DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Federal Railroad Administration
[Docket Number FRA–2017–0083]

Petition for Approval of Informational Filing

Under part 211 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), this document amends prior public notice that on August 30, 2017, the Yadkin Valley Railroad (YVRR) petitioned the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) for approval of an Informational Filing (IF) pursuant to 49 CFR 236.913(j).

The YVRR submitted an IF requesting FRA approval to conduct field testing of a Train Detection System supplied by Next Generation Rail Technologies S.L. (NGRT) at Bethania Road highway-rail crossing in Rural Hall, North Carolina. After installation of the system, the proposed period of data collection will be approximately four months. YVRR asserts that its IF addresses all requirements of 49 CFR 236.913(j)(1), and that the Train Detection System will be operating in shadow mode only to collect data, and will not interfere, impact, or communicate with the current signaling system.

FRA assigned the petition Docket Number FRA–2017–0083, and published notice of the petition in the Federal Register on September 18, 2017. 82 FR 43655.

This document provides additional information and corrections to the notice published September 18, 2017, regarding this docket. The September 18 notice included an inaccurate description of the filing, and omitted language providing an opportunity and instructions for public comment.

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 Avenue 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 parties desire 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:

- Web site: http://www.regulations.gov. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
- 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 November 20, 2017 will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered if 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.transportation.gov/privacy. See also https://www.regulations.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–2001–10948]

Petition for Waiver of Compliance

Under part 211 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), this document provides the public notice that on September 11, 2017, Central Montana Rail, Inc. (CMR) petitioned the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) for a waiver of compliance from certain provisions of the hours of service laws contained at Title 49 United States Code Section 21103(a) under authority of section 21102(b). FRA assigned the petition docket number FRA–2001–10948.

CMR requested an extension of its existing waiver of relief from the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 21103(a), which prohibits a train employee from remaining or going on duty for a period in excess of 12 consecutive hours. 49 U.S.C. 21102(b) allows railroads with 15 or fewer employees to be exempted from the restriction outlined at 49 U.S.C. 21103(a)(2), but the exemption may not authorize a carrier to require or allow its employees to be on duty more than a total of 16 hours in a 24-hour period. In support of its request, CMR explained that the allowance for train crews to accumulate up to 16 hours of time on duty has not impacted safety negatively, and is only used occasionally, to address unusual circumstances such as weather, traffic peaks, and employee illness. CMR states that its operation continues on approximately the same scale as when the initial waiver was granted, with seven regular full-time employees. 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 Department of Transportation’s 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 parties desire an opportunity for oral comment, 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:

- Web site: http://www.regulations.gov. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
- 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 November 20, 2017 will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered if 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.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.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Federal Railroad Administration

Petition for Waiver of Compliance

Under part 211 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), this provides the public notice that on August 25, 2017, the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) petitioned the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) for an extension of a waiver of compliance from certain provisions of the Federal railroad safety regulations contained at 49 CFR part 213, Track Safety Standards. The docket number associated with this petition is FRA–1999–5102.

SEPTA seeks to extend its existing waiver from 49 CFR 213.233(c), relating to the frequency of the required visual track inspections for FRA Class 3 and 4 track carrying passenger traffic. FRA issued the initial waiver on July 24, 2000, and FRA extended the waiver on August 4, 2003, February 28, 2008, and April 25, 2013 for three 5-year periods. SEPTA requests an extension of its existing waiver to conduct fewer visual track inspections than required by § 213.233(c), specifically for tracks constructed with continuous welded rail that carry passenger traffic. SEPTA proposes to conduct one visual track inspection per week, instead of the two inspections per week that are required, and to supplement its visual inspections with the operation of an automated track geometry measuring vehicle over the affected main tracks and sidings four times per year. SEPTA has owned and operated such a measuring vehicle since 1992.

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 Department of Transportation’s 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 hearing. If any interested parties desire an opportunity for oral comment, 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:
- Web site: http://www.regulations.gov. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
- 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 November 20, 2017 will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered if 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.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.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Federal Railroad Administration

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North County Transit District’s Request for Positive Train Control Safety Plan Approval and System Certification

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

ACTION: Notice of availability and request for comments.

SUMMARY: This document provides the public notice that North County Transit District (NCTD) submitted to FRA its Positive Train Control Safety Plan (PTCSP) Volume I–Main Body (Version 2.0) and Volume II–Appendices (Version 1.0), both dated September 1, 2017. NCTD asks FRA to approve its PTCSP and issue a Positive Train Control (PTC) System Certification for NCTD’s Interoperable Electronic Train Management System (I–ETMS).

DATES: FRA will consider communications received by November 6, 2017 before taking final action on the PTCSP. FRA may consider comments received after that date if practicable.

ADDRESSES: All communications concerning this proceeding should identify Docket Number 2010–0049 and may be submitted by any of the following methods: