

examining authority for FAA-approved training courses that do not specify the minimum ground and flight training time requirements of part 141. *Denial, 1/21/99, Exemption No. 6856.*

*Docket No.: 27724*

*Petitioner:* Academics of Flight  
*Section of the FAR Affected:* 14 CFR 65.17(a)

*Description of Relief Sought/*

*Disposition:* To permit Academics of Flight to administer a school aircraft dispatcher written examination to graduates of its FAA-approved aircraft dispatcher program, in lieu of the FAA Aircraft Dispatcher written exam. *Denial, 1/13/99, Exemption No. 6851.*

*Docket No.: 29184*

*Petitioner:* Arctic Air Service, Inc.  
*Section of the FAR Affected:* 14 CFR 135.152(a)

*Description of Relief Sought/*

*Disposition:* To allow Arctic Air Service, Inc., to operate its Sikorsky 76A helicopter (Registration No. N348AA, Serial No. 760006) without an approved digital flight data recorder installed. *Grant, 1/22/99, Exemption No. 6854.*

*Docket No.: 29376*

*Petitioner:* Mr. Allen Banen  
*Section of the FAR Affected:* 14 CFR 91.109 (a) and (b)(3)

*Description of Relief Sought/*

*Disposition:* To allow Mr. Banen to conduct certain flight instruction and simulated instrument flight to meet recent instrument experience requirements in Beechcraft Baron and Bonanza airplanes equipped with a functioning thrower control wheel in place of functioning dual controls. *Grant, 1/29/99, Exemption No. 6857.*

*Docket No.: 29395*

*Petitioner:* Iowa City Flying Service, Inc.  
*Section of the FAR Affected:* 14 CFR 135.143(c)(2)

*Description of Relief Sought/*

*Disposition:* To permit Iowa City Flying Service, Inc., to operate its aircraft (Registration Nos. N71CF, N91CF, M11CF, and N117SK; Serial Nos. 27-7954092, 31-174, 31-7652105, and 414-0638, respectively) without a TSO-C112 (Mode S) transponder installed. *Grant, 1/20/99, Exemption No. 6852.*

*Docket No.: 29448*

*Petitioner:* American Airlines, Inc.  
*Sections of the FAR Affected:* 14 CFR 25.791(a) and 121.317(a)

*Description of Relief Sought/*

*Disposition:* To allow American Airlines, Inc., to operate its Boeing 737 and 777 aircraft with "No Smoking" signs that always are

illuminated. *Grant, 1/20/99, Exemption No. 6853.*

*Docket No.: 25731*

*Petitioner:* Experimental Aircraft Association

*Sections of the FAR Affected:* 14 CFR 45.25 and 45.29

*Description of Relief Sought/*

*Disposition:* To permit Experimental Aircraft Association and Confederate Air Force members to continue to operate their historic military aircraft with 2-inch high nationality and registration marks located beneath the aircraft's horizontal stabilizer. *Grant, 1/22/99, Exemption No. 5019E.*

*Docket No.: 28054*

*Petitioner:* Air Vegas, Inc.  
*Sections of the FAR Affected:* 14 CFR 121.345(c)(2) and 135.143(c)(2)

*Description of Relief Sought/*

*Disposition:* To allow Air Vegas, Inc., to continue to operate certain aircraft under part 121 or part 135 without a TSO-C112 (Mode S) transponder installed in those aircraft. *Grant, 2/1/99, Exemption No. 6588A.*

*Docket No.: 29365*

*Petitioner:* Montana By Air  
*Section of the FAR Affected:* 14 CFR 135.143(c)(2)

*Description of Relief Sought/*

*Disposition:* To allow Montana By Air to operate its Maule M-4-220C aircraft without a TSO-C112 (Mode S) transponder installed. *Grant, 2/3/99, Exemption No. 6858.*

*Docket No.: 26267*

*Petitioner:* Ms. Jacqueline A. Julio  
*Section of the FAR Affected:* 14 CFR 121.311(b)

