

Grant, 07/26/00, Exemption No. 7286.

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Highway Administration

#### Environmental Impact Statement: Gaming Area Access, Gilpin, Clear Creek and Jefferson Counties, Colorado

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

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** The FHWA is issuing this Notice of Intent to advise the public that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared for a proposed transportation project to improve access into the gaming communities of Black Hawk and Central City within Gilpin County, Colorado.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Eva LaDow or Edrie Vinson, FHWA Colorado Division, 555 Zang Street, Room 250, Lakewood, Colorado 80228. Telephone (303) 969-6730 Extensions 341 and 378, respectively.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The FHWA in cooperation with the Colorado Department of Transportation Region 1 will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on a proposal to improve transportation access into the gaming communities of Black Hawk and Central City. The project area is located west of Denver and includes roadways within Jefferson, Gilpin and Clear Creek counties.

The two primary access routes to towns of Black Hawk and Central City (U.S. 6 and S.H. 119) are experiencing dramatically increased traffic volumes and accident levels since 1991 when limited stakes gaming was approved by the voters of Colorado. Both roadways are located within steep mountain canyons paralleling Clear Creek, and are primarily two-lane with narrow shoulders and limited passing locations. Some safety improvements including pull-outs, centerline rumble strips, guardrail, curve widening, passing lanes and intersection modifications have been constructed, but no overall plan for improving safety, accommodating future traffic growth and/or accommodating alternative modes of transportation has been developed.

Alternatives to be examined in this EIS include improvements to existing S.H. 119; new alignment corridors; alternative modes including busways and rail; Transportation Demand Management (TDM) strategies and

Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) strategies. As required by NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act), the EIS will also evaluate a "No Action" alternative as a baseline for comparing impacts of all alternatives.

The development of project alternatives is an ongoing process that will incorporate information identified during the public scoping process and from environmental and engineering evaluations. Public and agency input into the alternatives will be solicited through a series of public meetings, formation of a Technical Advisory Team (TAT), a project website and direct mailings including meeting announcements and newsletters. A public scoping open house was held on June 24, 2000 at the Gilpin County Library and at two casino locations in the towns of Black Hawk and Central City. Notices of this public meeting were mailed to local citizens, property owners and others and posted in local media. The many alternatives will be narrowed through a systematic screening process to a few recommended alternatives for full analysis in the draft EIS (DEIS). The DEIS will be available for public and agency review prior to a public hearing.

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 EIS should be directed to the Colorado Department of Transportation, Lisa Kassels, Project Manager CDOT Region 1, 18500 East Colfax Avenue, Aurora, CO 80011, (303) 757-9156 or [lisa.kassels@dot.state.co.us](mailto:lisa.kassels@dot.state.co.us).

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

Issued on: August 2, 2000.

**Edrie L. Vinson,**

*Environmental/ROW Program Manager,  
Colorado Division, Federal Highway  
Administration, Lakewood, Colorado.*

[FR Doc. 00-20398 Filed 8-10-00; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Railroad Administration

#### Petition for Waiver of Compliance

In accordance with Part 211 of Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), notice is hereby given that the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) received

a request for a waiver of compliance with certain requirements of its safety standards. The individual petition is described below, including the party seeking relief, the regulatory provisions involved, the nature of the relief being requested, and the petitioner's arguments in favor of relief.

#### Thrall Car Manufacturing Company

[Waiver Petition Docket Number FRA-1999-6358]

Thrall Car Manufacturing Company (TCMC) seeks a permanent waiver of compliance with certain provisions of the *Railroad Safety Appliance Standards*, 49 CFR Part 231.24, as they apply to auto carrying railcars as follows:

1. Use the reduced wording described in Parts 231.24 (j)(1) and 231.24 (j)(2) rather than 231.27 (j)(1) and (j)(2). Part 231.24 (j)(1) states "That portion of each end of car more than fifteen (15) feet above top of rail shall be painted with contrasting reflectorized paint and shall bear the words "No running board" to the left of center and "Excess height car" to the right of center." Section 231.24 (j)(2) states "On each side-sill near end corner there shall be painted a yellow rectangular area with a three-fourths (¾) inch black border containing the words "This car excess height—no running board." Lettering to be not less than one and one-half (1½) inches high."

