

C. The immediate Office of the Associate Commissioner for Hearings and Appeals (TAH).

2. The Special Counsel Staff (TAH-2). Amend as follows:

The Special Counsel Staff (SCS) (TAH-2) consists of attorneys and appropriate support staff. The attorneys serve as professional advisors to the Associate Commissioner for Hearings and Appeals, and to other members of the Office of Hearings and Appeals (OHA) Executive Staff on matters pertaining to the legislative process; labor and employee relations; ethics; and administrative procedures, with special emphasis on administrative issues raised by the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act. SCS, in consultation with the Office of General Counsel (OGC), evaluates any potential disciplinary action involving Administrative Law Judges (ALJs). This responsibility includes interviewing all witnesses and compiling and weighing other evidence and recommending a course of action to the Associate Commissioner for Hearings and Appeals. Based on the SCS recommendation, the Associate Commissioner for Hearings and Appeals will decide the appropriate action and undertake action administratively, or if warranted, direct the filing of a complaint against an ALJ with the Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB). The SCS assists OGC in trying administrative disciplinary proceedings against ALJs before the MSPB. The SCS also functions as agency representative in actions against attorney and non-attorney representatives of claimants before Social Security Administration (SSA) ALJs and the Appeals Council. SCS will investigate potential violations of the law and regulations governing the qualifications and conduct of such representatives. SCS will present its recommendations to the Deputy Commissioner for Disability and Income Security Programs (DCDISP). If the DCDISP agrees with the recommendation, SCS will present such matters in administrative hearings conducted by ALJs selected by the Associate Commissioner for Hearings and Appeals. SCS is responsible for any appeals on such cases taken to the Appeals Council. Conducts or coordinates investigations of allegations of misconduct, waste, fraud or abuse by OHA headquarters and field employees. Maintains records of, provides advice on the handling of and, upon request, investigates allegations of bias or misconduct against ALJs. Serves as liaison with the Office of Inspector General in matters of a criminal nature.

Reviews regulations and procedures for conformity to SSA/OHA policy and provides recommendations for modifications of prospective legislation which could adversely affect the hearings and appeals process. When requested, represents OHA as liaison with the Congress, American Bar Association, and other governmental and private organizations, with special emphasis on pending, proposed, and prospective legislation pertaining to the APA. Develops, in conjunction with other OHA components, a recommended appeals strategy that identifies the issues and types of cases which OHA believes should be appealed. With OGC clearance, develops and maintains a compendium of circuit court case law and court trend data, with systems-based access. Tracks pending class actions and makes recommendations regarding potential workload impact. Advises OHA officials of significant cases and trends and of litigation issues which may require revision of operating instructions, and assists with the preparation of the instructions. Coordinates OHA's views on proposed Social Security Acquiescence Rulings. In response to OHA-identified cases and to requests for appeal recommendations, obtains the views of affected OHA components and formulates an OHA position regarding the viability of an appeal. Acts as liaison with the Department of Health and Human Services' Departmental Appeals Board and SSA OGC and Litigation Staff, Office of the Deputy Commissioner for Disability and Income Security Programs (ODCDISP), to coordinate OHA's involvement in class action litigation, settlements and implementation; and when requested, with other governmental agencies. In coordination with other OHA components, develops instructions for OHA implementation of class action orders, monitors implementation and serves as a focal point for questions from OHA adjudicators. Responds to requests from OGC and ODCDISP regarding information about OHA operations requested in the course of litigation and drafts affidavits and declarations to be signed by OHA officials. Coordinates OHA's response to discovery requests.

G. The Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation (TAHC).

Amend first sentence as follows:

The Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation (TAHC) plans, analyzes and develops OHA-wide policy for the hearings and appeals process.

Delete last two sentences.

Add as last sentence:

Administers and coordinates the Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act provisions for OHA.

Delete:

1. Division of Litigation Analysis and Implementation (TAHC).

Renumber:

"2" to "1" and "3" to "2".

Dated: December 14, 1999.

Paul D. Barnes,

Deputy Commissioner for Human Resources.

[FR Doc. 99-33132 Filed 12-21-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4191-02-U

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Coast Guard

[CGD8-99-067]

Houston/Galveston Navigation Safety Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of meetings.

SUMMARY: The Houston/Galveston Navigation Safety Advisory Committee (HOGANSAC) and its two Subcommittees (Waterways and Navigation) will meet to discuss waterway improvements, aids to navigation, current meters, and various other navigation safety matters affecting the Houston/Galveston area. All meetings will be open to the public.

DATES: The next meeting of HOGANSAC will be held on Friday, January 28, 2000 from 9 a.m. to approximately 1 p.m. The meeting of the Navigation Subcommittee will be held on Thursday, January 13, 2000 at 9 a.m. and immediately following, the Waterways Subcommittee will meet. The meetings may adjourn early if all business is finished. Members of the public may present written or oral statements at the meetings.

ADDRESSES: The HOGANSAC meeting will be held in the conference room of the Houston Pilots' Office, 8150 South Loop East, Houston, Texas. The subcommittee meetings will be held at the Houston Port Authority, 111 East Loop South, Houston, Texas.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Captain Wayne Gusman, Executive Director of HOGANSAC, telephone (713) 671-5199, or Commander Peter Simons, Executive Secretary of HOGANSAC, telephone (713) 671-5164.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice of this meeting is given pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2.

