

DEPARTMENT OF STATE**[Public Notice: 9816]****Notice of Public Meeting**

The Department of State will conduct an open meeting at 9:00am on Thursday, January 19, 2017, in room 7M15-01 of the Douglas A. Munro Coast Guard Headquarters Building at St. Elizabeth's, 2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20593. The primary purpose of the meeting is to prepare for the Fourth session of the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) Sub-Committee on Ship Design and Construction to be held at the IMO headquarters, London, United Kingdom, February 13-17, 2017.

The agenda items to be considered include:

- Adoption of the agenda
- Decisions of other bodies
- Amendments to SOLAS regulations II-1/6 and II-1/8-1 (5.2.1.13)
- Computerized stability support for the master in case of flooding for existing passenger ships (5.2.1.7)
- Finalization of second generation intact stability criteria (5.2.1.12)
- Amendments to SOLAS and FSS Code to make evacuation analysis mandatory for new passenger ships and review of the Recommendation on evacuation analysis for new and existing passenger ships (5.1.1.3)
- Revision of section 3 of the Guidelines for damage control plans and information to the master (MSC.1/Circ.1245) for passenger ships (5.2.1.6)
- Mandatory instrument and/or provisions addressing safety standards for the carriage of more than 12 industrial personnel on board vessels engaged on international voyages (5.2.1.4)
- Amendments to the 2011 ESP Code (2.0.1.1)
- Unified interpretation to provisions of IMO safety, security, and environment-related Conventions (1.1.2.3)
- Revised SOLAS regulation II-1/3-8 and associated guidelines (MSC.1/Circ.1175) and new guidelines for safe mooring operations for all ships (5.2.1.1)
- Guidelines for use of Fibre Reinforced Plastic (FRP) within ship structures (5.2.1.21)
- Biennial status report and provisional agenda for SDC 5
- Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman for 2018
- Any other business
- Report to the Maritime Safety Committee

Members of the public may attend this meeting up to the seating capacity of the room. Upon request to the meeting coordinator, members of the public may also participate via teleconference. To facilitate the building security process, and to request reasonable accommodation, those who plan to attend should contact the meeting coordinator, LT Joshua Kapusta, by email at Joshua.A.Kapusta@uscg.mil, or by phone at (202) 372-1428, or in writing at 2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. SE., Stop 7509, Washington DC 20593-7509 not later than January 12, 2017. Requests made after January 12, 2017 might not be able to be accommodated. Please note that due to security considerations, two valid, government issued photo identifications must be presented to gain entrance to the Coast Guard Headquarters building. The building is accessible by taxi, public transportation, and privately owned conveyance (upon request).

In the case of inclement weather where the Federal Government is closed or delayed, a public meeting may be conducted virtually by calling (202) 475-4000 or 1-855-475-2447, Participant code: 887 809 72. The meeting coordinator will confirm whether the virtual public meeting will be utilized by posting an announcement at: www.uscg.mil/imo. Members of the public can find out whether the Federal Government is delayed or closed by visiting www.opm.gov/status/. Additional information regarding this and other IMO public meetings may be found at: www.uscg.mil/imo.

Dated: December 7, 2016.

Jonathan W. Burby,

Coast Guard Liaison Officer, Office of Ocean and Polar Affairs, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 2016-29943 Filed 12-13-16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-09-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE**[Public Notice: 9817]****Notice of Public Meeting**

The Department of State will conduct an open meeting at 9:00am on Wednesday, January 11, 2017, in room 7K15-01 of the Douglas A. Munro Coast Guard Headquarters Building at St. Elizabeth's, 2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20593. The primary purpose of the meeting is to prepare for the fourth session of the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR 4) to be held at the IMO Headquarters, United

Kingdom, on January 16-20, 2017. The agenda items to be considered include:

- Decisions of other IMO bodies
- Safety and pollution hazards of chemicals and preparation of consequential amendments to the IBC Code
- Review of MARPOL Annex II requirements that have an impact on cargo residues and tank washings of high viscosity and persistent floating products
- Code for the transport and handling of limited amounts of hazardous and noxious liquid substances in bulk on offshore support vessels
- Revised guidance on ballast water sampling and analysis
- Review of the guidelines for approval of ballast water management systems
- Production of a manual entitled "Ballast Water Management—How to do it"
- Consideration of the impact on the Arctic of emissions of Black Carbon from international shipping
- Standards for shipboard gasification of waste systems and associated amendments to regulation 16 of MARPOL Annex VI
- Guidelines for the discharge of exhaust gas recirculation bleed-off water
- Improved and new technologies approved for ballast water management systems and reduction of atmospheric pollution
- Updated IMO Dispersant Guidelines
- Updated OPRC Model training courses
- Unified interpretation to provisions of IMO environment-related Conventions
- Use of electronic record books
- Revision of the 2011 SCR Guidelines

Members of the public may attend this meeting up to the seating capacity of the room. Upon request to the meeting coordinator, members of the public may also participate via teleconference. To facilitate the building security process, and to request reasonable accommodation, those who plan to attend should contact the meeting coordinator, Mr. Patrick Keffler, by email at Patricik.A.Keffler@uscg.mil, by phone at (202) 372-1424, or in writing at 2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. SE., Stop 7509, Washington DC 20593-7509, not later than January 4, 2017. Requests made after January 4, 2017 might not be able to be accommodated. Please note that due to security considerations, two valid, government issued photo identifications must be presented to gain entrance to the Coast Guard Headquarters building. The building is accessible by taxi,

public transportation, and privately owned conveyance (upon request). In the case of inclement weather where the Federal Government is closed or delayed, a public meeting may be conducted virtually by calling (202) 475-4000 or 1-855-475-2447, Participant code: 887 809 72. The meeting coordinator will confirm whether the virtual public meeting will be utilized by posting an announcement at: www.uscg.mil/imo. Members of the public can find out whether the Federal Government is delayed or closed by visiting www.opm.gov/status/. Additional information regarding this and other IMO public meetings may be found at: www.uscg.mil/imo.

