

relevant state and regional authorities. The panel was established in 1992 to advise the U.S. Section of the NPAFC on research needs and priorities for anadromous species, such as salmon, and ecologically related species occurring in the high seas of the North Pacific Ocean. The upcoming Panel meeting will focus on a review of the agenda for the 2016 annual meeting of the NPAFC (May 16–20, 2016; Busan, Republic of Korea). Background material is available from the point of contact noted above and by visiting www.npafc.org.

Dated: March 22, 2016.

William Gibbons-Fly,

*Director, Office of Marine Conservation,
Department of State.*

[FR Doc. 2016-07178 Filed 3-29-16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-09-P

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

[STB Docket No. EP 670 (Sub-No. 1)]

Notice of Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board.

ACTION: Notice of Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee meeting.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of a meeting of the Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee (RETAC), pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), 5 U.S.C. app. 2 10(a)(2).

DATES: The meeting will be held on Friday, April 15, 2016, at 9:00 a.m. C.D.T.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the BNSF Railway Corporate Headquarters at 2650 Lou Menk Drive, Fort Worth, Texas 76131-2830. Members of the public who wish to attend are encouraged to contact Katherine Bourdon (see contact information below) in advance to avoid delays in security processing on the day of the meeting.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Katherine Bourdon (202) 245-0285; Katherine.Bourdon@stb.dot.gov.

[Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at: (800) 877-8339.]

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: RETAC was formed in 2007 to provide advice and guidance to the Board, and to serve as a forum for discussion of emerging issues related to the transportation of energy resources by rail, including coal, ethanol, and other biofuels,

Establishment of a Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee, Docket No. EP 670. The purpose of this meeting is to continue discussions regarding issues such as rail performance, capacity constraints, infrastructure planning and development, and effective coordination among suppliers, carriers, and users of energy resources. Potential agenda items for this meeting include a performance measures review, industry segment updates by RETAC members, and a roundtable discussion.

The meeting, which is open to the public, will be conducted in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. app. 2; Federal Advisory Committee Management regulations, 41 CFR pt. 102-3; RETAC's charter; and Board procedures. Further communications about this meeting may be announced through the Board's Web site at WWW.STB.DOT.GOV.

Written Comments: Members of the public may submit written comments to RETAC at any time. Comments should be addressed to RETAC, c/o Katherine Bourdon, Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street SW., Washington, DC 20423-0001 or Katherine.Bourdon@stb.dot.gov.

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 1321, 49 U.S.C. 11101; 49 U.S.C. 11121.

Decided: March 24, 2016.

By the Board, Joseph H. Dettmar, Acting Director, Office of Proceedings.

Brendetta S. Jones,

Clearance Clerk.

[FR Doc. 2016-07122 Filed 3-29-16; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

[Docket No. FAA-2015-2836]

Guidance on the Procedures and Process To Petition the Secretary Under the Airport and Airway Improvement Act

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of final policy.

SUMMARY: This final policy establishes the procedures and processes to petition the Secretary under the Airport and Airway Improvement Act 49 U.S.C. 47106(c)(1)(A)(ii). The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) issued guidance on the procedures and process to petition the Secretary under 49 U.S.C. 47106(c)(1)(A)(ii) in the **Federal Register** on August 4, 2015. This guidance is intended to provide detail

and clarity about who may petition the Secretary, when such a petition may be filed, how the petition may be made, and the procedures and process to petition the Secretary under this Section of the Airport and Airway Improvement Act.

DATES: *Effective Date:* The Guidance becomes effective immediately upon publication in the **Federal Register**.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: By **Federal Register** Notice issued on August 4, 2015 (80 FR 46380), the FAA notified the public of the issuance for public comment of proposed Guidance on the Procedures and Process to Petition the Secretary under the Airports and Airway Improvement Act. FAA requested comments, suggestions and recommendations that would assist the agency in assessing and understanding the potential effects and implications of providing guidance on the procedures for and process of the right to petition the Secretary under 49 U.S.C. Section 47106(c)(1)(A)(ii). The Notice called for public comments to be received by FAA on or before October 5, 2015. No comments were received by that date. Other than editorial changes and one minor clarification, this final Guidance is identical to the proposed guidance.

I. Background

In 1982, Congress enacted the Airport and Airway Improvement Act (AAIA) (Pub. L. 97-248). Relevant portions of the AAIA are codified in 49 U.S.C. Chapter 471, Subchapter I, Airport Improvement. The AAIA, among other items, established the current-day Airport Improvement Program (AIP) that is administered by the FAA's Office of Airports. Through the AIP, the FAA provides grants to public agencies—and, in limited cases, to private airport owners and operators—for the planning and development of public-use airports that are included in the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS). The current AIP program built on earlier grant programs that are funded through a variety of user fees and fuel taxes. For more information on the history of the AIP and predecessor grant programs, see <http://www.faa.gov/airports/aip/>.

The AAIA also provides certain prerequisites and conditions that an airport sponsor must meet in order to be eligible for consideration of AIP funding. In 1992, Congress amended various provisions of the AAIA with the Airport and Airway Safety, Capacity, Noise Improvement, and Intermodal Transportation Act, Public Law 102-581. Section 113(b), Public Access and Participation with Respect to Airport