



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket Number FRA-2013-0061]

Petition for Waiver of Compliance

In accordance with Part 211 of Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), this document provides the public notice that by a document dated May 29, 2013, the Commuter Rail Division of the Regional Transportation Authority (Metra) and its operating company, the Northeast Illinois Regional Commuter Railroad Corporation, have petitioned the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) for a waiver of compliance from certain provisions of the Federal railroad safety regulations contained at 49 CFR Part 236, Rules, Standards, and Instructions Governing the Installation, Inspection, Maintenance, and Repair of Signal and Train Control Systems, Devices, and Appliances. FRA assigned the petition Docket Number FRA-2013-0061.

Metra seeks a waiver from the requirements of 49 CFR 236.566, *Locomotive of each train operating in train stop, train control or cab signal territory; equipped*. Specifically, Metra seeks FRA's approval to operate nonequipped Metra switch engines over Metra's Rock Island District (RID) in cab signal territory. The RID automatic cab signal territory begins at Joliet, IL, Milepost (MP) 40.2, and ends at Blue Island, IL, MP 14.5.

Metra seeks this waiver for two reasons: (1) because its switch engines are not equipped with cab signals and (2) because of the occasional use of mainline trackage, there is no economic justification for the installation of such cab signals. Metra's justification for the request is that the movement without cab signals can be made safely when the following proposed procedure is followed:

1. The train dispatcher or control operator is advised that the equipment is non-cab signal-equipped switch engines prior to entering main track.
2. The maximum authorized speed is 30 mph for non-cab signal-equipped switch engines.
3. An absolute block must be established in advance of the movement.
4. The equipment does not operate during the hours of peak commuter train service.

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, S.E., W12-140, Washington, D.C. 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, 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.
- Fax: 202-493-2251.
- Mail: Docket Operations Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E., W12-140, Washington, D.C. 20590.
- Hand Delivery: 1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E., Room W12-140, Washington, D.C. 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays.

Communications received by [INSERT DATE 45 DAYS FROM PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE] will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered as far as practicable.

Anyone is able to 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.). See <http://www.regulations.gov/#!privacyNotice> for the privacy notice of regulations.gov or interested parties may review DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement in the Federal Register published on April 11, 2000 (65 FR 19477).

Issued in Washington, DC, on June 17, 2013.

Robert C. Lauby,
Deputy Associate Administrator
for Regulatory and Legislative Operations.

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