

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Maritime Administration****Voluntary Intermodal Sealift Agreement (VISA)/Joint Planning Advisory Group (JPAG)****AGENCY:** Maritime Administration, DOT.**ACTION:** Synopsis of August 17, 2004 Meeting with VISA Participants.

The VISA program requires that a notice of the time, place, and nature of each JPAG meeting be published in the **Federal Register**. The program also requires that a list of VISA participants be periodically published in the **Federal Register**. The full text of the VISA program, including these requirements, is published in 68 FR 8800–8808, dated February 25, 2003.

On August 17, 2004, the Maritime Administration (MARAD) and the U.S. Transportation Command co-hosted a meeting of the VISA JPAG at Ft. Eustis, Virginia.

Meeting attendance was by invitation only, due to the nature of the information discussed and the need for a government-issued security clearance. Of the 57 U.S.-flag carrier corporate participants enrolled in the VISA program at the time of the meeting, 16 companies participated in the meeting. In addition, representatives from MARAD, the Department of Defense, and maritime labor attended the meeting.

LtGen Gary Hughey, opened the meeting with a welcome to all attendees. He was followed by BG Mark Scheid, who provided participants with an overview of the meeting. The JPAG meeting included updates on: (1) Threats to surface deployment and distribution operations; (2) operations overview; (3) liner operations and sustainment update; (4) merchant mariner availability; and (5) maritime industry issues.

As of August 17, 2004, the following commercial U.S.-flag vessel operators were enrolled in the VISA program with MARAD: AAA Shipping No. 1 L.L.C.; A Way to Move, Inc.; America Cargo Transport, Inc.; American Automar, Inc.; American International Car Carrier, Inc.; American President Lines, Ltd.; American Roll-On Roll-Off Carrier, LLC; American Ship Management, L.L.C.; Bay Towing Corporation; Beyel Brothers Inc.; Central Gulf Lines, Inc.; Coastal Transportation, Inc.; Columbia Coastal Transport, LLC; CRC Marine Services, Inc.; Crowley Liner Services, Inc.; Crowley Marine Services, Inc.; Delta Towing; E-Ships, Inc.; Farrell Lines Incorporated; First American Bulk

Carrier Corp.; First Ocean Bulk Carrier-I, LLC; First Ocean Bulk Carrier-II, LLC; First Ocean Bulk Carrier-III, LLC; Foss Maritime Company; Horizon Lines, LLC; Laborde Marine Lifts, Inc.; Laborde Marine, L.L.C.; Liberty Shipping Group Limited Partnership; Lockwood Brothers, Inc.; Lykes Lines Limited, LLC; Lynden Incorporated; Maersk Line, Limited; Matson Navigation Company, Inc.; Maybank Navigation Company, LLC; McAllister Towing and Transportation Co., Inc.; Moby Marine Corporation; Odyssey Shipping Line LLC; OSG Car Carriers, Inc.; Patriot Shipping, L.L.C.; RR & VO L.L.C.; Resolve Towing & Salvage, Inc.; Samson Tug & Barge Company, Inc.; Sea Star Line, LLC; SeaTac Marine Services, LLC; Sealift Inc.; Signet Maritime Corporation; STEA Corporation; Strong Vessel Operators LLC (SVO); Superior Marine Services, Inc.; TECO Ocean Shipping; Totem Ocean Trailer Express, Inc.; Trailer Bridge, Inc.; TransAtlantic Lines LLC; Troika International, Ltd.; U.S. Ship Management, Inc.; Waterman Steamship Corporation; and Weeks Marine, Inc.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Taylor E. Jones II, Director, Office of Sealift Support, (202) 366–2323.

Dated: August 25, 2004.

By Order of the Maritime Administrator.

Joel C. Richard,

Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Surface Transportation Board**

[STB Docket No. AB–33 (Sub-No. 221X)]

Union Pacific Railroad Company—Abandonment Exemption—in Santa Clara County, CA

On August 10, 2004, Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) filed with the Surface Transportation Board a petition under 49 U.S.C. 10502 for exemption from the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 10903 to abandon and discontinue service over a portion of the line, known as the San Jose Industrial Lead, extending from milepost 16.3 to milepost 19.6, for a distance of 3.3 miles, in Santa Clara County, CA.¹ The line traverses U.S.

¹ The portion of the line from milepost 16.30 to milepost 17.49 is owned by the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority. UP is proposing to discontinue its trackage rights and abandon its freight easement over this segment. The portion of the line from milepost 17.49 to milepost 19.60 is owned and operated by UP. UP is proposing to abandon this segment.

Postal Service Zip Codes 95112, 95116, and 95122, and it includes the station of San Jose.

The line does not contain federally granted rights-of-way. Any documentation in UP's possession will be made available promptly to those requesting it.

The interest of railroad employees will be protected by the conditions set forth in *Oregon Short Line R. Co.—Abandonment—Goshen*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979).

By issuing this notice, the Board is instituting an exemption proceeding pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10502(b). A final decision will be issued by November 26, 2004.

Any offer of financial assistance (OFA) under 49 CFR 1152.27(b)(2) will be due no later than 10 days after service of a decision granting the petition for exemption. Each OFA must be accompanied by a \$1,100 filing fee. *See* 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

All interested persons should be aware that, following abandonment of rail service and salvage of the line, the line may be suitable for other public use, including interim trail use. Any request for a public use condition under 49 CFR 1152.28 or for trail use/rail banking under 49 CFR 1152.29 will be due no later than September 20, 2004. Each trail use request must be accompanied by a \$200 filing fee. *See* 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(27).

All filings in response to this notice must refer to STB Docket No. AB–33 (Sub-No. 221X) and must be sent to: (1) Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423–0001; and (2) Mack H. Shumate, Jr., Senior General Attorney, 101 North Wacker Drive, Room 1920, Chicago, IL 60606. Replies to the petition are due on or before September 20, 2004.

Persons seeking further information concerning abandonment procedures may contact the Board's Office of Public Services at (202) 565–1592 or refer to the full abandonment or discontinuance regulations at 49 CFR part 1152.

Questions concerning environmental issues may be directed to the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) at (202) 565–1539. [Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339.]

An environmental assessment (EA) (or environmental impact statement (EIS), if necessary) prepared by SEA will be served upon all parties of record and upon any agencies or other persons who commented during its preparation. Other interested persons may contact SEA to obtain a copy of the EA (or EIS). EAs in these abandonment proceedings