Dated: December 7, 2016.

Jonathan W. Burby,

Coast Guard Liaison Officer, Office of Ocean and Polar Affairs, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 2016-29942 Filed 12-13-16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-09-P

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

[Docket No. EP 526 (Sub-No. 8)]

Notice of Railroad-Shipper Transportation Advisory Council Vacancies

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board (Board).

ACTION: Notice of vacancies on the Railroad-Shipper Transportation Advisory Council (RSTAC) and solicitation of nominations.

SUMMARY: The Board hereby gives notice of vacancies on RSTAC for (1) a representative of a small shipper; and (2) a representative for a Class I railroad. The Board is soliciting suggestions for candidates to fill these vacancies.

DATES: Nominations are due on January 9, 2017.

ADDRESSES: Suggestions may be submitted either via the Board's e-filing format or in the traditional paper format. Any person using e-filing should attach a document and otherwise comply with the instructions at the E-FILING link on the Board's Web site, at <http://www.stb.gov>. Any person submitting a filing in the traditional paper format should send an original and 10 copies to: Surface Transportation Board, Attn: Docket No. EP 526 (Sub-No. 8), 395 E Street SW., Washington, DC 20423-0001 (if sending via express company or private courier, please use zip code 20024). Please note that submissions will be available to the public at the Board's offices and posted on the Board's Web site under Docket No. EP 526 (Sub-No. 8).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Katherine Bourdon at 202-245-0285. Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Board, created in 1996 to take over many of the functions previously performed by the Interstate Commerce Commission, exercises broad authority over transportation by rail carriers, including regulation of railroad rates and service (49 U.S.C. 10701-47, 11101-24), as well as the construction, acquisition, operation, and abandonment of rail lines (49 U.S.C. 10901-07) and railroad line sales, consolidations, mergers, and common control arrangements (49 U.S.C. 10902, 11323-27).

RSTAC was established upon the enactment of the ICC Termination Act of 1995 (ICCTA), on December 29, 1995, to advise the Board's Chairman; the Secretary of Transportation; the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate; and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives with respect to rail transportation policy issues RSTAC considers significant. RSTAC focuses on issues of importance to small shippers and small railroads, including car supply, rates, competition, and procedures for addressing claims. ICCTA directs RSTAC to develop private-sector mechanisms to prevent, or identify and address, obstacles to the most effective and efficient transportation system practicable. The Secretary of Transportation and the members of the Board cooperate with RSTAC in providing research, technical, and other reasonable support. RSTAC also prepares an annual report concerning its activities and recommendations on whatever regulatory or legislative relief it considers appropriate. RSTAC is not subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

RSTAC currently consists of 19 members. Of this number, 15 members are appointed by the Chairman of the Board, and the remaining four members are comprised of the Secretary of Transportation and the Members of the Board, who serve as *ex officio*, nonvoting members.¹ Of the 15 members, nine members are voting members and are appointed from senior

executive officers of organizations engaged in the railroad and rail shipping industries. At least four of the voting members must be representatives of small shippers as determined by the Chairman, and at least four of the voting members must be representatives of Class II or III railroads. The remaining six members to be appointed—three representing Class I railroads and three representing large shipper organizations—serve in a nonvoting, advisory capacity, but are entitled to participate in RSTAC deliberations.

RSTAC is required by statute to meet at least semi-annually. In recent years, RSTAC has met four times a year. Meetings are generally held at the Board's headquarters in Washington, DC, although some are held in other locations.

RSTAC members receive no compensation for their services and are required to provide for the expenses incidental to their service, including travel expenses, as the Board cannot provide for these expenses. RSTAC may solicit and use private funding for its activities, again subject to certain restrictions in ICCTA. RSTAC members currently have elected to submit annual dues to pay for RSTAC expenses.

RSTAC members must be citizens of the United States and represent as broadly as practicable the various segments of the railroad and rail shipper industries. They may not be full-time employees of the United States. According to revised guidance issued by the Office of Management and Budget, it is permissible for federally registered lobbyists to serve on advisory committees, such as RSTAC, as long as they do so in a representative capacity, rather than an individual capacity. See *Revised Guidance on Appointment of Lobbyists to Fed. Advisory Comms., Bds., & Commn's.*, 79 FR 47,482 (Aug. 13, 2014). Members of RSTAC are appointed to serve in a representative capacity.

RSTAC members are appointed for three-year terms. A member may serve after the expiration of his or her term until a successor has taken office. No member will be eligible to serve in excess of two consecutive terms.

Due to the expiration of two RSTAC members' second terms, vacancies exist for a small shipper representative and a Class I railroad representative. Upon appointment by the Chairman, the new representatives will serve for three years and may be eligible to serve a second three-year term following the end of their first terms.

Suggestions for candidates to fill these vacancies should be submitted in letter form, identify the name of the

¹ The Surface Transportation Board Reauthorization Act of 2015, Public Law 114-110 (2015), increased the number of Board Members from three to five. Once additional Board Members are appointed, they will also serve as RSTAC *ex officio*, nonvoting members.