

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Maritime Administration****[Docket Number MARAD 2003 16267]****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 AMETHYST.

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 2003-16267 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 November 6, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Comments should refer to docket number MARAD-2003 16267. 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:

Michael Hokana, U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, MAR-830 Room 7201, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Telephone 202-366-0760.

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

Intended Use: "Sailing Excursions."
Geographic Region: "California".

Dated: October 2, 2003.

By order of the Maritime Administrator.

Joel C. Richard,

Secretary, Maritime Administration.

[FR Doc. 03-25464 Filed 10-7-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-81-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Maritime Administration****[Docket Number MARAD 2003 16268]****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 RUBY.

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 2003-16268 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 November 7, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Comments should refer to docket number MARAD-2003 16268. 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:

Michael Hokana, U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, MAR-830 Room 7201, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Telephone (202) 366-0760.

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

Intended Use: "Term charter, combined with Bluewater sailing and boat handling instruction. The goal is to perpetuate the cruising lifestyle."
Geographic Region: "East Coast of the U.S.A."

Dated: October 2, 2003.

By order of the Maritime Administrator.

Joel C. Richard,

Secretary, Maritime Administration.

[FR Doc. 03-25463 Filed 10-7-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-81-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Research and Special Programs Administration****[Docket No. RSPA-03-16246]****Pipeline Safety: Direct Assessment Workshop****AGENCY:** Office of Pipeline Safety, Research and Special Programs Administration, DOT.**ACTION:** Notice of workshop on direct assessment technology.

SUMMARY: The Research and Special Programs Administration's (RSPA) Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) and the National Association of Pipeline Safety Representatives (NAPSR) will cosponsor a workshop with the pipeline industry trade associations (Interstate Natural Gas Association of America, American Gas Association, NACE International,

and American Public Gas Association) to discuss direct assessment technology. The workshop is intended to provide a forum for the discussion of direct assessment technology as it relates to natural gas pipeline integrity management. RSPA/OPS will gather issues presented at the workshop needing additional clarification or guidance material development.

DATES: Tuesday, November 4th, 2003, from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The public may attend the meeting at the Wyndham Greenspoint North Hotel, 12400 Greenspoint Drive, Houston, Texas 77060, (281) 875-2222, <http://www.wyndhamhouston.com>

Operators of natural gas transmission pipelines are urged to attend. To facilitate meeting planning, advance registration for these meetings is strongly encouraged and can be accomplished online at the following Web site: <http://primis/rspa.dot.gov/meetings>

Members of the public are welcome to attend the workshop. An opportunity will be provided for the public to ask questions or make short statements on the topics under discussion. You may submit written comments by mail or deliver to the Dockets Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590-0001. It is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. You also may submit written comments to the docket electronically. To do so, log onto the following Internet Web address: <http://dms.dot.gov>. Click on "Help & Information" for instructions on how to file a document electronically. All written comments should identify the docket and notice numbers which appear in the heading of this notice. Anyone who would like confirmation of mailed comments must include a self-addressed stamped postcard.

Anyone is able to search the electronic form of all comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the comment, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). You may review DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement in the April 11, 2000, issue of the **Federal Register** (Volume 65, Number 70; Pages 19477-78) or you may visit <http://dms.dot.gov>.

Information on Services for Individuals with Disabilities: For information on facilities or services for individuals with disabilities or to request special assistance at the meeting, contact Juan Carlos Martinez

(tel: 202-366-1933; E-mail: juan.martinez@rspa.dot.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Zach Barrett, (tel: 405-954-5559; E-mail zach.barrett@rspa.dot.gov), regarding the subject matter of this notice. Additional information about gas integrity management can be found at <http://primis.rspa.dot.gov/gasimp/index.htm>. You can read comments and other material in the docket on the Internet at: <http://dms.dot.gov>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Direct Assessment is an integrity assessment method that utilizes a process to evaluate certain threats to pipeline integrity. It consists of a combination of pipeline corrosion assessment techniques and data integration. The Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002 required RSPA/OPS to issue regulations, not later than December 17, 2003, prescribing standards for an operator's conduct of risk analysis and adoption and implementation of an integrity management program and for defining direct assessment. RSPA/OPS issued a notice of proposed rulemaking on January 28, 2003, proposing regulations to require a gas transmission operator to conduct a risk analysis and adopt an integrity management program. As part of the required integrity management program, each operator of a gas transmission pipeline facility must conduct a baseline integrity assessment. RSPA/OPS defines direct assessment as a primary assessment technique for any transmission pipelines or as a supplement to other assessment techniques. Although the application of corrosion assessment techniques such as Close-Interval or Direct Current Voltage Gradient surveys have been in place for some time, their integration with other information in a structured process to identify integrity concerns is a new industry practice for many pipeline operators. NACE International has published Standard RPO502-2002 "Pipeline External Corrosion Direct Assessment Methodology," providing a recommended practice for external corrosion direct assessment. NACE International is also developing standards for internal corrosion and stress corrosion cracking direct assessment methodologies. The adoption of these standards into the pipeline safety regulations is being considered by RSPA/OPS. RSPA/OPS and NAPS recently participated in several direct assessment demonstration programs sponsored by the industry to further knowledge and discussions regarding the implementation of direct

assessment methodologies for integrity management.

RSPA/OPS is co-sponsoring this public workshop with NAPS and the industry trade associations to solicit comments on improving and understanding direct assessment technology as it relates to the proposed gas integrity management regulation.

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 60102, 60109, 60117.

Issued in Washington, DC, on October 1, 2003.

Stacey L. Gerard,

Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.

[FR Doc. 03-25420 Filed 10-7-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-60-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Research and Special Programs Administration

Notice of Meeting

AGENCY: Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice; Pipeline Safety: Final Project Review Meeting.

SUMMARY: RSPA's Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) and the Gas Technology Institute (GTI), Des Plaines, IL, have funded a research program to study parameters pertinent to the application of the magnetic flux leakage (MFL) and Nonlinear Harmonics (NLH) technologies to in-line inspection of pipelines. This research was managed by GTI and performed by the Battelle Memorial Institute, Columbus, Ohio (Battelle) and the Southwest Research Institute, San Antonio, Texas, (SwRI).

RSPA/OPS and GTI invite pipeline industry, in-line inspection vendors, pipeline trade association representatives, and the public to a project review meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to present a final report on the progress and findings of the research. The meeting is open to all and no registration is required. The presentations at the meeting will include an overview of the project, a technical review, and the results of technology transfer.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 28, 2003, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in conference room 4438-40 at U.S. Department of Transportation, 400-7th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. All non-federal personnel must enter the building through the Southwest entrance at 7th and E Streets, SW., and must present a photo-ID to receive a temporary building pass.