

under the Oil Terminal and Oil Tanker Environmental Oversight and Monitoring Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2732) (the Act). The Coast Guard issued a policy statement on July 7, 1993 (58 FR 36505), to clarify the factors that the Coast Guard would be considering in making its determination as to whether advisory groups should be certified in accordance with the Act; and the procedures which the Coast Guard would follow in meeting its certification responsibilities under the Act.

The Coast Guard has received an application for recertification of PWSRCAC, the currently certified advisory group for the Prince William Sound region. In accordance with the review and certification process contained in the policy statement, the Coast Guard announces the availability of that application.

At the conclusion of the comment period, the Coast Guard will review all application materials and comments received and will take one of the following actions:

(a) Recertify the advisory group under 33 U.S.C. 2732(o).

(b) Issue a conditional recertification for a period of 90 days, with a statement of any discrepancies, which must be corrected to qualify for recertification for the remainder of the year.

(c) Deny recertification of the advisory group if the Coast Guard finds that the group is not broadly representative of the interests and communities in the area or is not adequately fostering the goals and purposes of 33 U.S.C. 2732.

The Coast Guard will notify PWSRCAC by letter of the action taken on its application. A notice will be published in the **Federal Register** to advise the public of the Coast Guard's determination.

Dated: December 28, 1999.

**T.J. Barrett,**

*Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard, Commander, Seventeenth Coast Guard District.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Highway Administration

#### Coast Guard

#### Woodrow Wilson Bridge; Potomac River, District of Columbia and Prince George's County, MD

**AGENCY:** Federal Highway Administration, Coast Guard, DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of public hearing; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Federal Highway Administration together with the Coast Guard, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, District of Columbia Department of Health, Maryland State Highway Administration, Virginia Department of Transportation and Maryland Department of Environment will hold two public hearings to receive information concerning the environmental and navigational impacts of the replacement of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. The bridge is located on Interstate 495/95 where it crosses the Potomac River, mile 103.80, at District of Columbia and Prince George's County, Maryland. The hearings will allow interested persons to present comments and information concerning the bridge alternative under consideration.

**DATES:** The hearing will start 7 p.m. on Tuesday, February 8, and Thursday, February 10, 2000 and display materials will be available beginning at 5:30 p.m. on these dates. Comments must be received by February 25, 2000. Requests to speak at either hearing and requests for services must be received by February 1, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** The hearing on February 8 will be held at Best Western Potomac View, 6400 Oxon Hill Road, Oxon Hill, Maryland 20745. On February 10, the hearing will be at Radisson Hotel—Old Town Alexandria, 901 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314. Written comments may be submitted to, and will be available for examination between 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays, at the office of the Commander (Aowb), Fifth Coast Guard District, 431 Crawford Street, Portsmouth, Virginia 23703-5004. Please submit all comments in an unbound format, no larger than 8 by 11 inches, suitable for copying and electronic filing. Persons wanting acknowledgement of receipt of comments should enclose a stamped, self-addressed postcard or envelope.

Requests to speak at either hearing and requests to be placed on the project mailing lists may be submitted to Ms. Norine Walker, P.E., at the Woodrow Wilson Bridge Center, 1800 Duke Street, Suite 200, Alexandria, Virginia 22314 or 6009 Oxon Hill Road, Suite 410, Oxon Hill, Maryland 20745.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. John Gerner, Project Manager (FHWA), Woodrow Wilson Bridge Center, 1800 Duke Street, Suite 200, Alexandria, Virginia 22314 (703 519-9800); Mr. N.E. Mpras, Chief, Office of Bridge Administration, Commandant (G-OPT), U.S. Coast Guard, 2100 Second Street, SW, Washington, DC 20593 (202 267-

0368); or Ms. Ann Deaton, Chief, Bridge Administration Branch, Fifth Coast Guard District, Federal Building, 431 Crawford Street, Portsmouth, Virginia 23704-5004 (757 398-6222).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) proposes to replace the Woodrow Wilson Bridge over the Potomac River and to modify the associated roadway and interchanges in a 7.5 mile section of I-95/I-495 (Capital Beltway) from west of Telegraph Road (VA 241) in Virginia to east of Indian Head Highway (MD 210) in Maryland. The western portion of the project corridor is located in Fairfax County and the City of Alexandria in Virginia. The drawspans on the Woodrow Wilson Bridge are located in the southern tip of the District of Columbia. The eastern portion of the corridor is located in Prince George's County, Maryland. The purpose of the proposed action is to address existing capacity constraints, safety, and structural deficiencies associated with the Woodrow Wilson Bridge, and to enhance vehicular mobility in the corridor while addressing environmental and community concerns.

The new Woodrow Wilson Bridge will replace the existing bridge with two new, parallel, double leaf, bascule drawbridges, each with a 366-foot span and a clearance of 70 feet over the navigation channel. One span will carry eastbound traffic and the other westbound traffic, and the structure will be constructed approximately 30 feet south of the existing bridge. The westbound span, carrying the inner loop of the Capital Beltway, would be 124 feet wide, including a 12-foot wide pedestrian/bicycle facility with a 2-foot wide barrier. The eastbound span, carrying the outer loop of the Capital Beltway, would be 110 feet wide. Eleven "V"-shaped, concrete piers will support the bridges. The bridges will be protected at the navigational channel by twelve, 45-foot diameter, sheet pile dolphins with a pipe pile supported, concrete guideway with fendering north and south of the bridge piers. The bridges would include a total of 12 lanes (six lanes in each direction). Each bridge is 4,100 feet long, over Maryland water, with a total length of 6,075 feet.

