

Dated: February 29, 1980.
James W. Pulliam,
Acting Director, Fish and Wildlife Service.
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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Research and Special Programs Administration

49 CFR Parts 173 and 177

Highway Routing of Radioactive Materials; Public Hearings

AGENCY: Materials Transportation Bureau (MTB), Research and Special Programs Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of public hearings.

SUMMARY: This Notice announces one-day hearings, to be held in five locations, to consider the proposals published in the Federal Register on January 31, 1980 (Docket HM-164; Notice 80-1, 45 FR 7140) concerning the highway routing of radioactive materials.

DATES: The hearings are scheduled as follows:

1. March 26, 1980, 9:30 a.m., to 5 p.m. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
2. April 3, 1980, 9:30 a.m., to 5 p.m. Chicago, Illinois
3. April 8, 1980, 9:30 a.m., to 5 p.m. Atlanta, Georgia
4. April 15, 1980, 9:30 a.m., to 5 p.m. Denver, Colorado
5. April 18, 1980, 9:30 a.m., to 5 p.m. Seattle, Washington

ADDRESSES: The hearings will be held at the following locations:

1. March 26, 1980—Ramada Inn (Meadows Ballroom, Section A & B), 76 Industrial Highway, Essington, PA. 19029
2. April 3, 1980—O'Hare Ramada Inn (Penthouse Ballroom, 9th Floor), 6600 Mannheim Road, Des Plaines, Ill., 60018
3. April 8, 1980—Ramada Inn Central (Georgian Ballroom), I-85 at Monroe Drive, Atlanta, GA 30324
4. April 15, 1980—Main Post Office Bldg. (2nd Floor Auditorium, Room 269), 1823 Stout Street, Denver, CO. 80202
5. April 18, 1980—Federal office Bldg. (4th Floor Auditorium), 915 Second Avenue, Seattle, WA. 98174

Any person wishing to present an oral statement at a hearing should notify the Dockets Branch in writing at least five days in advance of the hearing date. Written copies of oral statements should be presented to the hearing officer prior to the oral presentation. Written requests for time to make an oral

presentation should be addressed to Dockets Branch, Materials Transportation Bureau, U.S. Department of Transportation, Washington, D.C. 20590. Each request must state: (1) the identity of the speaker, (2) the length of the presentation (not to exceed 10 minutes), (3) organization(s) the speaker represents, and (4) a mailing address and a daytime telephone number through which the speaker may be contacted.

Failure to provide this information may result in delayed acknowledgement of the requests. A copy of Docket HM-164 may be obtained by calling or writing the Dockets Branch, or may be reviewed in Room 8426, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays, (202) 426-3148.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marilyn E. Morris, Office of Hazardous Materials Regulation, Materials Transportation Bureau, Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590 (202) 426-2075.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: These hearings are intended to provide an opportunity for persons affected by or otherwise interested in highway transportation of radioactive materials to present views in an oral statement. The hearings will be informal rather than judicial or evidentiary in nature, and there will be no cross-examination of persons presenting statements. Each statement will be limited to 10 minutes, and time to speak should be requested in writing five days in advance of the hearing date. Written requests for time to speak should be sent to the Dockets Branch at the address shown above. Requests will be acknowledged. It is requested that written copies of each statement be presented to the hearing officer when the oral statement is made.

The proposed rules concern routes used by motor vehicles required to be placarded Radioactive, particularly vehicles carrying large quantity radioactive materials. The proposal also would affect public availability of information concerning such routes, driver training, and State and local regulation of highway carriers. A copy of the proposed rules and the explanatory preamble is available from the Dockets Branch.

Alan I. Roberts,
Associated Director for Hazardous Materials Regulation Materials Transportation Bureau.

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NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

49 CFR Part 840

Notification of Railroad Accidents; Proposed Amendment

AGENCY: National Transportation Safety Board.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The purpose of the proposed rule is to amend the rule on notification of railroad accidents by establishing a 2-hour time limit for notification of accidents, by clarifying the criteria for damage estimates, and by requiring notification of all passenger train accidents.

DATE: Interested parties are invited to submit written comments on or before April 29, 1980.

ADDRESS: Comments should be sent in triplicate to the General Counsel, National Transportation Safety Board, 800 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20594. Late filed comments will be considered to the extent practicable.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Elmer Garner, Chief, Railroad Accident Division, 800 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20594. (202-472-6091).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Currently, § 840.3(a) provides for notification of specified railroad accidents at the earliest practical moment after their occurrence. The railroads, in complying with this rule, report accidents to the Board by (toll-free) telephone to 800-424-0201, as prescribed by § 840.3(c). The Board intends to retain this one-call system for the convenience of the railroads. However, railroads or rapid transit systems have delayed the reporting of accidents from 8 hours to as much as several days. This may have resulted from waiting for a more concise estimate of the damages, or channeling the reporting process through a central office, or the failure of a railroad employee to properly comply with the reporting requirements. In such instances the lack of prompt notification has unduly delayed the Board's investigations. To correct this problem, the Board proposes to add a requirement in § 840.3(a) that notification shall be no later than 2 hours after the accident occurs.

In § 840.3(a)(2), notification is required of accidents resulting in damage, based