

owner intends to take members of the press, other media, potential and actual sponsors and supporters of the race, and their guests, on the boat to experience what it will be like to sail a boat of this type in this race. None of the press, media, and supporters will be asked to pay anything for sailing aboard this yacht. But, we have been advised that unless the boats sail "voyages to nowhere" (*i.e.* three miles from port and back again), that some of these activities would be violative of U.S. coastwise laws. For this reason we make this Application.

This yacht will be based in Boston and may be sailed to various places on the East Coast of the United States."

(4) Date and Place of construction and (if applicable) rebuilding. Date of construction: May 1998. Place of construction: United Kingdom.

(5) A statement on the impact this waiver will have on other commercial passenger vessel operators. According to the applicant: "This activity will have absolutely no impact on the operations of any commercial passenger operations. As stated, no income will be derived from the use of this yacht as an informational and sail training platform. This boat had been used in another, similar race promoted by Challenge Business. The yacht is very similar in size, design, sail area and handling characteristics to the eight boats that will be competing in the race. Thus, it is one of the most representative, "experienced", boats that could be used for the intended purpose. Further, this boat and the others employed in the Challenge Business race are very unique. This project brings together ordinary people, the corporate and non-profit communities, and fully involves them in sailing one-design-boats in a sailing experience that is not duplicated by anyone else in the world."

(6) A statement on the impact this waiver will have on U.S. shipyards. According to the applicant: "Similarly, the proposed activity will have absolutely no impact on U.S. shipyards. This yacht is uniquely valuable in that it has been raced under similar conditions, in a similar race while manned by individuals who had little, if any, sailing experience, before sailing aboard such a yacht. This yacht most accurately represents the look, feel and impact that the eight yachts in the race will have on the sailors, media, press, sponsors and supporters. Given its historical connection to a similar race, no newly built U.S. yacht could perform the proposed activity. Further, we are not aware of any similar yacht currently under construction in the U.S."

Dated: August 13, 2001.

By Order of the Maritime Administrator.

Joel C. Richard,

Secretary, Maritime Administration.

[FR Doc. 01-20737 Filed 8-16-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-81-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

[Docket Number MARAD-2001-10395]

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 SANDRA JEAN II.

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 September 17, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Comments should refer to docket number MARAD-20001-10395. 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: Kathleen Dunn, U.S. Department of

Transportation, Maritime Administration, MAR-832 Room 7201, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Telephone 202-366-2307.

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: SANDRA JEAN II. Owner: Peter and Nancy Hardy.

(2) Size, capacity and tonnage of vessel. According to the applicant: "The vessel is 39 feet long, suitable for six passengers plus two crew. The vessel is 14 tons gross, 9.5 tons net, per the official Certificate of British Registry (Canada)."

(3) Intended use for vessel, including geographic region of intended operation and trade. According to the applicant: "This vessel will be used for training and recreation, specifically: a. Navigation and maneuvering instruction/training; b. Nature and wildlife observation and research; c. 'Mothership' and shuttle for kayakers and campers."

"This operation will be in the Puget Sound region of Washington State, from Olympia, Washington to the Canadian border. Also in Southeast Alaska from the Canadian border to Skagway, Alaska."

(4) Date and Place of construction and (if applicable) rebuilding. Date of construction: 1965. Place of construction: Sather Boat Works, New Westminster, British Columbia, Canada.

(5) A statement on the impact this waiver will have on other commercial passenger vessel operators. According to the applicant: "This waiver will have little or no effect on other commercial

passenger vessel operators. There are few, if any, operators offering on the water navigation and maneuvering instruction. Similarly there are very few operators offering kayakers and hikers transportation for themselves and their equipment to isolated regions. A limited number of small boat operators (fewer than 12 passengers) offer nature experiences, but there are several large vessels offering this service (15 to 100+ passengers). The smaller boat will meet the needs of families and small groups seeking a more intimate experience."

(6) A statement on the impact this waiver will have on U.S. shipyards. According to the applicant: "This waiver will have no impact on U.S. Shipyards."

Dated: August 13, 2001.

By Order of the Maritime Administrator.

Joel C. Richard,

Secretary, Maritime Administration.

[FR Doc. 01-20736 Filed 8-16-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-81-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Research and Special Programs Administration

[Docket No. RSPA-98-4034; Notice 16]

Pipeline Safety: Intent To Approve Project Modifications and Environmental Assessment of Modifications for the Natural Gas; Pipeline Company of America Pipeline Risk Management Demonstration Project

AGENCY: Office of Pipeline Safety, Research and Special Programs Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of intent to approve project modification and environmental assessment of modification.