*Description of Relief Sought/*

*Disposition:* To continue to permit Ms. Jacqueline A. Julio to be secured by a personal safety belt and held on her caregiver's lap while on board an aircraft although she has reached her second birthday. *Grant, 2/3/99, Exemption No. 5195D.*

*Docket No.: 23465*

*Petitioner:* Everts Air Fuel, Inc.  
*Section of the FAR Affected:* 14 CFR 91.9(a)

*Description of Relief Sought/*

*Disposition:* To continue to allow Everts Air Fuel, Inc., to operate its McDonnell Douglas DC-6 aircraft at a 5-percent-increased zero fuel weight and landing weight for operating all-cargo aircraft. *Grant, 2/3/99, Exemption No. 4296G.*

*Docket No.: 29306*

*Petitioner:* Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation  
*Sections of the FAR Affected:* 14 CFR 61.57(a) and (b) and 142.1

*Description of Relief Sought/*

*Disposition:* To allow Gulfstream

Aerospace Corporation production and engineering flight test pilots to use any one of Gulfstream's GII, GIII, GIV, or GV airplanes or a Level B, C, and D simulator that represents one of the types of Gulfstream turbojet airplanes to meet the recent takeoff and landing experience requirements of § 61.57, without Gulfstream holding a 14 CFR part 142 certificate. *Grant, 2/3/99, Exemption No. 6859.*

[FR Doc. 99-3283 Filed 2-9-99; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### RTCA Special Committee 172; Future Air-Ground Communications in the VHF Aeronautical Data Band 118-137 MHz)

Pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (P.L. 92-463, 5 U.S.C., Appendix 2), notice is hereby given for Special Committee 172 meeting to be held February 23-26, 1999, Starting at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at RTCA, 1140 Connecticut Avenue, NW., Suite 1020, Washington, DC 20036.

The agenda will be as follows: Tuesday, February 23: (1) Plenary Convenes at 9:00 a.m. for 30 minutes; (2) Introductory Remarks; (3) Review and Approval of the Agenda. 9:30 a.m. (4) Working Group (WG)-2, VHF Data Radio Signal-in-Space MASPS, Continue Work on VDL Mode 3. Wednesday, February 24: (a.m.) (5) WG-2 Continues Work on VDL Mode 3; (p.m.) (6) WG-3, Review of VHF Digital Radio MOPS Document Progress and Furtherance of Work. Thursday, February 25: (7) WG-3 Continues Work. Friday, February 26 (a.m.) (8) Plenary Reconvenes at 9:00 a.m.: (9) Review Summary Minutes of Previous Plenary of SC-172; (10) Report on ICAO Aeronautical Mobile Communications Panel WG's B & D Meeting; (11) Reports from WG's 2 and 3 Activities; (12) EUROCAE WG-47 Report and Discussion of Schedule for Further Work with WG-3; (13) Review Issues List and Address Future Work; (14) Other Business; (15) Dates and Places of Future Meetings. Friday, February 26 (p.m.): (16) WG's Continues as Required.

Attendance is open to the interested public but limited to space availability. With the approval of the chairman, members of the public may present oral statements at the meeting. Persons wishing to present statements or obtain information should contact the RTCA Secretariat, 1140 Connecticut Avenue,

NW., Suite 1020, Washington, DC 20036; (202) 833-9339 (phone); (202) 833-9434 (fax); or <http://www.rtca.org> (web site). Members of the public may present a written statement to the committee at any time.

Issued in Washington, DC, on February 3, 1999.

**Janice L. Peters,**

*Designated Official.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Highway Administration

#### Environmental Impact Statement: Desha County, Arkansas and Bolivar County, Mississippi

**AGENCY:** Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that a supplemental draft environmental impact statement will be prepared for a proposed highway/rail crossing of the Mississippi River in the vicinity of Desha County, Arkansas and Bolivar County, Mississippi.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Elizabeth Romero, Environmental Specialist, Arkansas Division, Federal Highway Administration, 700 West Capitol, 3130 Federal Building, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201-3298, Telephone: (501) 324-5625.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The FHWA, in cooperation with the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department and the Mississippi Department of Transportation, will prepare a supplemental draft environmental impact statement (SDEIS) for a proposal to construct a highway/rail crossing of the Mississippi River between Desha County, Arkansas and Bolivar County, Mississippi.

