

Administration, MAR-832 Room 7201, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20590. Telephone 202-366-5129.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Title V of Pub. L. 105-383 provides authority to the Secretary of Transportation to administratively waive the U.S.-build requirements of the Jones Act, and other statutes, for small commercial passenger vessels (no more than 12 passengers). This authority has been delegated to the Maritime Administration per 49 CFR § 1.66, Delegations to the Maritime Administrator, as amended. By this notice, MARAD is publishing information on a vessel for which a request for a U.S.-build waiver has been received, and for which MARAD requests comments from interested parties. Comments should refer to the docket number of this notice and the vessel name in order for MARAD to properly consider the comments. Comments should also state the commenter's interest in the waiver application, and address the waiver criteria given in § 388.4 of MARAD's regulations at 46 CFR Part 388.

#### **Vessel Proposed for Waiver of the U.S.-Build Requirement**

(1) Name of vessel and owner for which waiver is requested. Name of vessel: *Aboriginal*. Owner: Richard J. Connelly.

(2) Size, capacity and tonnage of vessel. According to the applicant: "It is 42 foot in length, capacity up to 12 people, weighs 38 net ton, pursuant to 46 u.s.c.14502 State of RI."

(3) Intended use for vessel, including geographic region of intended operation and trade. According to the applicant: "My intent is to use this vessel for sport fishing charters, 6 people or less out of Newport, RI. I will be fishing Newport and Block Island Sound and up to 100 miles offshore. I also intend to fish stickle rod and reel."

(4) Date and Place of construction and (if applicable) rebuilding. Date of construction: 1987. Place of construction: Taiwan, R.O.C.

(5) A statement on the impact this waiver will have on other commercial passenger vessel operators. According to the applicant: "Currently there are approximately six other sportfishing operators in the Newport, RI area. Due to the large area I intend to fish, and the demand for charter boats in Newport; my waiver should have no adverse impact."

(6) A statement on the impact this waiver will have on U.S. shipyards. According to the applicant: "Also, the U.S. shipyards would do any and all work or repairs on my vessel; therefore,

having no adverse effect on U.S. shipyards."

Dated: September 19, 2000.

By Order of the Maritime Administrator.

**Murray A. Bloom,**

*Acting Secretary, Maritime Administration.*

[FR Doc. 00-24426 Filed 9-21-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-81-P**

## **DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

### **Maritime Administration**

**[Docket Number: MARAD-2000-7936]**

#### **Requested Administrative Waiver of the Coastwise Trade Laws**

**AGENCY:** Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation.

**ACTION:** Invitation for public comments on a requested administrative waiver of the Coastwise Trade Laws for the vessel *Lucky Dog*.

**SUMMARY:** As authorized by Pub. L. 105-383, the Secretary of Transportation, as represented by the Maritime Administration (MARAD), is authorized to grant waivers of the U.S.-build requirement of the coastwise laws under certain circumstances. A request for such a waiver has been received by MARAD. The vessel, and a description of the proposed service, is listed below. Interested parties may comment on the effect this action may have on U.S. vessel builders or businesses in the U.S. that use U.S.-flag vessels. If MARAD determines that in accordance with Pub. L. 105-383 and MARAD's regulations at 46 CFR Part 388 (65 FR 6905; February 11, 2000) that the issuance of the waiver will have an unduly adverse effect on a U.S.-vessel builder or a business that uses U.S.-flag vessels, a waiver will not be granted.

**DATES:** Submit comments on or before October 23, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should refer to docket number MARAD-2000-7936. Written comments may be submitted by hand or by mail to the Docket Clerk, U.S. DOT Dockets, Room PL-401, Department of Transportation, 400 7th St., SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001. You may also send comments electronically via the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov/submit/>. All comments will become part of this docket and will be available for inspection and copying at the above address between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., e.t., Monday through Friday, except federal holidays. An electronic version of this document and all documents entered into this docket is available on the World Wide Web at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Gordon Angell, U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, MAR-832 Room 7201, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20590. Telephone 202-366-5129.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Title V of Pub. L. 105-383 provides authority to the Secretary of Transportation to administratively waive the U.S.-build requirements of the Jones Act, and other statutes, for small commercial passenger vessels (no more than 12 passengers). This authority has been delegated to the Maritime Administration per 49 CFR § 1.66, Delegations to the Maritime Administrator, as amended. By this notice, MARAD is publishing information on a vessel for which a request for a U.S.-build waiver has been received, and for which MARAD requests comments from interested parties. Comments should refer to the docket number of this notice and the vessel name in order for MARAD to properly consider the comments. Comments should also state the commenter's interest in the waiver application, and address the waiver criteria given in § 388.4 of MARAD's regulations at 46 CFR part 388.

#### **Vessel Proposed for Waiver of the U.S.-build Requirement:**

(1) Name of vessel and owner for which waiver is requested. Name of vessel: *Lucky Dog*. Owner: Relentless Charters Inc.

(2) Size, capacity and tonnage of vessel. According to the applicant: "The vessel is 34 feet in length and 13 feet 7 inches in breadth. Gross tonnage as determined by 46 CFR 69 subpart E is 21.65."

(3) Intended use for vessel, including geographic region of intended operation and trade. According to the applicant: "The intended use for the vessel is operating as an uninspected passenger vessel pursuant to 46 CFR 10.205. This regulation calls for a maximum of 6 passengers and a range of no more than 100 miles from shore. Charter services will be offered for the purpose of scuba diving and sport fishing. The geographic region of operation will be the Gulf of Mexico from Sarasota Florida to Bayonet Point Florida, extending 100 miles into the gulf."

(4) Date and Place of construction and (if applicable) rebuilding. Date of construction: 1973. Place of construction: Omastrand Norway.

