

agreements for an additional thirty days, from October 22 to November 21, 2002.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Thomas Ray, Office of the General Counsel, 400 Seventh St. SW., Washington, DC 20590, (202) 366-4731.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Delta, Northwest, and Continental submitted code-sharing and frequent-flyer program reciprocity agreements to us for review under 49 U.S.C. 41720 on August 23, more than thirty days before the airlines planned to implement these agreements. Under that statute we may extend the waiting period by 150 days for code-sharing agreements and by sixty days for other types of agreements. We have already extended the waiting period for these agreements once by thirty days. 67 FR 59328 (September 20, 2002).

We have been informally reviewing the agreements submitted by Delta, Continental, and Northwest. We are considering the comments submitted by interested parties, the three airlines' agreements, and other information in our possession, and we have been consulting with the Justice Department, which is responsible for enforcing the antitrust laws in the airline industry. Several carriers recently jointly asked the Department to extend the waiting period for the code-share agreement for the full 150-day period permitted by law and grant their request for a more extensive production of evidence from Delta, Continental, and Northwest. That request, received in writing late in the day on October 15, 2002, was made by Air Tran Airways, America West Airlines, Frontier Airlines, JetBlue Airways, Midwest Express Airlines, Southwest Airlines, and Spirit Airlines.

We have again determined that we need more time for our analysis of the issues presented by the Delta/Continental/Northwest joint venture agreements. Those issues are important and require careful consideration. We have therefore determined to extend the waiting period by another thirty days, from October 22 to November 21. We took similar action on the United/US Airways joint venture agreements. 67 FR 59328 (September 20, 2002). We will also consider the joint request made by several carriers to further extend the waiting period for the proposed code-share agreement and for additional evidence and will deal with it separately.

We intend to complete our review as promptly as possible, so that the three airlines will know our views on whether and under what terms they may go forward with the agreements.

Issued in Washington, DC on October 18, 2002.

**Read C. Van de Water,**

*Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Coast Guard

[USCG-2000-7514]

#### National Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (PREP)

**AGENCY:** Coast Guard, DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability and notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Coast Guard, Research and Special Programs Administration, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and Mineral Management Service, in concert with representatives from various State governments, industry, environmental interest groups, and the general public, developed the *National Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (PREP) Guidelines* to reflect the consensus agreement of the entire oil spill response community. This notice announces the availability of the revised 2002 PREP Guidelines and announces the participating agencies' intent to hold a public meeting in November 2002.

**DATES:** A public meeting will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on November 7, 2002, in Galveston, Texas.

**ADDRESSES:** The Docket Management Facility maintains the public docket for this notice. Comments and materials received from the public and the 2002 PREP Guidelines are part of this docket and are available for inspection or copying at room PL-401 on the Plaza level of the Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. You may also find this docket on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

The 2002 PREP Guidelines also can be found on the following Web site: <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/nsfcc/nsfweb/>. Hard copies of the PREP Guidelines are available at no cost by writing or faxing the *PREP Coordinator* at Commandant (G-MOR), 2100 Second Street SW., Washington, DC 20593-0001, fax: 202-267-4065. Please indicate the quantity when ordering. Quantities are limited to 10 per order.

The public meeting will be held in Galveston, Texas, at the Moody Gardens Convention Center, One Hope Blvd., Galveston, Texas, 77554.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For questions on this notice and general information regarding PREP Guidelines and the schedule, contact Mr. Robert Pond, Office of Response, Plans and Preparedness Division (G-MOR-2), Coast Guard Headquarters, 2100 Second Street SW., Washington, DC 20593-0001, telephone: 202-267-6603, fax: 202-267-4065, or e-mail: [rpond@comdt.uscg.mil](mailto:rpond@comdt.uscg.mil). If you have questions on viewing material in the docket, call Ms. Dorothy Beard, Chief, Dockets, Department of Transportation, telephone: 202-366-5149.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background and Purpose

In 1994, the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), and the Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA) of the Department of Transportation, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), and the Minerals Management Service (MMS) of the Department of Interior, coordinated the development of the PREP Guidelines. Through a series of public workshops involving representatives from many State governments, the regulated community, environmental interest groups, and the general public, the National Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (PREP) Guidelines were crafted to reflect the consensus agreement of the entire oil spill response community regarding an appropriate exercise program, including exercise types, frequency, scope, and objectives.

For their part, the USCG, RSPA, U.S. EPA, and MMS agreed that an industry entity may use the PREP Guidelines as one means of complying with the pollution response exercise requirements in 33 U.S.C. 1321(j). (For USCG rules, see 33 CFR part 154, subpart F (Response Plans for Oil Facilities) and 33 CFR part 155, subpart D (Response Plans); for RSPA rules, see 49 CFR part 194 (Response Plans for Onshore Oil Pipelines); for U.S. EPA rules, see 40 CFR part 112, subpart D (Response Requirements); and for MMS rules, see 30 CFR part 254 (Oil-Spill Response Requirements for Facilities Located Seaward of the Coast Line).)

Since 1994, USCG, RSPA, U.S. EPA, and MMS have hosted public workshops in 1995 (60 FR 19804, April 20, 1995), 1997 (62 FR 36864, July 9, 1997), and 2000 (65 FR 40160, June 29, 2000) to review the PREP Guidelines and consider need for changes. The first two workshops produced recommendations to preserve the 1994 PREP Guidelines without amendment. Based on comments from the 2000 workshop, the USCG, RSPA, U.S. EPA, and MMS recommended amending the

PREP Guidelines to clarify or alter certain exercise parameters and standards.

