

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION****Maritime Administration****[Docket No. MARAD-2012-0113]****Requested Administrative Waiver of the Coastwise Trade Laws: Vessel AQUADISIAC; Invitation for Public Comments****AGENCY:** Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation.**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** As authorized by 46 U.S.C. 12121, 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.

**DATES:** Submit comments on or before January 23, 2013.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should refer to docket number MARAD-2012-0113. Written comments may be submitted by hand or by mail to the Docket Clerk, U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M-30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590. You may also send comments electronically via the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov>. 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://www.regulations.gov>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Linda Williams, U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Room W23-453, Washington, DC 20590. Telephone 202-366-0903, Email [Linda.Williams@dot.gov](mailto:Linda.Williams@dot.gov).

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

*Intended Commercial Use of Vessel:* "Private Charters, passengers only."

*Geographic Region:* Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, California, Oregon, Washington, and

Alaska (excluding waters in Southeastern Alaska and waters north of a line between Gore Point to Cape Suckling [including the North Gulf Coast and Prince William Sound]).

The complete application is given in DOT docket MARAD-2012-0113 at <http://www.regulations.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 46 U.S.C. 12121 and MARAD's regulations at 46 CFR Part 388, 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.

**Privacy Act**

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 **Federal Register** published on April 11, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 70; Pages 19477-78).

Dated: December 18, 2012.

By Order of the Maritime Administrator.

**Julie P. Agarwal,**

*Secretary, Maritime Administration.*

[FR Doc. 2012-30931 Filed 12-21-12; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-81-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION****Surface Transportation Board****[Docket No. EP 290 (Sub-No. 5) (2013-1)]****Quarterly Rail Cost Adjustment Factor****AGENCY:** Surface Transportation Board, DOT.**ACTION:** Approval of rail cost adjustment factor.

**SUMMARY:** The Board has approved the AAR's proposed rebasing calculations and the rebased first quarter 2013 rail cost adjustment factor (RCAF) and cost index filed by the Association of American Railroads. A new base level for the index is calculated in the Board's decision, as the statute requires be done every five years. The first quarter 2013

RCAF (Unadjusted) is 0.997. The first quarter 2013 RCAF (Adjusted) is 0.435. The first quarter 2013 RCAF-5 is 0.411.

**DATES:** *Effective Date:* January 1, 2013.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Pedro Ramirez, (202) 245-0333. Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) for the hearing impaired: (800) 877-8339.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

Additional information is contained in the Board's decision, which is available on our Web site, <http://www.stb.dot.gov>. Copies of the decision may be purchased by contacting the Office of Public Assistance, Governmental Affairs, and Compliance at (202) 245-0238. Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through FIRS at (800) 877-8339.

This action will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or energy conservation.

Decided: December 19, 2012.

By the Board, Chairman Elliott, Vice Chairman Mulvey, and Commissioner Begeman.

**Derrick A. Gardner,**

*Clearance Clerk.*

[FR Doc. 2012-31024 Filed 12-21-12; 4:15 pm]

**BILLING CODE 4915-01-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS****Increase in Maximum Tuition and Fee Amounts Payable under the Post-9/11 GI Bill****AGENCY:** Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The purpose of this notice is to inform the public of the increase in the Post-9/11 GI Bill maximum tuition and fee amounts payable and the increase in the amount used to determine an individual's entitlement charge for reimbursement of a licensing, certification, or national test for the 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 academic years.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Tiffany N. Jones, Management and Program Analyst (225C), Education Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Ave. NW., Washington, DC 20420, (202) 461-9837.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** For the 2011-2012 academic year, the Post-9/11 GI Bill allowed VA to pay the actual net cost of tuition and fees not to exceed the in-State amounts for students pursuing training at public schools; \$17,500 for students training at private and foreign

schools; \$10,000 for students training at flight schools; and \$8,500 for students training at correspondence schools. Additionally, the entitlement charge for individuals in receipt of reimbursement for taking a licensing, certification, or national test was one month (rounded to the nearest whole month) for each \$1,460.00 received.

Sections 3313, 3315, and 3315A of title 38, United States Code (U.S.C.), direct VA to increase the maximum tuition and fee and entitlement charge amounts each academic year (beginning August 1) based on the most recent increase determined under title 38 U.S.C. 3015(h). Increases determined under 38 U.S.C. 3015(h) are effective October 1 of each calendar year. As such, the increase determined under 38 U.S.C. 3015(h), which was effective October 1 of the previous calendar year, will be the most recent increase in rates at the beginning of each academic year.

