

BOARD OF EXAMINERS

New Orleans and Baton Rouge Steamship Pilots for the Mississippi River

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William V. Lashley
Commissioner

Sharon Ann Geraci
Executive Secretary

Lee A. Jackson
Commissioner

January 8, 2020

VIA HAND DELIVERY & EMAIL AT: hathornsh@nobrapilots.com

Captain Stephen H. Hathorn, President
Board of New Orleans - Baton Rouge Steamship Pilots Association
2805 Harvard Avenue, Suite 102
Metairie, Louisiana 70006

RE: NOBRA Pilot Risk Reduction and Safer Mississippi River Piloting - Standards of Care

Dear Captain Hathorn:

The Board of Examiners for New Orleans-Baton Rouge Steamship Pilots for the Mississippi River (hereinafter "Board of Examiners" or "Board"), is the sole competent pilotage authority statutorily created for the purpose of regulating, supervising and overseeing the NOBRA pilots as authorized by La. R.S. 34:1041, *et seq.* and Title 46 - Professional and Occupational Standards, Part LXX. River Pilots, Subpart 3. Board of Examiners for the New Orleans and Baton Rouge Steamship Pilots, *et seq.*

This Board is charged by the Louisiana Legislature with the responsibility of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the state of Louisiana and maintaining safety of maritime commerce along the Mississippi River. Due to the safety sensitive nature of the duties performed by state commissioned NOBRA pilots, this Board has a strong commitment to the public and maritime industry.

Currently, maritime threats to the State of Louisiana are rapidly evolving. Existing NOBRA piloting methods and practices require revisions to meet evolving maritime threats. In order to counter these threats, NOBRA pilots must systematically respond to protect the public, infrastructure, safety of navigation and the interests of the State.

In order to preserve safety and efficiency of the vital Mississippi River port infrastructure as it relates to the NOBRA route, the Board of Examiners will be implementing guiding doctrine which promotes new resilient standards of care for risk reduction and safer piloting practices. The new

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doctrine for NOBRA piloting will be based in principles of sustainability and resiliency intended to protect uninterrupted and safe piloting services. Resiliency of NOBRA piloting operations, among other things, will require new methods and practices for pilots working operationally as individuals and in teams and in the conduct and practices of their management services.

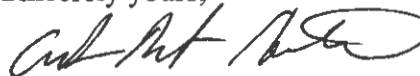
To this end, to further enhance the safety and well being of the citizens of Louisiana, as well as to prevent any imminent peril to public health, safety and welfare, and to achieve and maintain reliable, safe and efficient pilotage services, effective immediately, this Board implements the following Mississippi River standard of care:

1. Any vessel operating within the NOBRA route (*i.e.* MM 88 AHP through 234 AHP) identified as a High Interest Vessel (“HIV”) by any federal authority, state authority and/or the Board of Examiners at a minimum, shall only operate under the following conditions:
 - A. Two pilots working simultaneously as a team; and
 - B. Daylight only operations¹.

Thank you in advance for your assistance with the implementation of the aforementioned standard of care. Should you have any questions, comments or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the Board.

With professional regards, I remain,

Sincerely yours,



Captain Robert D. Heitmeier
President, NOBRA Board of Examiners

cc: Captain Lee A. Jackson, Jr., Commissioner
Captain William V. Lashley, Commissioner

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A vessel underway prior to the expiration of daylight encountering the expiration of daylight or other unexpected overriding river condition may continue to its intended destination or a safe alternative destination as determined by the pilot assigned to the respective vessel. All efforts shall be made by the pilot to minimize night time vessel transit. *See* Title 46 - Professional and Occupational Standards, Part LXX. River Pilots, Subpart 3. Board of Examiners for the New Orleans and Baton Rouge Steamship Pilots, Chapter 63. Standards of Conduct § 6309. Adoption of Navigational Rules.