The FHWA is the lead Federal agency for the environmental documentation for this project. The Coast Guard has been involved as a cooperating agency during the preparation of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS). The U.S. Coast Guard is the Federal agency responsible

for protecting the freedom of navigation with due consideration being given to the quality of the human environment and by taking a balanced approach to total transportation systems, both land and water modes. The Coast Guard must ensure that proposed bridge projects provide for the reasonable needs of present and prospective marine transportation. Interested and affected parties are requested to express their views, in writing, on the impacts of the construction of the proposed bridges on navigation and the quality of the human environment, including impacts on historic, recreational, endangered species, and wetlands, giving sufficient detail to establish a clear understanding of their reasons for support or opposition to the proposed work.

#### Procedural

Individuals and representatives of organizations that wish to present testimony at either Hearing or who want to be placed on the project mailing list, may submit a request to Ms. Norine Walker, P.E., at the Woodrow Wilson Bridge Center, 1800 Duke Street, Suite 200, Alexandria, Virginia 22314 or 6009 Oxon Hill Road, Suite 410, Oxon Hill, Maryland 20745. Requests to speak should be received no later than February 1, 2000 in order to ensure proper schedule of the hearing. Attendees at the hearing who wish to present testimony and have not previously made a request to do so, will follow those on the previously established list. Brochures and forms for written comments will be sent to those on the mailing list. Written statements and other exhibits in lieu of or in addition to oral presentation at the Hearing may be submitted to Ms. Walker at the address under **ADDRESSES** until February 25, 2000, in order to be included in the Public Hearing Transcript.

#### Information on Services for Individuals With Disabilities

Appropriate auxiliary aids and services for qualified individuals with disabilities or non-English speaking persons will be provided upon request. Please submit requests for these services to Ms. Norine Walker, at the address under **ADDRESSES** in writing or by calling either of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge Centers at 703-519-9800 or 301-686-0000 or fax request to 703-548-4593 or 301-868-0001 or teletype to 1-800-735-2258 (MD Statewide toll free). Any requests for an oral or sign language interpreter must be received by February 1, 2000.

Dated: December 30, 1999.

**George K. Frick, Jr.,**

*Acting Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration.*

**Terry M. Cross,**

*Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard, Director of Operations Policy.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Coast Guard

[USCG 1999-6722]

### Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee

**AGENCY:** Coast Guard, DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee (MERPAC) and its working groups will meet to discuss various issues relating to the training and fitness of merchant marine personnel. MERPAC advises the Secretary of Transportation on matters relating to the training, qualifications, licensing, certification and fitness of seamen serving in the U.S. merchant marine. All meetings will be open to the public.

**DATES:** MERPAC will meet on Tuesday, January 25, 2000, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Wednesday, January 26, 2000, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. These meetings may adjourn early if all business is finished. Written material and requests to make oral presentations should reach the Coast Guard on or before January 11, 2000. Requests to have a copy of your material distributed to each member of the committee or subcommittee should reach the Coast Guard on or before January 4, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** MERPAC will meet on both days in Room A-300 of the Maritime Institute of Technology and Graduate Studies (MITAGS), 5700 Hammonds Ferry Road, Linthicum Heights, MD 21090. Further directions regarding the location of MITAGS may be obtained by contacting Ms. Kate Gossard of MITAGS at (410) 859-5700. Send written material and requests to make oral presentations to Commander Steven J. Boyle, Commandant (G-MSO-1), U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, 2100 Second Street SW, Washington, DC 20593-0001. This notice is available on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Commander Steven J. Boyle, Executive Director of MERPAC, or Mr. Mark C. Gould, Assistant to the Executive Director, telephone 202-267-0229, fax

202-267-4570, or e-mail [mgould@comdt.uscg.mil](mailto:mgould@comdt.uscg.mil).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Notice of these meetings is given under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2.

### Agenda of January 25, 2000, Meeting

The full committee will meet to discuss the objectives for the meeting. The committee will then break up into the following working groups: the working group on the International Convention on the Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW), specifically addressing the Assessment of Proficiencies as Mandated by the Amended 1995 STCW Convention; the working group on the Methods of Demonstrating Competence in Crisis Management and Human Behavior, and; the working group on Simulator Standards for Demonstrating Competence in Ratings Forming Part of a Navigational Watch. New working groups may be formed to address any new issues or tasks. At the end of the day, the working groups will make a report to the full committee on what has been accomplished in their meetings. No action will be taken on these reports on this date.

### Agenda of January 26, 2000, Meeting

The agenda includes the following:

- (1) Introduction.
- (2) Working Group Reports.
  - (a) Assessment of Proficiencies as Mandated by the Amended 1995 STCW Convention
  - (b) Methods of Demonstrating Competence in Crisis Management and Human Behavior
  - (c) Simulator Standards for Demonstrating Competence in Ratings Forming Part of a Navigational Watch
- (3) Other items to be discussed:
  - (a) Standing Committee—Prevention Through People
  - (b) STCW developments
  - (c) Other items brought up for discussion by the committee or the public

#### Procedural

Both meetings are open to the public. Please note that the meetings may adjourn early if all business is finished. At the Chair's discretion, members of the public may make oral presentations during the meetings. If you would like to make an oral presentation at a meeting, please notify the Executive Director no later than January 11, 2000. Written material for distribution at a meeting should also reach the Coast Guard no later than January 11, 2000. If you would like a copy of your material distributed to each member of the