

material transportation law, 49 U.S.C. 5101 *et seq.*, and FMCSA regulations, 49 CFR part 397, preempt routing requirements contained in the Terrorism Prevention in Hazardous Materials Transportation Emergency Act of 2005 [D.C. Act 16-43, February 15, 2005, 52 CDR 3048] (“DC Act”), passed by the Council of the District of Columbia on February 1, 2005, and signed by the Mayor on February 15, 2005.

FMCSA published notice of ATA’s application in the **Federal Register** on April 20, 2005, at 70 FR 20630. Title 49 U.S.C. 5125(d) requires FMCSA to issue a decision on ATA’s application “within 180 days after the date of the publication of the notice of having received such application, or the Secretary shall publish a statement in the **Federal Register** of the reason why the Secretary’s decision on the application is delayed, along with an estimate of the additional time necessary before the decision is made.”

ATA’s application for a preemption determination is still under consideration by FMCSA. The Agency currently is conducting fact-finding in response to the application. Because of this additional fact-finding, it is impracticable to issue a decision within the 180-day timeframe. In order to allow time for appropriate consideration of the issues raised by ATA’s application, FMCSA delays issuance of its determination, and estimates a decision will be published in the spring of 2006.

Issued on: December 14, 2005.

Annette M. Sandberg,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. E5-7637 Filed 12-20-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-EX-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

[Docket Number 2005-23311]

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 TI AMO.

SUMMARY: As authorized by Pub. L. 105-383 and Pub. L. 107-295, 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 brief description of the proposed service, is listed below. The complete application is given in DOT docket 2005-23311 at <http://dms.dot.gov>. 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, in accordance with Pub. L. 105-383 and MARAD’s regulations at 46 CFR part 388 (68 FR 23084; April 30, 2003), 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 in that business, a waiver will not be granted. 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.

DATES: Submit comments on or before January 20, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Comments should refer to docket number MARAD-2005 23311. 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://dmses.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:

Joann Spittle, U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, MAR-830 Room 7201, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Telephone 202-366-5979.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: As described by the applicant the intended service of the vessel TI AMO is:

Intended Use: “Pleasure cruises, day sails and longer, licensed skipper plus mate.”

Geographic Region: California, USVI, Puerto Rico, FL, NY, ME, MA, NH, RI, and CT depending on time of year.

Dated: December 13, 2005.

By order of the Maritime Administrator.

Joel C. Richard,

Secretary, Maritime Administration.

[FR Doc. E5-7634 Filed 12-20-05; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

Voluntary Intermodal Sealift Agreement (VISA)/Joint Planning Advisory Group (JPAG)

AGENCY: Maritime Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Synopsis of December 5, 2005 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 70 FR 55947-55955, dated September 23, 2005.

On December 5, 2005, the Maritime Administration (MARAD) and the U.S. Transportation Command co-hosted a meeting of the VISA JPAG at the Military Sealift Command in Washington, DC. 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 51 U.S.-flag carrier corporate participants enrolled in the VISA program at the time of the meeting, 15 companies whose vessels were modeled in the Department of Defense’s Mobility Capabilities Study (MCS) participated in the meeting. In addition, representatives from MARAD and the Department of Defense attended the meeting.

Richard Haynes, Executive Director for the Military Sealift Command opened the meeting with a welcome to all attendees. Remarks were offered by Earl Boyanton, Jr., Assistant Deputy Under Secretary (Transportation Policy) of the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense, James Caponiti, Associate Administrator for National Security for MARAD and Margaret LeClaire, Deputy Director, Strategy, Plans, Policy and Programs for USTRANSCOM.

Dr. Laura Williams from the Office of the Secretary of Defense (Program Analysis and Evaluation) presented an overview of the overall structure and findings of the Department of Defense’s MCS. Following Ms. Williams’ overview there was an open dialogue about the utilization of commercial sealift in the MCS. As a result of the discussion, industry participants provided DOD many useful comments and suggestions to consider in future analyses, and indicated a willingness to address future requirements as they emerge.

