

SUMMARY: This notice announces actions taken by FHWA and other Federal agencies that are final within the meaning of 23 U.S.C. 139(l)(1). The actions relate to a proposed highway project, State Route (SR) 126 (Memorial Boulevard) Improvements, from East Center Street to Interstate 81 (I-81) in Sullivan County, Tennessee. Those actions grant licenses, permits, and approvals for the project.

DATES: By this notice, FHWA is advising the public of final agency actions subject to 23 U.S.C. 139(l)(1). A claim seeking judicial review of the Federal agency actions on the highway project will be barred unless the claim is filed on or before December 10, 2015. If the Federal law that authorizes judicial review of a claim provides a time period of less than 150 days for filing such claim, then that shorter time period still applies.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For FHWA: Ms. Theresa Claxton; Planning and Program Management Team Leader; Federal Highway Administration; Tennessee Division Office; 404 BNA Drive, Building 200, Suite 508; Nashville, Tennessee 37217; Telephone (615) 781-5770; email: Theresa.Claxton@dot.gov. FHWA Tennessee Division Office's normal business hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Central Time). You may also contact Mr. Jim Ozment, Environmental Division Director; Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT); James K. Polk Building, Suite 900; 505 Deaderick Street; Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0334; Telephone (615) 741-3655, Jim.Ozment@tn.gov. TDOT Environmental Division's normal business hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Central Time).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given that FHWA and other Federal agencies have taken final agency actions by issuing licenses, permits, and approvals for the following highway project in the State of Tennessee: SR 126 (Memorial Boulevard) Improvements, Project Number STP-126(10), Sullivan County, Tennessee. The proposed action will improve 8.4 miles of SR 126 (Memorial Boulevard), from East Center Street, within the City of Kingsport's city limits, east to I-81 in Sullivan County, Tennessee. The Selected Alternative (Alternative B Modified) proposes four travel lanes from East Center Street to Harbor Chapel Road, three travel lanes from Harbor Chapel Road to Old Stage Road, and two travel lanes from Old Stage Road to I-81. Portions of the corridor include (1) an additional eastbound travel lane to accommodate trucks ascending the

steep grade; (2) a continuous, left-turn lane; and (3) a compressed roadway cross-section width to minimize impacts to a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) listed resource. The actions by the Federal agencies, and the laws under which such actions were taken, are described in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the project, approved on November 19, 2014; in the FHWA Record of Decision (ROD) issued on April 8, 2015, and in other documents in the FHWA administrative record. The FEIS, ROD, and other documents in the FHWA administrative record file are available by contacting the FHWA or TDOT at the addresses provided above. The FHWA FEIS and ROD can be viewed and downloaded from the project Web site at <http://www.tdot.state.tn.us/sr126/>, or viewed at the TDOT—Environmental Division; James K. Polk Building, Suite 900; 505 Deaderick Street; Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0334.

This notice does not apply to the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineering (USACE) permitting processes for this project, because no TVA or USACE permits have been issued for the project to date. This notice applies to all Federal agency decisions as of the issuance date of this notice and all laws under which such actions were taken, including but not limited to:

1. General: National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) [42 U.S.C. 4321-4351]; Federal-Aid Highway Act [23 U.S.C. 109, 23 U.S.C. 128, and 23 U.S.C. 139].
2. Air: Clean Air Act [42 U.S.C. 7401-7671(q) and 23 U.S.C. 109(j)].
3. Land: Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966 [23 U.S.C. 138 and 49 U.S.C. 303].
4. Wildlife: Endangered Species Act [16 U.S.C. 1531-1544 and Section 1536]; Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act [16 U.S.C. 661-667(d)]; Migratory Bird Treaty Act [16 U.S.C. 703-712].
5. Historic and Cultural Resources: Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended [16 U.S.C. 470(f) *et seq.*].
6. Social and Economic: Civil Rights Act of 1964 [42 U.S.C. 2000(d)-2000(d)(1)]; Uniform Relocation and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 [42 U.S.C. 4601-4655]; Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) [7 U.S.C. 4201-4209].
7. Wetlands and Water Resources: Clean Water Act (Section 404, Section 401, and Section 319) [33 U.S.C. 1251-1376].
8. Hazardous Materials: Comprehensive Environmental

Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) [42 U.S.C. 9601-9675].

