Currently, these vehicles are being used in Tier I Service’ and the proposed CRASHWORTHINESS AND OCCUPANT PROTECTION PERFORMANCE Of ALTERNATIVELY-DESIGNED PASSENGER RAIL EQUIPMENT FOR USE IN ‘TIER I SERVICE’ and the proposed Appendix G to 49 CFR part 238.’ Currently, these vehicles are being delivered and tested at the TEXR maintenance facility. Specifically, TEXR seeks relief from certain requirements for end-frame compression and other procedures as presented in their petition.

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 Operations Facility is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays.

Interested parties are invited to participate in these proceedings by submitting written views, data, or comments. FRA does not anticipate scheduling a public hearing in connection with these proceedings since the facts do not appear to warrant a hearing. If any interested party desires an opportunity for oral comment and a public hearing, they should notify FRA, in writing, before the end of the comment period and specify the basis for their request.

All communications concerning these proceedings should identify the appropriate docket number and may be submitted by any of the following methods:

• Website: http://www.regulations.gov. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
• Fax: 202–493–2251.
• Mail: Docket Operations Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Room W12–140, Washington, DC 20590.
• Hand Delivery: 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Room W12–140, Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays.

Communications received by July 20, 2018 will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered as far as practicable.

Anyone can search the electronic form of any written communications and comments received into 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.). Under 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.regulations.gov/privacy. See also https://www.transportation.gov/privacyNotice for the privacy notice of regulations.gov.

Issued in Washington, DC.

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

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Federal Railroad Administration
[Docket Number FRA–2018–0049]

Petition for Waiver of Compliance

Under part 211 of Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), this document provides the public notice that on May 29, 2018, BNSF Railway (BNSF) petitioned the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) for a waiver of compliance from certain provisions of the Federal railroad safety regulations contained at 49 CFR 232.213, 232.15, and 232.103(f). In addition, BNSF requests an exemption from the requirements of Title 49, United States Code (U.S.C.), section 20303, which prohibits the movement of a rail vehicle with defective or insecure equipment beyond the nearest available place at which the repairs can be made. See 49 U.S.C. 20306. FRA assigned the petition Docket Number FRA–2018–0049.

Specifically, BNSF petitions FRA to conduct a pilot program on a segment of their system to “demonstrate that the use of wheel temperature detectors (WTD) to prove brake health effectiveness (BHE) will improve safety, reduce risks to employees, and provide cost savings to the industry.” Currently, the effectiveness of railroad brake systems is verified by Class I initial terminal and Class IA intermediate brake tests. BNSF proposes to supplement these visual inspections with a WTD, a device designed to directly measure the rise in wheel temperatures because of a brake application. BNSF asserts that such a measure of performance is objective, quantifiable, and independent of conditions that can impair a visual inspection; such as weather, lighting, human fatigue, or human error.

BNSF states that a monitoring system using WTD data as an alternative to the intermediate brake inspections is expected to substantially improve the reliability of brake inspections, reduce on-line setouts, and increase faulty part replacement, to improve the safety performance of brake systems overall. BNSF plans to use pyrometer sensors, a technology also used for hot wheel...