As of December 5, 2005, 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 Auto Carriers, Inc.; American Automar, Inc.; American President Lines, Ltd.; American Roll-On Roll-Off Carrier, LLC; American Shipping Group; APL Marine Services, Ltd.; Beyel Brothers Inc.; Canal Barge Company, Inc.; Central Gulf Lines, Inc.; Cherokee Nation Distributors; Coastal Transportation, Inc.; Columbia Coastal Transport, LLC; CP Ships USA, LLC; CRC Marine Services, Inc.; Crowley Liner Services, Inc.; Crowley Marine Services, Inc.; Farrell Lines Incorporated; Fidelio Limited Partnership; Foss Maritime Company; Horizon Lines, LLC; Laborde Marine Lifts, Inc.; Laborde Marine, L.L.C.; Liberty Shipping Group Limited Partnership; Lockwood Brothers, Inc.; Lynden Incorporated; Maersk Line, Limited; Marine Transport Management; Matson Navigation Company, Inc.; Maybank Navigation Company, LLC; McAllister Towing and Transportation Co., Inc.; Northland Services, Inc.; OSG Car Carriers, Inc.; Pasha Hawaii Transport Lines LLC; Patriot Shipping, L.L.C.; Red River Holdings LLC; Resolve Towing & Salvage, Inc.; Samson Tug & Barge Company, Inc.; SeaTac Marine Services, LLC; Sealift Inc.; Signet Maritime Corporation; Smith Maritime; Stevens Towing Co., Inc.; Strong Vessel Operators LLC (SVO); Superior Marine Services, Inc.; Trailer Bridge, Inc.; TransAtlantic Lines LLC; Troika International, Ltd.; and Waterman Steamship Corporation.

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

By Order of the Maritime Administrator.
Dated: December 14, 2005.

Joel C. Richard,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. E5-7639 Filed 12-20-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-81-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-988X]

Nebkota Railway, Inc.—Abandonment Exemption—in Sheridan and Cherry Counties, NE

On December 1, 2005, Nebkota Railway, Inc. (NRI) 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 a 43-mile portion of its line of railroad extending from milepost 374

at Rushville 69360 to the end of the line at milepost 331 at Merriman 69218 in Sheridan and Cherry Counties, NE. The line traverses U.S. Postal Service Zip Codes 69218, 69343, and 69360, and it includes the stations of Clinton, Gordon, Irwin and Merriman.

The line does not contain federally granted rights-of-way. Any documentation in NRI'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 issuance of this notice, the Board is instituting an exemption proceeding pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10502(b). A final decision will be issued by March 21, 2006.

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 offer must be accompanied by a \$1,200 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 January 10, 2006. 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-988X, and must be sent to: (1) Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001, and (2) Fritz R. Kahn, Fritz R. Kahn, P.C., 1920 N Street, NW., Washington, DC 20036-1601. Replies to NRI's petition are due on or before January 10, 2006.

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 normally will be made available within 60 days of the filing of the petition. The deadline for submission of comments on the EA will generally be within 30 days of its service.

Board decisions and notices are available on our Web site at <http://www.stb.dot.gov>.

Decided: December 15, 2005.

By the Board, David M. Konschnick,
Director, Office of Proceedings.

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 05-24305 Filed 12-20-05; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Community Development Financial Institutions Fund

Funding Opportunity Title: Revised Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) Inviting Applications for the FY 2006 Funding Round and the FY 2007 Funding Round of the Community Development Financial Institutions Program

Announcement Type: Initial announcement of funding opportunity.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 21.020.

DATES: Applications for the FY 2006 Funding Round must be received by 5 p.m. ET on February 13, 2006. Applications for the FY 2007 Funding Round must be received by 5 p.m. ET on January 9, 2007.

Executive Summary: Subject to funding availability, this NOFA is issued in connection with two consecutive funding rounds of the Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Program: (i) The FY 2006 Funding Round and (ii) the FY 2007 Funding Round. This NOFA replaces, in its entirety, the NOFA published in the **Federal Register** on December 13, 2005 (70 FR 73866); through this NOFA, the Fund has revised several of the dates set forth in the December 13, 2005 NOFA. Interested parties should review and refer to this NOFA, disregarding the December 13, 2005 NOFA, as the dates in the December 13, 2005 NOFA are inaccurate.

I. Funding Opportunity Description

A. Through the CDFI Program, the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (the Fund) provides: (i) Financial Assistance (FA) awards to