9. Executive Orders: E.O. 11990 Protection of Wetlands; E.O. 11988 Floodplain Management; E.O. 13112 Invasive Species; E.O. 12898 Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low Income Populations; E.O. 13175 Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments; E.O. 13166 Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP); E.O. 11514 Protection and Enhancement of Environmental Quality.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation on Federal programs and activities apply to this program.)

Authority: 23 U.S.C. 139(l)(1)

Issued on: July 6, 2015.

Sabrina David,

Assistant Division Administrator, Nashville, Tennessee.

[FR Doc. 2015-17028 Filed 7-10-15; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

[Docket No. FMCSA-2015-0197]

Hours of Service of Drivers: R&R Transportation Group; Application for Exemption

AGENCY: Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of application for exemption; request for comments.

SUMMARY: FMCSA announces that it has received an application from the R&R Transportation Group (R&R) for an exemption from the minimum 30-minute rest break requirement of the Agency's hours-of-service (HOS) regulations for commercial motor vehicle (CMV) drivers. The exemption would be available to R&R's drivers engaged in the transportation of materials that by their nature must be attended, such as radioactive materials, pharmaceuticals, and ammunition. The exemption would provide qualified drivers the same regulatory flexibility that the HOS regulations allow drivers transporting explosives, *i.e.* to use 30 minutes or more of attendance time to meet the HOS rest break requirements, provided they do not perform any other work during the break. FMCSA requests

public comment on R&R's application for exemption.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before August 12, 2015.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments bearing the Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) Docket ID FMCSA–2015–0197 using any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to www.regulations.gov. Follow the on-line instructions for submitting comments.
- *Mail:* Docket Management Facility; U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, Washington, DC 20590–0001.
- *Hand Delivery or Courier:* West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., ET, Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays.
- *Fax:* 1–202–493–2251.

Each submission must include the Agency name and the docket number for this notice. Note that DOT posts all comments received without change to www.regulations.gov, including any personal information included in a comment. Please see the *Privacy Act* heading below.

Docket: For access to the docket to read background documents or comments, go to www.regulations.gov at any time or visit Room W12–140 on the ground level of the West Building, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., ET, Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The online FDMS is available 24 hours each day, 365 days each year. If you want acknowledgment that we received your comments, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope or postcard or print the acknowledgment page that appears after submitting comments on-line.

Privacy Act: In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 553(c), DOT solicits comments from the public to better inform its rulemaking process. DOT posts these comments, without edit, including any personal information the commenter provides, to www.regulations.gov, as described in the system of records notice (DOT/ALL–14 FDMS), which can be reviewed at www.dot.gov/privacy.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Robert Schultz, Driver and Carrier Operations Division; Office of Carrier, Driver and Vehicle Safety Standards, FMCSA; Telephone: 202–366–4325. Email: MCPSD@dot.gov. If you have questions on viewing or submitting material to the docket, contact Docket Services, telephone (202) 366–9826.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

FMCSA has authority under 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315 to grant exemptions from certain parts of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations. FMCSA must publish a notice of each exemption request in the **Federal Register** (49 CFR 381.315(a)). The Agency must provide the public an opportunity to inspect the information relevant to the application, including any safety analyses that have been conducted. The Agency must also provide an opportunity for public comment on the request.

The Agency reviews safety analyses and public comments submitted, and determines whether granting the exemption would likely achieve a level of safety equivalent to, or greater than, the level that would be achieved by the current regulation (49 CFR 381.305). The decision of the Agency must be published in the **Federal Register** (49 CFR 381.315(b)) with the reasons for denying or granting the application and, if granted, the name of the person or class of persons receiving the exemption, and the regulatory provision from which the exemption is granted. The notice must also specify the effective period and explain the terms and conditions of the exemption. The exemption may be renewed (49 CFR 381.300(b)), but only after the public is provided the opportunity to comment on the renewal.