(5) A statement on the impact this waiver will have on other commercial passenger vessel operators. According to the applicant: "I believe that granting this waiver will not unduly adversely affect other commercial passenger vessel

operators. The area where I will be operating attracts numerous tourists from around the world, many of whom are interested in fishing or diving local waters. It has been my observation that the demand for charter services far exceeds the supply in this area. I currently do not advertise and in spite of my low profile, I am solicited to charter nearly every week. Obviously, I decline since I lack the appropriate documentation."

(6) A statement on the impact this waiver will have on U.S. shipyards. According to the applicant: "I believe that the impact to U.S. shipyards is positive. I do not think that a vessel that is 27 years old carries any impact on shipyards that produce new vessels. On the other hand, using this vessel for commercial use will necessitate refurbishment and repowering that will benefit U.S. shipyards that perform this type of work."

Dated: September 19, 2000.

By Order of the Maritime Administrator.

**Murray A. Bloom,**

*Acting Secretary, Maritime Administration.*

[FR Doc. 00-24427 Filed 9-21-00; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Research and Special Programs Administration

RSPA-00-7795

#### Pipeline Safety: Meeting of the Integrity Management Communication Team

**AGENCY:** Research and Special Programs Administration, DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of Integrity Management Communication Team meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Research and Special Programs Administration's (RSPA) Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) hereby gives notice that the Integrity Management Communication Team will meet to discuss the content and delivery of pipeline information to be conveyed to local officials and members of the public in or near high consequence areas.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on October 10, 2000, from 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** Members of the public may attend the meeting at the Department of Transportation, Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Room 3200, Washington, DC 20590. After team members have discussed each topic, an opportunity will be provided for the public to make short statements.

Anyone wishing to make an oral statement or to participate by conference call should notify Mary Jo Cooney, (202) 366-4774, no later than October 5, 2000. Those wishing to make an oral statement must notify OPS of the topic of the statement and the time requested for the presentation. Those wishing to participate by conference call will be notified of the call-in number prior to the meeting.

*Information on Services for Individuals With Disabilities:* For information on facilities or services for individuals with disabilities or to request special assistance during the telephone conference calls, contact Mary-Jo Cooney at (202) 366-4774.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mary Jo Cooney, OPS, (202) 366-4774.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Background Information

In connection with the proposed rule on Pipeline Integrity Management in High Consequence Areas, OPS plans to propose related rules governing operator communications with local public officials and agencies. To assist in this effort, the OPS Technical Advisory Committees created an Integrity Management Communications Subcommittee to focus on communications issues and to report back to the full Advisory Committee. OPS expanded this Subcommittee to form a team with equal representation from the public, government agencies, and the pipeline industry, and to consolidate several related efforts.

The Team will provide feedback, insight, and information to the Advisory Committee on the content and delivery of information conveyed to local officials and the public about pipeline operations, systems, and the risks they pose in or near high consequence areas. The Advisory Committee will provide pipeline communication recommendations to OPS for consideration in drafting the Integrity Management Communications rulemaking. The Team will also assist OPS in finalizing a primer to educate local officials on pipelines and their operations.

The topics for discussion for this meeting include discussions of the following: Information that is needed by various groups: landowners/tenants along pipeline rights-of-way; local and regional emergency response officials; excavators and the general public; review of existing materials used by pipeline operators for public education; results from a public awareness survey conducted by the American Petroleum Institute and focus groups sponsored by

the Interstate Natural Gas Association of America; Office of Pipeline Safety website materials; information currently available under the Freedom of Information Act; and pending pipeline legislative proposals for community right-to-know.

Documents relating to this initiative may be viewed on the OPS website, ops.dot.gov. Click on Integrity Management and then click on Communications Rule. Scroll down to view background documents.

Issued in Washington, DC on September 18, 2000.

**Jeffrey D. Wiese,**

*Manager, Program Development, Office of Pipeline Safety.*

[FR Doc. 00-24383 Filed 9-21-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-60-P

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33925]

#### Buffalo Ridge Regional Railroad Authority—Operation Exemption—Rail Line Between Manley and Worthington, MN

Buffalo Ridge Regional Railroad Authority (BRRRA),<sup>1</sup> a noncarrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption (notice) under 49 CFR 1150.31 to operate over its own rail line between milepost 0.0, at or near Agate, MN, and milepost 41.44, at or near Manley, MN, a distance of approximately 41.44 miles (line).<sup>2</sup> In addition, BRRRA will operate, pursuant to incidental trackage rights, over a 3.4-mile rail line owned by Union Pacific Railroad Company between Agate and Worthington, MN, for a total of 44.84 miles.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> BRRRA is a political subdivision of the State of Minnesota.

<sup>2</sup> BRRRA's line is a segment of a 65.6-mile rail line previously owned and abandoned by the Chicago and North Western Transportation Company. See *Chicago and North Western Transportation Company—Abandonment in Nobles and Rock Counties, MN, and Minnehaha County, SD*, Docket No. AB-1 (Sub-No. 202) (ICC served June 16, 1988). According to BRRRA, it acquired the line after consummation of the abandonment in Docket No. AB-1 (Sub-No. 202) but never operated the line itself.

As noted in page 2 of the notice, BRRRA alternatively requested that, should the Board determine that BRRRA is an existing rail carrier, the notice of exemption for operation of the line should be deemed to be filed under 49 CFR 1150.41. Based on the representations made by BRRRA, use of the exemption at 49 CFR 1150.31 from the requirements of 49 U.S.C. 10901 is appropriate.

<sup>3</sup> Nobles Rock Railroad Co. (NRRC) currently provides common carrier rail service over the line pursuant to *Nobles Rock Railroad Co.—Lease and Operation Exemption—Buffalo Ridge Regional Railroad Authority*, Finance Docket No. 32368 (ICC