Agendas of the Meetings

Houston/Galveston Navigation Safety Advisory Committee (HOGANSAC). The tentative agenda includes the following:

(1) Opening remarks by the Committee Sponsor (RADM Pluta) (or the Committee Sponsor's representative), Executive Director (CAPT Gusman) and Chairman (Tim Leitzell).

(2) Approval of the November 23, 1999 minutes.

(3) Report from the Waterways Subcommittee.

(4) Report from the Navigation Subcommittee.

(5) Status reports on Baytown Tunnel removal, Army Corps of Engineers' dredging projects and pipeline safety, and comments and discussions from the floor.

(6) New business.

Subcommittee on Waterways. The tentative agenda includes the following:

(1) Presentation by each work group of its accomplishments and plans for the future.

(2) Review and discuss the work completed by each work group.

Subcommittee on Navigation. The tentative agenda includes the following:

(1) Presentation by each work group of its accomplishments and plans for the future.

(2) Review and discuss the work completed by each work group.

Procedural

All meetings are open to the public. Please note that the meetings may adjourn early if all business is finished. Members of the public may make oral presentations during the meetings.

Information on Services for the Handicapped

For information on facilities or services for the handicapped or to request special assistance at the meetings, contact the Executive Director as soon as possible.

Dated: December 10, 1999.

Paul J. Pluta,

Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District.

[FR Doc. 99-33211 Filed 12-21-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-14-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Communications/Surveillance Operational Implementation Team (C/SOIT); Cancellation of Meeting**

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Communications/Surveillance Operational Implementation Team (C/SOIT); Cancellation of Meeting.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the cancellation of the Communications/Surveillance Operational Implementation Team (C/SOIT) meeting.

DATES: January 11-13, 2000, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Holiday Inn Rosslyn WestPark Hotel, 1900 Fort Myer Drive, Arlington, VA, (703) 807-2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: E-mail Don Streeter at donald.w.streeter@faa.gov. Notification will be published regarding future C/SOIT activities.

Issued in Washington, DC, on December 16, 1999.

Donald W. Streeter,
C/SOIT Co-Chairman.

[FR Doc. 99-33218 Filed 12-21-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Federal Railroad Administration**

[FRA Emergency Order No. 22, Notice No. 1]

Oregon Pacific Railroad; Emergency Order To Prevent Operation of Trains on the Railroad Bridge Crossing Johnson Creek in the City of Milwaukie, Oregon

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) of the United States Department of Transportation (DOT) has determined that public safety compels issuance of this Emergency Order requiring the Oregon Pacific Railroad Company (OPR) to discontinue operation of trains or any railroad on-track equipment on a railroad bridge it owns spanning Johnson Creek (hereinafter designated as the "Johnson Creek Bridge") in the City of Milwaukie, Oregon. The bridge shall remain out of service until it has been properly repaired and its capacity determined by a registered professional engineer licensed to practice in the State of Oregon and who is technically proficient in the field of timber railroad bridge engineering.

Authority

Authority to enforce Federal railroad safety laws has been delegated by the Secretary of Transportation to the Federal Railroad Administrator. 49 CFR 1.49. Railroads are subject to FRA's safety jurisdiction under the Federal railroad safety laws, 49 U.S.C. 20101, 20103. FRA is authorized to issue emergency orders where an unsafe

condition or practice "causes an emergency situation involving a hazard of death or personal injury." 49 U.S.C. Sec. 20104. These orders may impose such "restrictions and prohibitions * * * that may be necessary to abate the situation." (Ibid.)

Background

The Oregon Pacific Railroad Company, a common carrier, is a part of the general railroad system of transportation and operates two principal segments of track. The segment in which the Johnson Creek Bridge is located consists of 4.28 miles of main track and 2.11 miles of secondary or yard trackage, or a total trackage of 6.39 miles, extending from milepost 0.26 (at its connection with Union Pacific Railroad Company's Portland-Eugene mainline at UP MP 769) at or near East Portland, Oregon, to milepost 4.54 at Milwaukie, all of which is located in Clackamas County, Oregon. The Oregon Pacific Railroad acquired this segment from East Portland Traction Company on January 1, 1997, and commenced railroad operation on that date.

The other segment of railroad operated by the Oregon Pacific Railroad is not contiguous with the first. It extends 9.93 miles from Canby to Molalla, Oregon, and includes a total of 11.38 miles of trackage. The Oregon Pacific Railroad likewise commenced railroad operations on that segment on January 1, 1997.

The President, Chief Executive Officer and General Manager of the Oregon Pacific Railroad is Mr. Richard A. Samuels, whose office mailing address is Oregon Pacific Railroad Company, P.O. Box 22548, Portland, Oregon 97269. Mr. Samuels is also the principal stockholder of the company.

The Oregon Pacific Railroad crosses Johnson Creek in Milwaukie, Oregon, on a timber trestle bridge not identified by number and located approximately one-half mile upstream from the point where Johnson Creek empties into the Willamette River. The location is also approximately 300 feet west of S.E. McLoughlin Boulevard (Oregon State Highway 99E) between its intersections with S.E. Harrison Street and S.E. Jackson Street. Geographic coordinates are 45°26'41" North latitude and 122°38'38" West longitude. There is no commercial water traffic on Johnson Creek.

The Oregon Pacific Railroad crosses the bridge to serve one shipper, AmeriCold Logistics, located south of the bridge. AmeriCold Logistics transports frozen food products in mechanical refrigerator cars at a rate of