TCMC requests to use the wording in 231.24, regarding running boards, due to the cars not being so equipped.

2. TCMC requests that the word "material" be substituted for "paint" in this section to permit utilizing new technological advancements in reflectorization.

3. Section 231.24 (j)(2) requires that "On each side-sill near end corner there shall be painted a yellow rectangular area with a three-fourths (¾) inch black border containing the words "This car excess height . . ." TCMC petitions to relocate this stencil/decal from the side-sill, if room is not available, to the shear panel of the auto rack. The stencil/decal will be located as low as possible on three corners of the car and directly above the handbrake on the "BL" corner.

4. TCMC requests that "contrasting color" borders be allowed on cars with dark exterior paint whereas a black border, required in 231.24 (j)(2) and 231.27 (j)(2), would not be readily visible.

5. TCMC requests that the maximum allowable misalignment between the front inside edge of the auto rack ladder stile to the inside edge of the flat car sill step be increased from the dimensions

listed in Motive Power and Equipment Technical Bulletin 98-05 to six (6) inches. This relief would be consistent with guidelines set forth in AAR's Manual of Standards and Recommended Practices, S-2038-85, 2.3.4.

Interested parties are invited to participate in these proceedings by submitting written views, data, or comments. FRA does not anticipate scheduling a public hearing in connection with these proceedings since the facts do not appear to warrant a hearing. If any interested party desires an opportunity for oral comment, they should notify FRA, in writing, before the end of the comment period and specify the basis for their request.

All communications concerning these proceedings should identify the appropriate docket number (*e.g.*, Waiver Petition Docket Number 1999-6358) and must be submitted to the Docket Clerk, DOT Docket Management Facility, Room PL-401 (Plaza Level), 400 7th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590. Communications received within 45 days of the date of this notice will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered as far as practicable. All written communications concerning these proceedings are available for examination during regular business hours (9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.) at the above facility. All documents in the public docket are also available for inspection and copying on the Internet at the docket facility's web site at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

Issued in Washington, D.C. on August 7, 2000.

**Grady C. Cothen, Jr.,**

*Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Standards and Program Development.*

[FR Doc. 00-20452 Filed 8-10-00; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms

#### Proposed Collection; Comment Request

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995,

Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms within the Department of the Treasury is soliciting comments concerning the Statement of Process-Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection.

**DATES:** Written comments should be received on or before October 10, 2000 to be assured of consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Linda Barnes, 650 Massachusetts Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20226, (202) 927-8930.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information or copies of the form(s) and instructions should be directed to Guy Hummel, Chief, Arson and Explosives Programs Division, 650 Massachusetts Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20226, (202) 927-7930.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Title:** Statement of Process-Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection.

**OMB Number:** 1512-0539.

**Abstract:** The information contained in the statement of process is required to ensure compliance with the provisions of Public Law 104-132. This information will be used to ensure that plastic explosives contain a detection agent as required by law. The record retention requirement for this information collection is 5 years.

**Current Actions:** There are no changes to this information collection and it is being submitted for extension purposes only.

**Type of Review:** Extension.

**Affected Public:** Business or other for-profit.

**Estimated Number of Respondents:** 8.

**Estimated Time Per Respondent:** 30 minutes.

**Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:** 16.

#### Request for Comments

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on: (a) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including

through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Dated: August 4, 2000.

**William T. Earle,**

*Assistant Director (Management) CFO.*

[FR Doc. 00-20396 Filed 8-10-00; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Internal Revenue Service

#### Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Notice 97-45

**AGENCY:** Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the IRS is soliciting comments concerning Notice 97-45, Highly Compensated Employee Definition.

**DATES:** Written comments should be received on or before October 10, 2000, to be assured of consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Garrick R. Shear, Internal Revenue Service, room 5244, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information or copies of the notice should be directed to Carol Savage, (202) 622-3945, Internal Revenue Service, room 5242, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Title:** Highly Compensated Employee Definition.

**OMB Number:** 1545-1550.

**Notice Number:** Notice 97-45.

**Abstract:** Notice 97-45 provides guidance on the definition of highly compensated employee (HCE) within the meaning of section 414(q) of the Internal Revenue Code, as simplified by section 1431 of the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996, including an employer's option to make a top-paid group election under section 414(q)(1)(B)(ii). The notice requires