On December 27, 2011 (76 FR 81133), FMCSA published a final rule amending the HOS regulations (49 CFR part 395) for drivers of CMVs. The final rule included a new provision requiring certain drivers to take a rest break during their duty day. Specifically, the rule states that “driving is not permitted if more than 8 hours have passed since the end of the driver’s last off-duty or sleeper-berth period of at least 30 minutes” [49 CFR 395.3(a)(3)(ii)]. This provision took effect on July 1, 2013.

Under the HOS rules, a driver is on duty if he or she is “performing any other work in the capacity, employ, or service of a motor carrier” (§ 395.2). A driver is off duty when relieved of all duty and responsibility for the care and custody of the vehicle, its accessories, and any cargo it may be carrying. However, the Agency has recognized that under certain circumstances it is unsafe for CMVs to be left unattended so that the driver can take 30 minutes off duty. By regulation, FMCSA allows operators of CMVs transporting certain explosives to satisfy the rest-break requirement by using 30 minutes or more of attendance time providing they perform no other work during the break [49 CFR 395.1(q)]. Drivers employing

this provision are required to annotate their duty-status record to indicate that they have used the exception.

The Agency has granted requests for exemption from the 30-minute break requirement to drivers transporting security-sensitive radioactive materials (78 FR 32700, May 31, 2013) and weapons, munitions, and sensitive/classified cargo (80 FR 20556, April 16, 2015). FMCSA has extended § 49 CFR 395.1(q) to these drivers under certain terms and conditions.

Request for Exemption

R&R operates three for-hire motor carriers that transport property in interstate commerce: R & R Trucking, Inc., USDOT 382936; TNI USA Inc. NC dba AATCO, USDOT 513601, and NEI Transport, LLC, USDOT 676270. R&R’s application for exemption states that the goods it transports are of such a nature or value that its drivers must keep the CMV under constant observation to prevent theft or an adverse security incident. The application provides examples of the goods transported by R&R CMVs: weapons, ammunition, night-vision goggles, pharmaceuticals, and radioactive material. R&R maintains constant attendance of such loads in order to protect the public from a major security or hazardous material event. R&R states that Federal contracts often require CMV drivers to maintain constant surveillance of the vehicle, and may require the driver of an escort CMV to maintain constant surveillance as well. In addition, R&R states that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security may require surveillance as part of a security alert posted in the National Terrorism Advisory System, and that some Federal agencies, in response to a threat, establish a security threat zone, or geo-fence, restricting or barring further movement of an R&R CMV.

R&R requests an exemption from the HOS regulation pertaining to rest breaks [49 CFR 395.3(a)(3)(ii)] to allow R&R drivers providing surveillance services to be treated the same as CMV drivers attending explosives under § 395.1(q). R&R believes that transportation under the requested exemption would achieve a level of safety and security that is at least equivalent to what would be obtained by following the normal break requirements in § 395.3(a)(3)(ii). R&R states that if the exemption were granted, it would restrict its drivers of such CMVs from performing any other on-duty functions while satisfying the 30-minute break requirement. R&R states that it will require its drivers to record their rest breaks as on-duty time in accordance with § 395.1(q), and to annotate such entries to indicate the

specific on-duty periods used to satisfy the rest-break requirement. R&R states that the Department of Defense provides documentation to CMV drivers to alert roadside inspectors of surveillance requirements.

R&R indicates that its three entities operate 255 power units and that 290 drivers would be covered by the exemption. The proposed exemption would be effective for 2 years, the maximum period allowed by § 381.300.

The processing of R&R's exemption request had been held in abeyance until it could be determined whether another exemption request [American Trucking Associations, Inc. (ATA), announced May 1, 2015 (80 FR 25004)] would make the R&R exemption unnecessary if approved. As requested, the ATA exemption was limited to transporters of certain hazardous materials and did not include some of the materials that R&R has requested to be covered by the exemption. Thus, R&R's request is now being considered independent of other requests.

