

DATES: The application period will be from late December 1999 to late February 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sally Murrell, (202) 205-6673 or Mina Wales (202) 205-7080.

Sherrye P. Henry,

Assistant Administrator, SBA/Office of Women's Business Ownership.

[FR Doc. 99-32690 Filed 12-16-99; 8:45 am]

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SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Federal Assistance for Women's Business Centers (WBC) Sustainability Pilot Program To Provide Financial Counseling and Other Technical Assistance to Women

AGENCY: Small Business Administration.

ACTION: Program Announcement No. OWBO-2000-014.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) plans to issue program announcement No. OWBO-2000-014 to invite applications from eligible nonprofit organizations to conduct Women's Business Center (WBC) projects. Eligible applicants are nonprofit organizations that have received financial assistance from SBA under its WBC Program. To be eligible the applicant must be either in the final year of its WBC 5-year project or have completed a WBC project financed by SBA which continues to provide assistance to women entrepreneurs. Funds will be provided to continue business training, counseling and technical assistance to women for an additional 5-year period. The authorizing legislation to establish this 4-year pilot program is the Women's Business Center Sustainability Act and the Small Business Act, sections 2 (h) and 29, 15 U.S.C. 631 (h) and 656. SBA Headquarters must receive applications/proposals by 4:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, on the closing date of the application period. SBA will select successful applicants using a competitive process. Applications will be reviewed and awarded simultaneously with other applications for first-time WBCs submitted under Program Announcement No. OWBO-2000-013.

Service and assistance areas must include financial, management, marketing, loan packaging, eCommerce and government procurement/certification assistance. Applicants must plan to include women who are socially and economically disadvantaged in the target group. The applicant may propose specialized services that will assist

women in Empowerment Zones, women who are veterans, women with disabilities, women with home-based businesses, women in agribusiness, or women in rural or urban areas.

SBA will require award recipients to provide content and support to the SBA-funded Online Women's Business Center, (www.onlinewbc.org) and provide training on the business uses of the Internet. Applicants' technical proposal must contain information about its current status and past performance, and a 5-year plan for service delivery, fund-raising, training and technical assistance activities. A center may receive financial assistance up to four years during the pilot's authorization period, however, the award will be issued annually to conduct a 12-month project.

The non-Federal match requirement is one non-Federal dollar for each Federal dollar in years 1 through 5 of the project. Up to one-half of the non-Federal matching funds may be in the form of in-kind contributions.

DATES: The application period will be from late December 1999 to late February 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Sally Murrell, (202) 205-6673 or Mina Wales (202) 205-7080.

Sherrye P. Henry,

Assistant Administrator, SBA/Office of Women's Business Ownership.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

Approval of Noise Compatibility Program Amendment, Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport, Baton Rouge, LA

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) announces its findings on the amendment to the noise compatibility program submitted by the city of Baton Rouge, Louisiana under the provisions of Title 49, USC, Chapter 475 and CFR Part 150. These findings are made in recognition of the description of Federal and nonfederal responsibilities in Senate Report No. 96-52 (1980). On March 31, 1992, the FAA determined that the noise exposure maps submitted by the city of Baton Rouge, Louisiana under Part 150 were in compliance with applicable requirements. On September 22, 1992, the Administrator approved the noise

compatibility program. On December 1, 1999, an amendment to the program was approved.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The effective date of the FAA's approval of the amendment to the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport noise compatibility program is December 1, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mike Saupp, Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration, 2601 Meacham Boulevard, Fort Worth, Texas, 76137, (817) 222-5645. Documents reflecting this FAA action may be reviewed at this same location.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice announces that the FAA has given its overall approval to the amendment to the noise compatibility program for Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport, effective December 1, 1999.

Under Title 49 USC, Section 47504 (Hereinafter referred to as "Title 49"), an airport operator who has previously submitted a noise exposure map may submit to the FAA a noise compatibility program which sets forth the measures taken or proposed by the airport operator for the reduction of existing noncompatible land uses within the area covered by the noise exposure maps. Title 49 requires such programs to be developed in consultation with interested and affected parties including local communities, government agencies, airport users, and FAA personnel.

Each airport noise compatibility program developed in accordance with Federal Aviation Regulations (FAR) Part 150 is a local program, not a Federal Program. The FAA does not substitute its judgment for that of the airport proprietor with respect to which measures should be recommended for action. The FAA's approval or disapproval of FAR Part 150 program recommendations is measured according to the standards expressed in part 150 and Title 49 and is limited to the following determinations:

a. The noise compatibility program was developed in accordance with the provisions and procedures of FAR Part 150;

b. Program measures are reasonably consistent with achieving the goals of reducing existing noncompatible land uses around the airport and preventing the introduction of additional noncompatible land uses;

c. Program measures would not create an undue burden on interstate or foreign commerce, unjustly discriminate against types or classes of aeronautical uses, violate the terms of airport grant agreements, or intrude into areas

preempted by the Federal Government; and

d. Program measures relating to the use of flight procedures can be implemented within the period covered by the program without derogating safety, adversely affecting the efficient use and management of the navigable airspace and air traffic control systems, or adversely affecting other powers and responsibilities of the Administrator prescribed by law.