A Phase I feasibility study determined that a bridge in this vicinity would have a positive economic impact on this area of the lower Mississippi River delta region by providing regional mobility, promoting development, and providing both short and long term economic stimulus. The SDEIS is an amendment of a Draft EIS dated October, 1996.

The proposed action, including new roadway segments, would extend from a western terminus at U.S. 65 in the vicinity of Dumas, Winchester, and McGehee, Arkansas to an eastern terminus on State Highway 8 near Rosedale and Cleveland Mississippi.

The total project distance is approximately 47.4-72.6 km (29.5-45 miles).

All alternatives contained in the 1996 Draft EIS are still under consideration and include: the "No Build" Alternative and Alternatives 1-4. Alternative 1 begins at U.S. 65 north of Dumas, Arkansas, proceeds east to cross Big Island and the Mississippi River, and ends at Mississippi Highway 8 east of Rosedale, Mississippi. Alternative 2 begins at U.S. 65 north of Dumas, Arkansas, proceeds east to cross the Mississippi River south of Big Island, and ends at Mississippi Highway 8 east of Rosedale Mississippi. Alternative 3 begins at U.S. 65 just north of Winchester, Arkansas, proceeds east to cross Big Island and the Mississippi River, and ends at Mississippi Highway 8 east of Rosedale Mississippi. Alternative 4 begins at U.S. 65 just north of Winchester, Arkansas, proceeds east to cross the Mississippi River south of Big Island, and ends at Mississippi Highway 8 east of Rosedale, Mississippi. The SDEIS will include a new Alternative that is proposed to extend from a western terminus at U.S. 65 in the vicinity of McGehee, Arkansas, cross the Mississippi River near Arkansas City, Arkansas, and continue to an eastern terminus on State Highway 8 near Rosedale and Cleveland Mississippi.

This SDEIS will also consider the secondary and cumulative effects that could result from a possible future decision to locate I-69/Corridor 18 selected Great River Bridge alignment in this area. However, this document will not determine the location of the proposed I-69 alignment and will not preclude the consideration of other Mississippi River crossings in future I-69/Corridor 18 studies.

The SDEIS is being prepared in response to comments from resource and regulatory agencies expressing concerns about the potential impacts to fish and wildlife, vegetation, water quality, the "Big Woods", and Wildlife Management Areas, and about the implications of I-69 using this proposed new route. To address these concerns, the SDEIS will study the new alternative described above that was recommended by several commentors as an alternative that may avoid many of the areas of concern and minimize impacts. Also noted above, the potential use of this route by I-69 will be studied for all alternatives.

Letters describing the proposed action and soliciting comments will be sent to appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies and to private organizations, including conservation groups and

groups of individuals who have previously expressed interest in the project. A formal scoping meeting will be held with appropriate local, State, and Federal agencies. Public involvement sessions and public hearing(s) will be held. Public notice will be given of the time and place of the public involvement sessions and the public hearing(s). The SDEIS will be available for public and agency review and comment prior to the public hearing(s). 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 Supplemental Draft EIS should be directed to the FHWA at the address provided above.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation of federal programs and activities apply to this program)

**Kenneth A. Perret,**

*Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration, Little Rock, Arkansas.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Highway Administration

#### Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century; Implementation Guidance for the Interstate Highway Reconstruction/ Rehabilitation Pilot Program; Solicitation for Candidate Proposals

**AGENCY:** Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This document publishes implementation guidance for section 1216(b) of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21). Section 1216(b) established a pilot program under which the Secretary may permit a State to convert a free highway, bridge, or tunnel on the Interstate System to a toll facility where reconstruction or rehabilitation of the facility could not happen without the collection of tolls. This document also calls for submission of proposals for consideration under the pilot program and describes eligible Interstate facilities, application requirements, selection criteria, and the submission process.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For pilot program: Mr. Jim Overton, HNG-10, Office of Engineering, (202) 366-4653; For legal issues: Mr. Steven