

assuring that batteries are protected from spontaneous explosion.

- No unplanned physical contact between the vehicle or its components and the payload after payload separation.

- When the mission requires delivery of a spacecraft which itself has a maneuver capability, two alternatives are possible.

1. Leave the upper stage attached for delivery of the spacecraft to orbit to maximize its maneuver capability.

2. Separate the spacecraft at suborbital velocity so that the stage decays naturally and the spacecraft uses its onboard propulsion to establish its orbit.

All launch sites would comply with any permit conditions imposed by regulatory authorities.

Prepared by Michon Washington.

Dated: October 5, 2001.

Recommended by Herb Bachner.

Dated: October 5, 2001.

#### Decision and Order

The more environmentally-friendly propellant combinations alternative is defined as preferentially licensing those vehicles that are not solely propelled by SRMs. The number of launches using liquid, liquid/solid, or hybrid propellant systems was assumed to remain unchanged under this alternative. Thus, the total number of FAA-licensed launches in the U.S. would decrease substantially under this alternative. It was assumed that the decrease in U.S. licensed launches that use only solid propellants would be compensated for by an increase in these types of launches elsewhere in the world.

Because 49 U.S.C. Subtitle IX, ch. 701—Commercial Space Launch Activities, formerly the Commercial Space Launch Act (CSLA) requires launches by U.S. entities to be licensed, the U.S. launch industry would be unable to continue LV launch operations regardless of their location under the no action alternative. Not licensing any U.S. launches would not be consistent with chapter 701 in this context. Under the no action alternative it was assumed that the same number of worldwide commercial launches would take place. However, because the FAA would cease issuing licenses for U.S. launches, the launches would take place using foreign launch providers and locations.

Neither the more environmentally-friendly propellant combinations alternative nor the no action alternative would enable the FAA to fully meet projected demand for increased access to commercial space transportation. The preferred alternative does fulfill the

purpose and need for commercial access to space. In addition, although some environmental effects may be greater under the preferred alternative as compared to the no action or more environmentally-friendly propellant combinations alternative, the impacts are still expected to be less than significant. For the reasons summarized earlier in this Record of Decision and supported by detailed discussion in the PEIS, the FAA has selected the preferred alternative.

The information in this PEIS is not intended to address all site-specific launch issues. Appropriate site-specific environmental documentation would be developed in conjunction with the licensing process. The PEIS is intended to serve as a tiering document to assist launch operators in preparing site-specific documentation.

I have carefully considered the FAA's goals and objectives in relation to the programmatic launch actions discussed in the PEIS, including the purpose and need to be served, the alternative means of achieving them, the environmental impacts of these alternatives at a broad, programmatic level, and the mitigation measures available to preserve and enhance the environment as needed on a site-specific basis. Based upon the record of this proposed Federal action, and under the authority delegated to me by the Administrator of the FAA, I find that the action in this Record of Decision is reasonably supported.

Issued in Washington, DC on: October 5, 2001.

**Patricia G. Smith,**

*Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation.*

[FR Doc. 01-25754 Filed 10-11-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-13-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee Meeting on Air Carrier Operations

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The FAA is issuing this notice to advise the public of a meeting of the Federal Aviation Administration Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee to discuss air carrier operations issues.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on October 25, 2001, at 10 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held in Conference Room 833, Federal Office

Building 10A (the "FAA Building"), 800 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20591.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Linda Williams, Office of Rulemaking, 800 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20591, telephone (202) 267-9685.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, 5 U.S.C. App II), notice is hereby given of a meeting of the Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee on Air Carrier Operations to be held on October 25, 2001.

The agenda will include:

- Airplane Performance Working Group final report.
- Extended Range Operations with Two-Engine Aircraft (ETOPS) Working (ETOPS) Working Group status report.

Attendance is open to the interested public but may be limited by the space available. Members of the public must make arrangements in advance to present oral statements at the meeting or may present written statements to the committee at any time. Arrangements may be made by contacting the person listed under the heading **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Sign and oral interpretation can be made available at the meeting, as well as an assistive listening device, if requested 10 calendar days before the meeting.

If you are in need of assistance or repair a reasonable accommodation for this event, please contact the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Issued in Washington, DC, on October 5, 2001.

**Louis C. Cusimano,**

*Assistant Executive Director for Air Carrier Operations, Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee.*

[FR Doc. 01-25756 Filed 10-11-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-13-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### Research, Engineering and Development (R, E&D) Advisory Committee

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

Pursuant to section 10(A)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463; 5 U.S.C. App. 2), notice is hereby given of a meeting of the FAA

Research, Engineering and Development (R, E&D) Advisory Committee.

