provides that the Secretary may impose such additional terms and conditions on grants as the Secretary determines are necessary to carry out the objectives of the supplemental grant program. RSPA asks comments to address the definitions of eligible applicants and criteria for grant selection described below.

Availability of Funds

Section 119(b) of the HMTAA amended 49 U.S.C. 5127(b) to provide that there shall be available to the Secretary, from the registration fee account established under section 5116(i), $250,000 for each of fiscal years 1995, 1996, 1997, and 1998 (60 Federal Register 4,657, January 24, 1995). Under section 5116(i), amounts in the registration fee account are available without further appropriation.