### Key Changes and Clarifications to PREP Guidelines

Several key changes have been made to the PREP Guidelines. The 2002 PREP Guidelines clarify the exercise parameters found in the 1994 version and do not increase or decrease the scope or scale of individual exercises or of the overall program. One exception is the potential frequency for government initiated unannounced exercises, which changes the number of exercises for U.S. EPA regulated facilities from four per year per planning area to no more than 10 percent of such facilities per year.

There also were some minor changes made to individual agency sections and the appendices, with the majority of changes being made to Section 2 "Guiding Principles."

Section 2 changes included the following:

- The subsection "Equipment Deployment Exercises" was revised to include greater specificity of equipment types to be deployed, along with a more detailed description of the regional Oil Spill Removal Organizations concept. The revision also included encouragement to exercise "systems" rather than individual pieces of equipment, and to use equipment deployment exercises to test the effectiveness of response planning strategies.

- The subsection "Spill Management Team Exercises" was revised to clarify criteria for allowing multiple planholders to take credit for a single spill management team exercise.

- The subsection "Area Exercises" was revised to clarify the scope of an exercise including minimum spill size, a requirement to include industry-funded equipment deployment, and to reiterate that the goal is to exercise the entire response community with the unified command framework.

- The section "Government Initiated Unannounced Exercises" was revised to clarify exercise expectations. Among the 2002 revisions are the expectations of satisfactory performance by planholders and to advise them of the change in the number of potential exercises in an EPA region (up to 10 percent of planholders).

### Approach to Revision of PREP Guidelines

On June 29, 2000, we published a notice in the **Federal Register** (65 FR 40160) requesting comments on the 1994 PREP Guidelines and announcing a public workshop to address current concerns with the PREP Guidelines.

On August 29, 2000, in Washington, DC, the Coast Guard held a public workshop. Based on the comments, the National Schedule Coordination Committee (NSCC)—comprised of representatives from the Coast Guard, RSPA, U.S. EPA, and MMS—proposed changes to the 1994 PREP Guidelines.

On April 13, 2001, we published a notice of availability and request for comment in the **Federal Register** (66 FR 19282) seeking comments on the proposed changes to the PREP Guidelines.

On August 7, 2001, we published an extension of comment period notice in the **Federal Register** (66 FR 41293) extending the comment period due to a delay in the availability of the proposed changes to the PREP Guidelines.

On March 13, 2002, we published a notice of availability and request for comments in the **Federal Register** (67 FR 11368). This notice advised the public of the proposed final changes to the 2002 PREP Guidelines that have been revised based on a review of the comments made in response to the initial changes proposed in April 2001.

### Availability of Document

The 2002 PREP Guidelines are available electronically in this docket or from the sources indicated in **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

### Public Meeting

The USCG, in conjunction with RSPA, U.S. EPA, and MMS, will hold a public meeting to discuss the 2002 PREP Guidelines on the following date and at the following location: Galveston, Texas, November 7, 2002, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Moody Gardens Convention Center, One Hope Blvd., Galveston, Texas, 77554.

The meeting may conclude before the allotted time if all matters of discussion have been addressed.

Dated: October 16, 2002.

**Paul J. Pluta,**

*Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard, Assistant Commandant for Marine Safety, Security and Environmental Protection.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Research and Special Programs Administration

### International Standards on the Transport of Dangerous Goods; Public Meeting

**AGENCY:** Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA), Department of Transportation.

**ACTION:** Notice of public meetings.

**SUMMARY:** This notice is to advise interested persons that RSPA will conduct public meetings in preparation for and to report the results of the twenty-second session of the United Nation's Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (UNSCOE) to be held December 2-6, 2002 in Geneva, Switzerland.

**DATES:** November 20, 2002, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Room 6244-6248. December 18, 2002, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Room 6244-6248.

**ADDRESSES:** Both meetings will be held at DOT Headquarters, Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC 20590.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Bob Richard, International Standards Coordinator, or Duane Pfund, Assistant International Standards Coordinator, Office of Hazardous Materials Safety, Department of Transportation, Washington, DC 20590; (202) 366-0656.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The primary purpose of the first meeting will be to prepare for the twenty-second session of the UNSCOE and to discuss draft U.S. positions on UNSCOE proposals. The primary purpose of the second meeting will be to provide a briefing on the outcome of the UNSCOE session. Topics to be covered during the public meetings include (1) Requirements for the transport of solids in bulk containers including portable tanks, (2) Harmonized requirements for compressed gas cylinders, (3) Classification of individual substances, (4) Requirements for packagings used to transport hazardous materials including a U.S. proposal to require a repetitive shock test, (5) Requirements for infectious substances and clinical waste, (6) Security of dangerous goods in transport. The public is invited to attend without prior notification. Due to the heightened security measures participants are encouraged to arrive early to allow time for security checks necessary to obtain access to the building.

### Documents

Copies of documents for the UNSCOE meeting and the meeting agenda may be obtained by downloading them from the United Nations Transport Division Web site at: <http://www.unece.org/trans/main/dgdb/dgsubc/c32002.html>. This site may also be accessed through RSPA's Hazardous Materials Safety Homepage at <http://hazmat.dot.gov/instandards.htm>. RSPA's site provides additional information regarding the UNSCOE and related matters such as a