

alternator has a continuous capacity 1250 amps, and a 15 minute rating of 1700 amps at a maximum voltage rating of 1250 direct current. The power unit is self contained encompassing all the accessories necessary for a locomotive. The power units also contain a hydraulic driven 2-stage air compressor which provides air for the air brake system and train air for the balloon suspension system of the bogies.

3R request for a waiver from 49 CFR Part 231 and 232 is for the lack of safety appliances and handholds on the bogies, rear counter weight, or semi-trailers in the train. The cab control unit has an automatic front coupler and some safety appliances. Some handholds are applied to the power units. The semi-trailers are connected to the bogies by use of kingpins and fifth wheels commonly found in highway tractor/semi-trailer service. The cab control unit, power units and bogies have no hand brakes per se, but are equipped with a spring loaded parking brake.

The 3R rail system has not been used in the United States. A consist of a cab control unit, a power unit, three containers on chassis (semi-trailers), one dead weight unit, and sufficient bogies to assemble the train was tested by the Association of American Railroads (AAR) at the Transportation Technology Center (TTC) in Pueblo, Colorado, from December 1994 to April 1995. The train was tested according to the specifications of Chapter XI, of the AAR's M-1001, *Manual of Standards and Recommended Practices*. The 3R train performed within Chapter XI performance standards, and indicate the likelihood of safe car performance.

3R's objective in the United States is to allow short line operators to benefit from their value added road/rail transportation system, by transporting on rail, the freight that would be destined to an alternate and less desirable mode of transportation. When the waiver petition was submitted by 3R, two United States short line railroads had shown a strong interest in its road/rail system. Rail America, one of the short lines, would like to operate two road/rail convoys of six power units each with sixty containers. The equipment will operate at approximately 45 mph and haul domestic waste in 82,500 pound containers from inner-city points to suburban waste dumps.

Interested parties are invited to participate in this proceeding by submitting written views, data, or comments. FRA does not anticipate scheduling a public hearing in connection with this proceeding since

the facts do not appear to warrant a hearing. If any interested party desires an opportunity for oral comment, they should notify FRA, in writing, before the end of the comment period and specify the basis for their request.

All communications concerning these proceedings should identify the appropriate docket number (e.g., Waiver Petition Docket Number LI-96-1) and must be submitted in triplicate to the Docket Clerk, Office of Chief Counsel, Federal Railroad Administration, Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590.

Communications received within 45 days of the date of publication of this notice will be considered before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered as far as practicable. All written communications concerning these proceedings are available for examination during regular business hours (9 a.m.-5 p.m.) in Room 8201, Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590.

Issued in Washington, D.C. on July 2, 1996.
Phil Olekszyk,

Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Compliance and Program Implementation.

[FR Doc. 96-17455 Filed 7-8-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-06-P

Petition for Waivers of Compliance

In accordance with 49 CFR Sections 211.9 and 211.41, notice is hereby given that the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has received from the De Queen & Eastern Railroad Company, Texas, Oklahoma & Eastern Railroad Company a request for a waiver of compliance with certain requirements of Federal regulations. The petition is described below, including the regulatory provisions involved, the nature of the relief being requested and the petitioner's arguments in favor of relief.

De Queen & Eastern Railroad Company
Texas, Oklahoma & Eastern Railroad Company

[Docket Number SA-96-4]

The De Queen & Eastern Railroad Company; Texas, Oklahoma & Eastern Railroad Company (DQE-TOE) seeks a waiver of compliance from certain sections of 49 CFR Part 231, Railroad Safety Appliance Standards. The DQE-TOE is requesting a permanent waiver of the provisions of 49 CFR Part 231 which requires end ladders. The DQE-TOE wish to remove the end ladders on the subject cars.

The DQE-TOE has 300 high side open top cars for hauling wood chips. Two

hundred of these cars are end dump cars, in that the ends when unlocked swing upwards permitting easier unloading of the wood chips.

49 CFR 231.1(e)(3) requires one ". . . [ladder] on each side, not more than 8 inches from left side of car ". . ."

The DQE-TOE states that the end ladder ladders serve no useful purpose and are costly to maintain. The end doors are opened by machinery and are constantly being damaged.

The DQE-TOE operates freight service from Perkins, Arkansas to Valliant, Oklahoma, a distance of eighty-six miles one way. Two trains are operated daily for the movement of approximately thirty (30) cars of wood chips in each train.

The DQE-TOE further state that company policy prohibits employees from using these ladders and that the removal of the end ladders would not have an adverse effect on safety.

Interested parties are invited to participate in these proceedings by submitting written views, data, or comments. FRA does not anticipate scheduling a public hearing in connection with these proceedings since the facts do not appear to warrant a hearing. If any interested party desires an opportunity for oral comment, they should notify FRA, in writing, before the end of the comment period and specify the basis for their request.

All communications concerning these proceedings should identify the appropriate docket number (e.g., Waiver Petition Docket Number SA-96-4) and must be submitted in triplicate to the Docket Clerk, Chief Counsel, Federal Railroad Administration, Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590.

Communications received before August 19, 1996, will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered as far as practicable. All written communications concerning these proceedings are available for examination during regular business hours (9 a.m.—5 p.m.) in Room 8201, Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590.

Issued in Washington, D.C. on July 2, 1996.
Phil Olekszyk,

Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Compliance and Program Implementation.