Specific limitations with respect to FAA's approval of an airport noise compatibility program are delineated in FAR Part 150, section 150.5. Approval is not a determination concerning the acceptability of land uses under Federal, state, or local law. Approval does not by itself constitute an FAA implementing action. A request for Federal action or approval to implement specific noise compatibility measures may be required, and an FAA decision on the request may require an environmental assessment of the proposed action. Approval does not constitute a commitment by the FAA to financially assist in the implementation of the program nor a determination that all measures covered by the program are eligible for grant-in-aid funding from the FAA. Where Federal funding is sought, requests for project grants must be submitted to the FAA Airports Division Office in Fort Worth, Texas.

On June 10, 1999, the FAA accepted from the city of Baton Rouge, Louisiana a proposed amendment to the previously approved noise compatibility plan. Notice of this acceptance was published in the **Federal Register** on June 17, 1999.

The amendment to the noise compatibility program adds an action element to purchase a noise navigation easement on certain noise-impacted properties from willing property owners. It was requested that the FAA evaluate and approve this material as an amendment noise compatibility program as described in Title 49. The FAA began its review of the program on June 10, 1999, and was required by a provision of the Act to approve or disapprove the program amendment within 180 days. Failure to approve or disapprove such a program amendment within the 180-day period shall be deemed to be an approval of such program.

The submitted program amendment contained one proposed action for noise mitigation off the airport. The FAA completed its review and determined that the procedural and substantive requirements of Title 49 and FAR Part 150 have been satisfied. The amendment to the program, therefore,

was approved by the Administrator effective December 1, 1999.

This determination is set forth in detail in a Record of Approval endorsed by the Administrator on December 1, 1999. The Record of Approval, as well as other evaluation materials and the documents comprising the submittal, are available at the FAA office listed above and at the administrative offices of the city of Baton Rouge, Louisiana's Aviation Department.

Issued in Fort Worth, Texas, December 7, 1999.

Naomi L. Saunders,

Manager, Airports Division.

[FR Doc. 99-32776 Filed 12-16-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

RTCA Special Committee 195; Flight Information Services Communications (FISC)

Pursuant to section 10(a) (2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, 5 U.S.C., Appendix 2), notice is hereby given for Special Committee (SC)-195 meeting to be held January 5-6, 2000, starting at 8:30 a.m. each day. The meeting will be held at Allied Signal, 23500 West 105th Street, Olathe, Kansas.

The agenda will include: January 5: (1) Welcome and Introductions; (2) Agenda Overview; (3) Review of Summary of Previous Meeting; (4) Report from Working Group 1 on activities; (5) Review FIS-B MASPS Section 4.0, Procedures for Performance Requirements Verification, Development; (6) Review FIS-B MASPS Section 3.2.1, FIS Broadcast Network Interface and Appendix D, APDU Header Format; January 6: (7) Work on FIS-B MASPS Appendix E, Application Payload Encoding; (8) Review Action Items; (9) Date and Location of Next Meeting; (10) Other Business; (11) Closing.

Attendance is open to the interested public but limited to space availability. With the approval of the chairman, members of the public may present oral statements at the meeting.

Persons wishing to present statements or obtain information should contact the RTCA Secretariat, 1140 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 1020, Washington, DC, 20036; (202) 833-9339 (phone); (202) 833-9434 (fax); or <http://www.rtca.org> (web site). Members of the public may present a written statement to the committee at any time.

Issued in Washington, DC, on December 1, 1999.

Janice L. Peters,

Designated Official.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket No. RSAC-96-1, Notice No. 19]

Railroad Safety Advisory Committee ("RSAC"); Working Group Activity Update

AGENCY: Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Announcement of Railroad Safety Advisory Committee (RSAC) working group activities.

SUMMARY: FRA is updating its announcement of RSAC's working group activities to reflect the current status of working group activities.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Vicky McCully, RSAC Coordinator, FRA, 400 7th Street, SW Washington, DC 20590, (202) 493-6305 or Grady Cothen, Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Standards Program Development, FRA, 400 7th Street, SW, Stop 25, Washington, DC 20590, (202) 493-6302.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice serves to update FRA's last announcement of working group activities and status reports on April 6, 1999 (64 FR 16778). The twelfth full Committee meeting was held September 8, 1999. The next meeting of the full Committee is scheduled for January 28, 1999, at the Wyndham Hotel in Washington, DC.

Since its first meeting in April of 1996, the RSAC has accepted fifteen tasks. Status for each of the tasks is provided below:

Task 96-1—Revising the Freight Power Brake Regulations. This Task was formally withdrawn from the RSAC on June 24, 1997. FRA published an NPRM on September 9, 1998, reflective of what FRA had learned through the collaborative process. Two public hearings were conducted and a technical conference was held. The date for submission of written comments was extended to March 1, 1999. FRA is preparing a final rule. Contact: Thomas Hermann (202) 493-6036.

Task 96-2—Reviewing and recommending revisions to the Track Safety Standards (49 CFR Part 213). This task was accepted April 2, 1996, and a Working Group was established.