SUMMARY: The Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) is conducting a Risk Management Demonstration Program with pipeline operators to determine how risk management might be used to complement and improve the existing Federal pipeline safety regulatory process. In December, 1998, OPS approved Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America (NGPL) ¹ as a participant in the Pipeline Risk Management Demonstration Program. Since its demonstration project was approved, NGPL has identified five segments in its system where it

proposes to perform alternative risk control activities in lieu of compliance with the regulations addressing class location changes. This Notice announces OPS's intent to modify NGPL's Demonstration Project order to allow the proposed risk control alternatives (the "Alternatives"). This Notice also provides an environmental assessment of NGPL's Alternatives. Based on this environmental assessment, OPS has preliminarily concluded that this proposed project modification will not have significant environmental impacts.

This Notice explains OPS's rationale for approving NGPL's Alternatives. OPS seeks public comment on the proposed demonstration project modification so that it may consider and address these comments before modifying the order to approve the alternatives.

ADDRESSES: OPS requests that comments to this Notice or about this environmental assessment be submitted on or before September 17, 2001 so they can be considered before the modifications are approved. However, comments on this or any other demonstration project will be accepted in the Docket throughout the demonstration period. Written comments should be sent to the Dockets Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, Plaza 401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001. Comments should identify the docket number RSPA-98-4034. Persons should submit the original comment document and one (1) copy. Persons wishing to receive confirmation of receipt of their comments must include a self-addressed stamped postcard. The Dockets Facility is located on the plaza level of the Nassif Building in Room 401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC. The Dockets Facility is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on Federal holidays. You may also submit comments to the docket electronically. To do so, log on to the DMS Web at <http://dms.dot.gov>. Click on Help & Information to obtain instructions for filing a document electronically.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Elizabeth Callsen, OPS, (202) 366-4572, regarding the subject matter of this Notice. Contact the Dockets Unit, (202) 366-5046, for docket material. Comments may also be reviewed online at the DOT Docket Management System website at <http://dms.dot.gov/>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

1. Background

In December, 1998, OPS approved NGPL as a participant in the Pipeline Risk Management Demonstration

Program ^{2, 3}. Since approval, as part of its development and application of risk management, NGPL has identified five pipeline segments in its system where it proposes to conduct risk control alternatives to the class location change requirements in 49 CFR § 192.611. These alternative activities have been designed to achieve superior safety and environmental protection along these five segments. This document summarizes OPS's review of these alternatives and evaluates the safety and environmental impacts of this proposed project modification.

2. OPS Evaluation of NGPL's Proposed Alternatives

A Project Review Team (PRT), consisting of representatives from OPS Headquarters, Central Region, and Southwestern Region; representatives of Illinois and Texas pipeline regulatory agencies; and risk management experts evaluated NGPL's proposed Alternatives. The PRT met with NGPL to discuss the current risk assessment and risk control processes NGPL uses, how these processes were used to identify and define the proposed regulatory alternatives, the analysis of the protection achieved by the proposed alternatives compared to the protection 49 CFR 192.611 provides, and proposed performance measures to ensure superior performance is being achieved. The evaluation also included an environmental assessment, which is described in Appendix A of this Notice.

The major review criterion for this evaluation was whether the risk control alternatives NGPL proposed can be expected to produce superior safety, environmental protection, and reliability of service compared to that achieved from compliance with 49 CFR 192.611.

Once OPS and NGPL consider comments received on this Notice, OPS intends to modify NGPL's risk management demonstration project order to allow the alternatives.

3. Statement of Project Goals

The NGPL System transports pressurized natural gas, which is lighter than air and flammable. If released as a result of a pipeline leak or rupture, natural gas can potentially ignite causing fires or explosions. Protection of

² Pipeline Safety: Intent to Approve and Environmental Assessment for the Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America Pipeline Risk Management Demonstration Program [63 *Federal Register* 46497, September 1, 1998].

³ Pipeline Safety: Natural Gas pipeline Company of America; Approved for Pipeline Risk Management Demonstration Program 964 *Federal Register* 1067, January 7, 1999].

¹ In 1998, NGPL was acquired by KN Energy, Inc. In October, 1999, KN Energy merged with Kinder Morgan, Inc. The merged company is named Kinder Morgan, Inc. (KMI). NGPL now operates its pipeline system as a subsidiary of KMI. The scope of the Risk Management Demonstration Project remains limited to the NGPL system.