Request for Comments

In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315(b)(4), FMCSA requests public comment on R&R's application for an exemption from certain provisions of 49 CFR part 395. The Agency will consider all comments received by close of business on August 12, 2015. Comments will be available for examination in the docket at the location listed under the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice. The Agency will consider to the extent practicable comments received in the public docket after the closing date of the comment period.

Issued on: July 7, 2015.

Larry W. Minor,

Associate Administrator for Policy.

[FR Doc. 2015-17019 Filed 7-10-15; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

[Docket No. FMCSA-2015-0053]

Qualification of Drivers; Exemption Applications; Vision

AGENCY: Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of applications for exemptions; request for comments.

SUMMARY: FMCSA announces receipt of applications from 27 individuals for exemption from the vision requirement in the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations. They are unable to meet

the vision requirement in one eye for various reasons. The exemptions will enable these individuals to operate commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) in interstate commerce without meeting the prescribed vision requirement in one eye. If granted, the exemptions would enable these individuals to qualify as drivers of commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) in interstate commerce.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before August 12, 2015. All comments will be investigated by FMCSA. The exemptions will be issued the day after the comment period closes.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments bearing the Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) Docket No. FMCSA-2015-0053 using any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the on-line instructions for submitting comments.
- *Mail:* Docket Management Facility; U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, Washington, DC 20590-0001.
- *Hand Delivery:* West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays.
- *Fax:* 1-202-493-2251.

Instructions: Each submission must include the Agency name and the docket numbers for this notice. Note that all comments received will be posted without change to <http://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information provided. Please see the Privacy Act heading below for further information.

Docket: For access to the docket to read background documents or comments, go to <http://www.regulations.gov> at any time or Room W12-140 on the ground level of the West Building, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The FDMS is available 24 hours each day, 365 days each year. If you want acknowledgment that we received your comments, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope or postcard or print the acknowledgement page that appears after submitting comments on-line.

Privacy Act: In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 553(c), DOT solicits comments from the public to better inform its rulemaking process. DOT posts these comments, without edit, including any personal information the commenter

provides, to www.regulations.gov, as described in the system of records notice (DOT/ALL-14 FDMS), which can be reviewed at www.dot.gov/privacy.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Charles A. Horan, III, Director, Carrier, Driver and Vehicle Safety Standards, (202) 366-4001, fmcsamedical@dot.gov, FMCSA, Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Room W64-224, Washington, DC 20590-0001. Office hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. If you have questions regarding viewing or submitting material to the docket, contact Docket Services, telephone (202) 366-9826.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Under 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315, FMCSA may grant an exemption from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations for a 2-year period if it finds "such exemption would likely achieve a level of safety that is equivalent to or greater than the level that would be achieved absent such exemption." FMCSA can renew exemptions at the end of each 2-year period. The 27 individuals listed in this notice have each requested such an exemption from the vision requirement in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(10), which applies to drivers of CMVs in interstate commerce. Accordingly, the Agency will evaluate the qualifications of each applicant to determine whether granting an exemption will achieve the required level of safety mandated by statute.

II. Qualifications of Applicants

Joel D. Barchard

Mr. Barchard, 48, has had esotropia with amblyopia in his right eye since birth. The visual acuity in his right eye is 20/150, and in his left eye, 20/20. Following an examination in 2015, his optometrist stated, "I believe that he has sufficient vision to perform the driving tasks required to operate a commercial vehicle at this time."

Mr. Barchard reported that he has driven tractor-trailer combinations for 13 years, accumulating 650,000 miles. He holds a Class A CDL from Massachusetts. His driving record for the last 3 years shows no crashes and no convictions for moving violations in a CMV.

Homer L. Butler

Mr. Butler, 65, has had strabismic amblyopia in his left eye since childhood. The visual acuity in his right eye is 20/20, and in his left eye, 20/400. Following an examination in 2014, his optometrist stated, "With his glasses,