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BILLING CODE 4910-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Veterans' Claims Adjudication Commission; Notice of Public Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), in accordance with Public Law 92-463, gives notice that the Veterans' Claims Adjudication Commission will conduct its eighth public meeting on Tuesday, July 16, and Wednesday, July 17, 1996, at the Department of Veterans Affairs Central Office, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Room 230, Washington, DC. The Commission will meet from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on both days.

This public meeting will focus mainly on discussion and consideration of proposed findings, conclusions, and recommendations, which have originated from the Commission's new areas of pursuit.

On July 16, the Commission will begin to discuss and consider proposed findings, conclusions, and recommendations generated from new areas of pursuit including:

- *Strategic Management Planning*—Setting strategic goals and embracing the accelerated development and integrated strategic management process;
- *Adjudication and Appeals Issues*—Redesigning the adjudication and appeals process to make it more functional, fair, and efficient;
- *Disability Compensation Advisory Committee*—Establishing an Advisory Committee which reports to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs regarding disability compensation issues;
- *Annual Report on VA's Disability Compensation Program*—Developing an annual report which provides comprehensive information to be used in the long-term management of the program; and
- *Medical Examinations*—Assessing the military separation examination test to effect changes that will benefit servicemembers and veterans.

At the end of the day, the Commission will receive an update from the Veterans Benefits Administration's Business Process Reengineering (BPR) Team.

On Wednesday, July 17, the Commission will continue to discuss and consider proposed findings, conclusions, and recommendations from new areas of pursuit including:

- *VA Disability Compensation and Commercial Disability Insurance Comparisons*—Consideration of program and administrative practices of commercial insurers for possible adoption or adaptation by VA;

- *Lump Sum Compensation Benefits at Lower Disability Levels*—Revising the payment system to "free-up" time and resources so that the needs of more severely disabled veterans could be better served;
- *VA Pension Program/Supplemental Security Income Program Relationship*—Determining the relationship between the VA Pension Program and the Supplemental Security Income Program;
- *VA Pension Reform*—Reform and streamline the Pension Program to reduce the confusion and burden on the veteran and VA;
- *Claims Intake Issues*—Simplifying the application form and claims filing procedures, in addition to developing cooperative strategies with Veterans Service Organizations to encourage the submission of fully supported claims; and
- *Other Relevant Issues*—Issues on which the Commission will not take a formal position/make a formal recommendation, such as the lack of closure for VA compensation claims, and reevaluating the purpose of the rating schedule.

The meeting is open to the public; however, no time is allocated for the purpose of receiving oral presentations from the public. The Commission will accept appropriate written comments from interested parties on the subject matter addressed during the meeting. Such comments may be referred to the Commission at the following address: Veterans' Claims Adjudication Commission (20C), U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20420.

Additional information concerning this meeting may be obtained by contacting the Commission at (202) 275-2142.

Dated: June 26, 1996.

By Direction of the Secretary.

Heyward Bannister,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 96-17365 Filed 7-8-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-M

Advisory Committee on the Readjustment of Vietnam and Other War Veterans, Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under Pub. L. 92-463 that a meeting of the Advisory Committee on the Readjustment of Vietnam and Other War Veterans will be held July 25 and 26, 1996. This meeting will be a field meeting conducted primarily at VA facilities in Tacoma and Seattle, Washington. The Committee

will also visit the Colville, Lumni and Tulalip Indian Reservations in eastern and central Washington to review the availability of services for area rural and minority veterans. The purpose of the meeting is to provide the Committee a first hand opportunity to review the provision and coordination of VA services for war-related post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other readjustment difficulties specific to war veterans. For this purpose the Committee will tour facilities, and engage in discussions with VA service providers and veteran consumers.

The meeting on July 25 will begin at 8: a.m. and conclude at 5 p.m. The day's agenda will be conducted concurrently at two different locations. Specifically the Committee will visit the American Lake VA Medical Center and the Tacoma Vet Center. The day's agenda will consist of direct observations of VA readjustment counseling and mental health services with particular attention to the PTSD Clinical Team at the American Lake VA Medical Center. An additional focus for the meeting is continuity of care and clinical follow-up between area VA medical centers and Vet Centers. A separate Committee group will visit the Colville Indian Reservation in Nespelem, Washington to review available services and meet with area veterans.

The meeting on July 26 will begin at 8 a.m. and conclude at 4 p.m. The second day's agenda will also be conducted concurrently at two different locations. The regular agenda will consist of a continuation of direct observations of VA programs and facilities at the Seattle VA Medical Center and Vet Center. Concurrently a separate Committee subgroup will be visiting with local veterans at the Lumni and Tulalip Indian Reservations in Bellingham and Marysville, Washington. In addition to the regular agenda the Committee will conduct a local community forum meeting and group discussion with VA and non-VA officials and service providers, and local veteran representatives regarding the post-war readjustment and service needs of area war veterans. The meeting will be conducted from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Seattle Vet Center, 2230 Eighth Avenue, Seattle, Washington 98121.

The meeting will be closed from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Thursday, July 25, and from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday, July 26, in accordance with the provisions cited in 5 U.S.C. 522b(c)(6) pursuant to subsection 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. During this portion of the meeting the Committee will be engaging in discussions with VA clinical service providers and veteran