



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
**CONNECTICUT PILOT COMMISSION**



**Minutes of November 8, 2007 Connecticut Pilot Commission**  
**Public Meeting**  
**U.S. Coast Guard Sector Long Island Sound**  
**120 Woodward Avenue, New Haven CT**

The public meeting was called to Order at 8:00 a.m. Pilot Commission members Michael Eisele, Captain Rick Barry, Captain Charles Beck, Captain Vince Cashin, John Love, Dave Shuda, and Joe Russo were present along with CDOT staff members Alan Stevens and Dave Rossiter. Also attending were LCDR Kevin Oditt, U.S.C.G., LT Matt Wingate, N.O.A.A., Captain Joseph Maco, Captain Charlie Jonas, Captain Bill Mulligan, and Captain Mike Ball.

The minutes of the New York Board of Commissioners of Pilots for the month of October were distributed.

On the motion of Captain Cashin, seconded by Captain Beck, the minutes of the Commission's October 11, 2007 public meeting were approved as drafted by a unanimous vote.

Captain Beck reported that CDOT provided the Attorney General with a Notice of Intent to increase pilotage rates (as published in the September 18, 2007 edition of the Connecticut Law Journal), a Fiscal Estimate, and a Small Business Impact Statement and Certification. Copies of those documents were distributed to the Commission. The proposed regulations incorporate a 500 pilotage unit cap, consistent with the rate increase enacted by the New York legislature in July, 2007. There were no adverse comments received during the public comment period. The proposed regulation will now be considered by the Legislative Regulation Review Committee in December, 2007 or January, 2008. Barring adverse action by the Committee, the rate increase will then be implemented.

Captain Beck reported that a draft Request for Proposals with respect to the management and operation of the Joint Rotation is still pending review at CDOT.

Captain Beck reported that the Commission's recommendation regarding designation of a heavy weather pilot station in Block Island Sound is also under review at CDOT. Captain Cashin and Captain Barry volunteered to meet with the New York Board of Commissioners of Pilots to present the Connecticut Pilot Commission's proposal for a heavy weather pilot station. Captain Cashin and Captain Barry will attempt to schedule a meeting as soon as possible; Mr. Russo will attend if his schedule permits.

The Commission discussed the draft criteria for apprentice pilot selection and training developed by Captain Cashin and Captain Barry. The Commission will provide further written comments to Captain Beck for inclusion in the draft. This issue will be continued to the December meeting, with the objective of making a recommendation to CDOT.

Captain Cashin and LT Wingate presented a preliminary survey of water depths in the turning basin at State Pier. NOAA anticipates release of the survey in February or March, 2008.

Captain Beck reported that the CDOT has completed its investigation of alleged boarding/disembarkation violations involving nine Connecticut-licensed pilots and made a proposal to each of those pilots resolve those violations by imposition of a one day license suspension for each alleged violation, with the suspension to be held in abeyance for a one year period. If no additional violations occur in the one-year period, the suspension would not be

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imposed. In response to an inquiry, the Commission discussed whether it would be appropriate to recommend to CDOT that record of the suspension be expunged from a pilot's record following the one-year probationary period. No action was taken.

Upon the motion of Captain Cashin, seconded by Captain Barry, the Commission voted unanimously to recommend that the Temporary Fuel Surcharge of \$200 per boarding or disembarkation be continued an additional six months. Mr. Eisele will draft a recommendation and forward it to CDOT. The Commission discussed use of a floating fuel surcharge tied to an index or formula. Mr. Love agreed to investigate this possibility and will report back to the Commission.

News reports of the November 4 AXEL SPIRIT / Ambrose Tower and the November 7 COSCO BUSAN / Bay Bridge allisions were distributed and discussed.

The Commission approved a 2008 meeting schedule. Mr. Eisele and Captain Beck will confirm availability of the meeting sites and provide notice to the Secretary of State.

The Commission discussed at length the prospect of licensing one or two new pilots to participate on the Connecticut side of the joint rotation. The Commission reviewed a November 6 request from Captain Cashin, Captain Jonas, and Captain Gaughran for a recommendation to license two new pilots, a November 2 communication from Captain Sanford in opposition to the licensure of new pilots, and information regarding the number of turns worked by each pilot in 2006 and the first six months of 2007. Captain Cashin moved that the Commission recommend the licensure of a new pilot to participate on the Connecticut side of the joint rotation. The motion was not seconded.

LCDR Oditt advised the Commission that the Coast Guard was working to establish a heavy weather advisory group, including a pilot member. Additionally, the Coast Guard has completed its investigation into the BARKALD / ESSENCE collision. LCDR Oditt offered to make a presentation to the Commission concerning the causes of this collision. Mr. Eisele will put this item on the agenda for the December meeting. Finally, LCDR Oditt discussed delays arising out of security boardings and offered to meet with pilots concerned about this issue.

The Commission did not meet in Executive Session.

The public meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m. The Commission's next public meeting is scheduled for 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 13, 2007 at the Connecticut Department of Transportation, 2800 Berlin Turnpike, Newington CT.

Michael J. Eisele  
Chairman, Connecticut Pilot Commission