*Name:* Research, Engineering & Development Advisory Committee.

*Time and Date:* October 30—9 a.m.—5 p.m., October 31—10 a.m.—5 p.m.

*Place:* Holiday Inn Rosslyn Westpark Hotel, 1900 North Fort Myer Drive, Arlington, Virginia 2209.

*Purpose:* On October 30 from 9 a.m.—5 p.m. and October 31 from 10 a.m.—12 noon the meeting agenda will include receiving guidance from the Committee for FAA's research and development investments in the areas of air traffic services, airports, aircraft safety, security, human factors and environment and energy. A joint session will be held on October 31 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. with NASA's Aerospace Technology Advisory Committee. The planned agenda includes briefings on NASA's Blueprint for Aeronautics, a budget synopsis by both NASA and FAA, and a discussion on issues and activities that impact both groups.

Attendance is open to the interested public but limited to space available. Persons wishing to attend the meeting or obtain information should contact Gloria Dunderman at the Federal Aviation Administration, AAR-200, 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20591 (202) 267-8937.

Members of the public may present a written statement to the Committee at any time.

Issued in Washington, DC, on October 9, 2001.

**Herman A. Rediess,**

*Director, Office of Aviation Research.*

[FR Doc. 01-25757 Filed 10-11-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-13-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Research and Special Programs Administration

[Docket RSPA-98-4957; Notice 30]

#### Submission for OMB Approval and Public Comment Request

**ACTION:** Notice of request to renew an existing information collection.

**SUMMARY:** As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act the Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA) is announcing its intention to request renewal of an existing information collection, Recordkeeping for Liquid Natural Gas Facilities (LNG). This notice requests that LNG operators submit comments to indicate the burden associated with submitting this information. This information collection helps RSPA assess how it can better

collect information and also helps RSPA ensure that LNG facilities are operated in a safe manner.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by December 11, 2001 to be assured of consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should identify the docket number of this notice, RSPA-98-4957. Comments can be mailed to Dockets Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, Plaza 401, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001. You should submit the original and one copy. If you wish to receive confirmation of receipts of your comments you must include a stamped self-addressed postcard. The Dockets Facility is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on Federal holidays. In addition, the public may also submit or review comments by accessing the Docket Management System's homepage at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

*Type of Information Request:* Reinstatement of an information collection.

*Title of Information Collection:* Recordkeeping for Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) Facilities.

*OMB Approval Number:* 2137-0048.

*Frequency:* On occasion.

*Use:* This collection is used by RSPA to ensure that LNG facilities are being operated in a safe manner.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 150.

*Respondents:* LNG facility operators.

*Total Annual Hours Requested:* 18,000 hours.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Marvin Fell, Office of Pipeline Safety, Research and Special Programs Administration, Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590, (202) 366-6205 or by e-mail at [marvin.fell@rspa.dot.gov](mailto:marvin.fell@rspa.dot.gov).

Interested persons are invited to send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including any of the following: (1) The necessity and utility of the proposed information collection for the proper performance of the agency's functions; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology to minimize the information collection burden.

Issued in Washington, DC on October 5, 2001.

**Stacey L. Gerard,**

*Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.*

[FR Doc. 01-25652 Filed 10-11-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-60-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Research and Special Programs Administration

[Docket Number RSPA-98-4957; Notice 31]

#### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

**ACTION:** Request for public comments and OMB approval.

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

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA) is publishing a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing its intention to request a renewal of a currently approved information collection in support of the Office of Pipeline Safety Recordkeeping for Gas Pipeline Operators. This notice requests comments from gas pipeline operators regarding the burden associated with providing recordkeeping information to RSPA. The feedback provided in response to this notice will assist RSPA in assessing how it collects this information and also will ensure that gas pipelines are operated in a safe manner.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by December 11, 2001, to be assured of consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should identify the docket number of this notice, RSPA-98-4957. Comments can be mailed to Dockets Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, Plaza 401, 400 Seventh Street SW, Washington, DC 20590-0001. You should submit the original and one copy. If you wish to receive confirmation of receipt of your comments you must include a stamped self-addressed postcard. The Dockets Facility is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on Federal holidays. In addition, the public may also submit or review comments by accessing the Docket Management System's homepage at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Marvin Fell, Office of Pipeline Safety, Research and Special Programs Administration, Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW Washington, DC 20590, (202) 366-6205, or by e-mail at [marvin.fell@rspa.dot.gov](mailto:marvin.fell@rspa.dot.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* Recordkeeping for Gas Pipeline Operators.

*OMB Number:* 2137-0049.

*Type of Request:* Renewal of a currently approved information collection.