#### 2012–2013 Academic Year Maximum Tuition and Fee Amounts

As of August 1, 2012 (beginning of the 2012–2013 academic year), the most recent increase determined under 38 U.S.C. 3015(h) was a 3.3 percent increase, which was effective October 1, 2011. VA calculated the maximum tuition and fee and entitlement charge amounts listed below for training pursued under the Post-9/11 GI Bill that begins after July 31, 2012, and before August 1, 2013, using the 3.3 percent increase.

#### 2012–2013 ACADEMIC YEAR

Type of school	Actual net cost of tuition and fees not to exceed
<b>Post-9/11 GI Bill Maximum Tuition and Fee Amounts</b>	
Public .....	In-State/Resident Charges.
Private/Foreign .....	\$18,077.50.
Vocational Flight .....	\$10,330.00.
Correspondence .....	\$8,780.50.
<b>Post 9/11 Entitlement Charge Amount for Tests</b>	
Licensing and Certification Tests.	VA will charge one month entitlement (rounded to the nearest whole month) for each \$1,508.18 received.
National Tests .....	

#### 2013–2014 Academic Year Maximum Tuition and Fee Amounts

As of August 1, 2013 (beginning of the 2013–2014 academic year), the 6.2

percent increase determined under 38 U.S.C. 3015(h), which was effective October 1, 2012, will be the most recent increase. VA calculated the maximum tuition and fee and entitlement charge amounts listed below for training pursued under the Post-9/11 GI Bill that begins after July 31, 2013, and before August 1, 2014, using the 6.2 percent increase.

#### 2013–2014 ACADEMIC YEAR

Type of school	Actual net cost of tuition and fees not to exceed
<b>Post-9/11 GI Bill Maximum Tuition and Fee Amounts</b>	
Public .....	In-State/Resident Charges.
Private/Foreign .....	\$19,198.31.
Vocational Flight .....	\$10,970.46.
Correspondence .....	\$9,324.89.
<b>Post 9/11 Entitlement Charge Amount for Tests</b>	
Licensing and Certification Tests.	VA will charge one month entitlement (rounded to the nearest whole month) for each \$1,601.69 received.
National Tests .....	

Approved: December 18, 2012.

**John R. Gingrich,**

*Chief of Staff, Department of Veterans Affairs.*

[FR Doc. 2012–30945 Filed 12–21–12; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8320–01–P**

#### DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

##### National Academic Affiliations Council, Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2, that a meeting of the National Academic Affiliations Council (NAAC) will be held on January 10–11, 2013, in the Office of Academic Affiliations Conference Room 870, 1800 G Street NW., Washington, DC. The sessions will begin at 8:00 a.m. each day and adjourn at 5:00 p.m. on January 10 and at 1:00 p.m. on January 11.

The purpose of the Council is to advise the Secretary on matters affecting partnerships between VA and its academic affiliates.

On January 10, the Council will review the status of recommendations from its previous meetings; receive a report from the NAAC Joint Venture Task Force; hear from Veterans Health

Administration (VHA) officials; and engage in discussions about mental health service enhancements and implications for mental health education. On January 11, the Council will hear from officials of the VHA Office of Research and Development and continue its discussion of opportunities and challenges in academic affiliation relationships. The Council will receive public comments at 12:30 p.m.

A sign-in sheet for those who want to give comments will be available at the meeting. Individuals who speak are invited to submit a 1–2 page summary of their comments at the time of the meeting for inclusion in the official meeting record. Oral presentations will be limited to five minutes or less, depending on the number of participants. Interested parties may also provide written comments for review by the Council to Gloria J. Holland, Ph.D., Special Assistant for Policy and Planning, Office of Academic Affiliations (10A2D), VA, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420 or by email to [Gloria.Holland@va.gov](mailto:Gloria.Holland@va.gov). Any member of the public wishing to attend or seeking additional information should contact Dr. Holland by email or by phone at (202) 461–9490.

Dated: December 18, 2012.

By Direction of the Secretary.

**Vivian Drake,**

*Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2012–30864 Filed 12–21–12; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE P**

#### DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

##### Presumption of Exposure to Herbicides for Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Not Supported

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** On May 20, 2011, at the request of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the Institute of Medicine (IOM) of the National Academy of Sciences issued a report titled, “Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans and Agent Orange Exposure.” The IOM reviewed a wide range of data sources including peer-reviewed literature, exposure and transport modeling, interviews with veterans, ship deck logs, and other government documents, and concluded that there is insufficient evidence to determine whether Blue Water Navy Veterans were exposed to Agent Orange-associated herbicides during the Vietnam War. After careful review of the IOM report, the Secretary determines that the evidence available