

Connecticut Pilot Commission

**Minutes of January 13, 2005 Public Meeting
Connecticut Department of Transportation
State Pier – New London CT**

MINUTES

The Public Meeting was called to Order at 8:05 a.m. Pilot Commission members Michael J. Eisele, David Pohorylo, William Gash, David Shuda, and Joseph Russo were present. Also in attendance were CAPT Peter Boynton, USCG, LT Andrea Logman, USCG; Richard J. Jaworski, David Rossiter, and Alan Stevens (all CT DOT); Captain Charles Jonas (Interport Pilots Agency, Inc.); Captain William Mulligan and Captain Vincent Cashin (both Connecticut State Marine Pilots Association); Captain Michael Ball (Block Island Pilots); Captain Phil Gaughran (Connecticut Harbor Pilots); Captain Ted Sanford and Captain Rich Astles.

The Commission briefly met in Executive Session. No action was taken.

Mr. Eisele welcomed Joseph Russo aboard as a new member of the Commission. Mr. Russo, who has more than 25 years experience in stevedoring and port operations, was appointed by the House Majority Leader James Amann to represent industry interests.

Mr. Eisele reviewed the status of New England Shipping Company, Inc. v. Block Island Pilots, et al. litigation. The Commission had previously voted to recommend that the DOT consider intervening or otherwise participating in the case. Mr. Eisele circulated a revised draft recommendation for review by the Commission. Following a lengthy discussion, the Commission agreed to table this matter until the February public meeting. Mr. Eisele noted that Mr. Pohorylo has recused himself from participation in deliberations regarding this issue.

The Commission discussed generally the operation of the joint rotation system. Mr. Eisele noted that the concerns raised by Captain Jonas are currently the subject of litigation brought against the Joint Administrator and DOT. Given DOT's involvement, the Commission agreed not to discuss those issues.

The Commission noted that the Governing Documents require the DOT to annually review the Joint Administrator's performance. The Commission discussed the possibility of providing the DOT with its evaluation of the Joint Administrator's performance. At Mr. Eisele's request, Mr. Shuda, Mr. Gash, and Mr. Miller will form a subcommittee to solicit input from interested parties and prepare a recommendation for the full Commission's consideration.

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Mr. Jaworski reported that the DOT is continuing its review of the Commission's June 9, 2004 recommendation regarding the designation of Point Judith and Montauk Point as pilot boarding and disembarkation stations. The Commission is awaiting DOT action.

The Commission discussed issues related to the licensing moratorium, including a review of the ages of the current pilots, the prospects for LNG traffic by 2010, and the possibility of Connecticut-licensed pilots moving from the New York side of the rotation to the Connecticut side. Upon the motion of Mr. Eisele, the Commission unanimously agreed to recommend to DOT that the moratorium be continued into 2005, provided (1) the moratorium would not preclude DOT from granting route extensions or endorsements to currently-licensed pilots; (2) the Commission would explore revisions to the current regulations to prepare for the pilot selection process; and (3) should circumstances change, the moratorium would not prevent DOT from licensing new pilots. Mr. Eisele will prepare a recommendation for review and approval by the Commission members.

Mr. Eisele proposed that the Commission consider the issue of pilotage rates at its July 2005 public meeting. Mr. Eisele will prepare an outline of the issues for the Commission's consideration in February, 2005. All interested parties were again asked to make their views known to the Commission as soon as possible.

LT Logman advised the Commission that the New Haven Harbor lighted channel buoy "2" is now on station. She also briefed the Commission on the status of the Coast Guard's Port Access Route Study for Block Island Sound and Long Island Sound. A draft report has been forwarded to 1st District Headquarters. Following release of the Study, the Coast Guard will solicit input from the Commission and pilots during a public comment period. The Coast Guard does not currently anticipate holding public hearings. LT Logman reported that the Coast Guard is also undertaking regulatory action to designate anchorages (currently established by a COTP Policy Letter) in Long Island Sound. That process involves environmental reviews due to the proximity of dredge spoil disposal sites.

Captains Ball and Captain Cashin reported that the Cross-Sound Cable Reburial Project has interfered with vessel transits in New Haven Harbor. LT Logman advised that the USCG is aware of the issue and had addressed the problem with the contractor. It was noted that the project is nearing completion.

Upon the motion of Mr. Eisele, the Commission unanimously approved a 2005 meeting schedule which will include two public meetings in Bridgeport. Mr. Pohorylo will contact the Bridgeport Port Authority to confirm availability of a meeting space. Mr. Eisele will then provide the schedule to DOT for forwarding to the Secretary of State and will circulate to interested parties via e-mail.

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On the motion of Mr. Eisele, the Commission unanimously agreed to extend its appreciation to Mr. Daros for four years of service. Mr. Eisele will prepare a letter for review by the Commission.

On the motion of Mr. Shuda, the Commission approved the minutes prepared for the December, 2004 public meeting.

On the motion of Mr. Eisele, the public meeting was closed at 10:15 a.m.

Michael J. Eisele
Chairman
Connecticut Pilot Commission