DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket No. FRA–2017–0001]

Establishment of an Emergency Relief Docket for Calendar Year 2017

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

ACTION: Notice of establishment of public docket.

SUMMARY: This Notice announces the establishment of FRA’s emergency relief docket (ERD) for calendar year 2017. The designated ERD for calendar year 2017 is Docket Number FRA–2017–0001.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On May 19, 2009, FRA published a direct final rule establishing ERDs and the procedures for handling petitions for emergency waivers of safety rules, regulations, or standards during an emergency situation or event. 74 FR 23329. The direct final rule became effective on July 20, 2009, and made minor modifications to 49 CFR 211.45. Section 211.45(b) provides that each calendar year FRA will establish an ERD in the publicly accessible FRA docket system (available at http://www.regulations.gov). Section 211.45(b) further provides that FRA will publish a notice in the Federal Register identifying by docket number the ERD for that year. FRA established the ERD and emergency waiver procedures to provide an expedited process for FRA to address the needs of the public and the railroad industry during emergency situations or events. This Notice announces the designated ERD for calendar year 2017 is Docket Number FRA–2017–0001.

As detailed in Section 211.45, if the FRA Administrator determines an emergency event as defined in 49 CFR 211.45(a) has occurred, or that an imminent threat of such an emergency occurring exists, and public safety would benefit from providing the railroad industry with operational relief, the emergency waiver procedures of 49 CFR 211.45 will go into effect. In such an event, the FRA Administrator will issue a statement in the ERD indicating the emergency waiver procedures are in effect and FRA will make every effort to post the statement on its Web site at http://www.fra.dot.gov. Any party desiring relief from FRA regulatory requirements as a result of the emergency should submit a petition for emergency waiver under 49 CFR 211.45(e) and (f). Specific instructions for filing petitions for emergency waivers under 49 CFR 211.45 are found at 49 CFR 211.45(f).

Anyone can search the electronic form of any written communications and comments received regarding any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the document, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 553(c), DOT solicits comments from the public to better inform its processes. 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 https://www.transportation.gov/privacy. See also https://www.regulations.gov/privacyNotice for the privacy notice of regulations.gov.

Robert C. Lauby, Associate Administrator for Railroad Safety, Chief Safety Officer.

Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket Number FRA–2002–11896]

Petition for Waiver of Compliance

In accordance with part 211 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), this document provides the public notice that by a document dated December 5, 2016, Norfolk Southern Corporation (NS) has petitioned the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) for a waiver of compliance from certain provisions of the Federal railroad safety regulations contained at 49 CFR part 231. FRA assigned the petition Docket Number FRA–2002–11896.

In its petition, NS requested that the FRA extend its existing waiver of compliance from certain provisions of 49 CFR part 231 for an additional 5 years, permitting NS’s Triple Crown Service to continue to operate RoadRailer® trains.

A copy of the petition, as well as any written communications concerning the petition, is available for review online at www.regulations.gov and in person at the U.S. Department of Transportation’s (DOT) Docket Operations Facility, 1200 New Jersey Ave, SE, W12–140, Washington, DC 20590. The Docket...