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United States Department of Transportation



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FRA Administrator's Declaration of Emergency Situation: Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19)

Saturday, March 14, 2020

Pursuant to Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 211.45, Federal Railroad Administration Administrator Ronald L. Batory has determined that the imminent threat and exposure to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) poses a risk of serious illness that constitutes an "emergency situation" as related to railroad operations.

In making this determination, the Administrator notes the President has declared a national emergency related to COVID-19 and the World Health Organization (WHO) has made the assessment of COVID-19 and it is now characterized as pandemic, which can cause serious illness to high risk populations. Governors of several States have issued various Emergency Declarations related to COVID-19 outbreaks. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has reported more than 1,600 cases across forty-six (46) States and the number of cases of this respiratory illness is expected to increase.

Therefore, the Administrator has activated the *Emergency Relief Docket* (FRA-2020-0002) for Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) as of March 13, 2020, and the emergency relief provisions of 49 CFR § 211.45 are in effect.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

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