SUMMARY: Executive Order 12770 ''Metric Usage in Federal Government Programs'', dated July 25, 1991, requires that Federal agencies use metric measures in their business related activities as a means to implement the metric system of measurement as the preferred system of weights and measures for the United States. This Order designates the Department of Commerce as lead agency in the metrication process.

The Department of Commerce's Metric Program at the National Institute of Standards and Technology has been holding a series of regional dialogues to discuss the ongoing process of national metrication. One of these meetings will be at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas on January 10–11, 1997. The Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA) of the Department of Transportation has asked and received permission from the Department of Commerce to include a panel on metric implementation concerns facing the pipeline community. RSPA is specifically inviting interested parties from the pipeline community to attend this meeting which will provide a forum to discuss concerns about the impact of metricating the Department of Transportation's Pipeline Safety Regulations, 49 CFR Parts 190–199.

DATES: The regional metric dialogue meeting will be held on Friday, January 10, 1997 from 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. and on Saturday, January 11, 1997 from 9:00 a.m.–1:30 p.m. The Pipeline Safety Regulation panel will be scheduled for January 10, at a time to be determined.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at Southern Methodist University's Umphrey Lee Center in Dallas, Texas.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marvin Fell, (202) 366–6205, U.S. Department of Transportation, RSPA, 400 Seventh St., S.W. Washington, D.C. 20590 regarding the subject matter of this notice, or the Dockets Unit (202) 366–5046, regarding copies of this notice or other material referenced in this notice. For information concerning national metrication issues, excluding pipelines, call the Department of Commerce at (301) 975–3690 or e-mail metric__prg@nist.gov or read the Department of Commerce's metric program world wide web site at http://www.nist.gov/metric or contact by fax (301) 948–1416.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In order to fulfill its requirements under Executive Order 12270, RSPA plans to update its pipeline safety regulations (49 CFR Parts 190–199) by introducing the use of the metric system. RSPA is seeking public input to assist in converting its regulations from inch-pound measures to metric measures. The specific guidance RSPA is seeking includes answers to the questions detailed below. RSPA will consider the comments presented during the Dallas public meeting to prepare a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) on its transition to the metric system.

(1) What method should RSPA use in converting from inch-pound measures to metric measures? (A) Soft conversion (an exact mathematical conversion which gives the same degree of precision in either system of measures), showing both metric and inch-pound measures with the inch-pound units in parentheses, (B) Soft conversion with metric only, (C) Hard conversion (conversions which are made for a particular purpose to produce measures that are meaningful in practical application or to conform to international standard or convention) with metric only, (D) Hard conversion showing both metric and inch-pound measures, with the inch-pound units in parentheses.

(2) What technical problems would the pipeline industry face in implementing metric measures to comply with RSPA regulations?

(3) What are the costs and benefits of the four alternatives described in question 1?

(4) Will the metrication process unduly burden small entities? If yes, what could be done to reduce the burden on these entities?

(5) What impact will the metrication process have on state pipeline safety programs?

(6) What degree of precision should be maintained in the conversion from inch-pound to metric, i.e., accurate to one decimal place, two decimal places, or more than two decimal places?

(7) If RSPA decides to use a transition period during which its regulations will display both metric and inch-pound measures, how long should this interim period last before a complete conversion to metric measures only?

Interested persons are invited to attend the meeting and present oral or written statements on metric conversion issues. Any person who wishes to speak should notify Marvin Fell at the above address. Please estimate the time that will be needed to speak. RSPA reserves the right to limit the time of each speaker, if necessary, to ensure that everyone who requests an opportunity to speak is given one. Interested parties that are not scheduled to comment will have an opportunity to comment only after approval of the meeting officer.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on October 17, 1996.

Richard Felder,

Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.

[FR Doc. 96–27119 Filed 10–22–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–60–P

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Ex Parte No. 578]

Adjustment of Civil Monetary Penalties for Inflation

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Surface Transportation Board (the Board) finds that it is unnecessary at this time to amend its regulations to adjust the maximum civil monetary penalties for inflation under statutes within the jurisdiction of the Board.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 23, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Anthony Jacobik, Jr., (202) 927–5827. [TDD for the hearing impaired: (202) 927–5721.]

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 4 of the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1990 (28 U.S.C. 2461 note), as amended by the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 (the Act) (Pub. L. 104–134, 110 Stat. 1321–358, 378), requires each Federal agency with statutory authority to assess a civil monetary penalty (CMP) to adjust each CMP by the inflation adjustment described in section 5 of the Act. Such adjustment is to be by regulation published in the Federal Register. The first inflation adjustment is required by October 23, 1996—180 days after the enactment of the Act on April 23, 1996. Thereafter, agencies are to make inflation adjustments by regulation at least once every four years.

The inflation adjustment is to be determined by increasing the maximum CMPs, or the range of minimum and maximum CMPs, as applicable, for each CMP by the percentage that the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the month of June of the calendar year preceding the adjustment exceeds the CPI for the month of June of the last calendar year in which the amount of such penalty was last set or adjusted pursuant to law.

The ICC Termination Act of 1995, Public Law 104–88, 109 Stat. 803 (ICCTA), enacted December 29, 1995, and effective January 1, 1996, abolished the Interstate Commerce Commission and transferred certain regulatory functions to the Board. Because the CMPs under Board jurisdiction were not

even in effect until they were first established in the ICCTA, it is unnecessary to make any adjustments for inflation at this time.

Decided: October 18, 1996.

By the Board, Chairman Morgan, Vice Chairman Simmons, and Commissioner Owen.

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96–27178 Filed 10–22–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915–00–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Office of Thrift Supervision

[AC–47; OTS No. 01324]

Preferred Savings Bank, Chicago, Illinois; Approval of Conversion Application

Notice is hereby given that on October 11, 1996, the Director, Corporate Activities, Office of Thrift Supervision, or her designee, acting pursuant to delegated authority, approved the application of Preferred Savings Bank, Chicago, Illinois, to convert to the stock form of organization. Copies of the application are available for inspection at the Dissemination Branch, Office of Thrift Supervision, 1700 G Street, NW., Washington, DC 20552, and the Central Regional Office, Office of Thrift Supervision, 200 West Madison Street, Suite 1300, Chicago, Illinois 60606.

Dated: October 18, 1996.

By the Office of Thrift Supervision,

Nadine Y. Washington,

Corporate Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96–27191 Filed 10–22–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6720–01–M