

or approximately 28% of the early withdrawal charge.

7. In summary, the applicant represents that the subject transactions satisfied the criteria contained in section 408(a) of the Act for the following reasons: (a) no interest or expense was incurred by the Plan in connection with the Advances; (b) the proceeds of the Advances were used only to facilitate the payment of benefits (including participant loans and in-service withdrawals) to Plan participants, and to facilitate the making of investment transfers elected by Plan participants; (c) the Advances were unsecured; (d) the Plan participants who remained invested in the Stable Value Fund, which consisted primarily of the GIC from Travelers, continued to receive the full contract interest rate on the GIC; (e) VRI, the Plan's sponsor, was notified of the Advances; and (f) the repayment of the Advances by the Plan was made at the direction of VRI and was restricted to amounts received from the proceeds of the installment payments made by Travelers under the GIC, and no other Plan assets were used for that purpose.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Gary H. Lefkowitz of the Department, telephone (202) 219-8881. (This is not a toll-free number.)

#### General Information

The attention of interested persons is directed to the following:

(1) The fact that a transaction is the subject of an exemption under section 408(a) of the Act and/or section 4975(c)(2) of the Code does not relieve a fiduciary or other party in interest of disqualified person from certain other provisions of the Act and/or the Code, including any prohibited transaction provisions to which the exemption does not apply and the general fiduciary responsibility provisions of section 404 of the Act, which among other things require a fiduciary to discharge his duties respecting the plan solely in the interest of the participants and beneficiaries of the plan and in a prudent fashion in accordance with section 404(a)(1)(b) of the act; nor does it affect the requirement of section 401(a) of the Code that the plan must operate for the exclusive benefit of the employees of the employer maintaining the plan and their beneficiaries;

(2) Before an exemption may be granted under section 408(a) of the Act and/or section 4975(c)(2) of the Code, the Department must find that the exemption is administratively feasible, in the interests of the plan and of its participants and beneficiaries and

protective of the rights of participants and beneficiaries of the plan;

(3) The proposed exemptions, if granted, will be supplemental to, and not in derogation of, any other provisions of the Act and/or the Code, including statutory or administrative exemptions and transitional rules. Furthermore, the fact that a transaction is subject to an administrative or statutory exemption is not dispositive of whether the transaction is in fact a prohibited transaction; and

(4) The proposed exemptions, if granted, will be subject to the express condition that the material facts and representations contained in each application are true and complete and accurately describe all material terms of the transaction which is the subject of the exemption. In the case of continuing exemption transactions, if any of the material facts or representations described in the application change after the exemption is granted, the exemption will cease to apply as of the date of such change. In the event of any such change, application for a new exemption may be made to the Department.

Signed at Washington, DC, this 3rd day of March, 1999.

**Ivan Strasfeld,**

*Director of Exemption Determinations,  
Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration,  
Department of Labor.*

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#### NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

[Notice (99-041)]

#### NASA Advisory Council (NAC), Task Force on International Space Station Operational Readiness; Meeting

**AGENCY:** National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Pub. L. 92-463, as amended, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration announces an open meeting of the NAC Task Force on International Space Station Operational Readiness (IOR).

**DATES:** Friday, March 12, 1999, 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

**ADDRESSES:** NASA Headquarters, 300 E Street, SW, Room Mic 7, Washington, DC 20546.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Philip Cleary, Code IH, National Aeronautics and Space Administration,

Washington, DC 20546-0001, 202/358-4461.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This meeting will be open to the public up to the seating capacity of the room. The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

—Review the results NASA/Russian Space Agency (RSA) assessment of the feasibility of transferring equipment from the Mir to the ISS.

It is imperative that the meeting be held on these dates to accommodate the scheduling priorities of the key participants. Visitors will be requested to sign a visitors register.

Dated: March 2, 1999.

**Mathew M. Crouch,**

*Advisory Committee Management Officer,  
National Aeronautics and Space  
Administration.*

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#### NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

#### National Council on the Humanities; Meeting

March 1, 1999.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Public Law 92-463, as amended) notice is hereby given the National Council on the Humanities will meet in Washington, D.C. on March 22-23, 1999.

The purpose of the meeting is to advise the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities with respect to policies, programs, and procedures for carrying out his functions, and to review applications for financial support and gifts offered to the Endowment and to make recommendations thereon to the Chairman.

The meeting will be held in the Old Post Office Building, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. A portion of the morning and afternoon sessions on March 22-23, 1999, will not be open to the public pursuant to subsections (c)(4), (6) and (9)(B) of section 552b of Title 5, United States Code because the Council will consider information that may disclose: trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential; information of a personal nature the disclosure of which will constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy; and information the disclosure of which would significantly frustrate implementation of proposed agency action. I have made this determination