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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Sandra Zywockarte, Office of Bus and Truck Standards and Operations, (202) 366-2987, FMCSA, Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001. Office hours are from 7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., e.t., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

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Background

Under 49 U.S.C. 31315 and 31136(e), the FMCSA may grant an exemption for a 2-year period if it finds "such exemption would likely achieve a level of safety that is equivalent to, or greater than, the level that would be achieved absent such exemption." The statute also allows the agency to renew exemptions at the end of the 2-year period. The 24 individuals listed in this notice have recently requested an exemption from the vision requirement in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(10), which applies to drivers of CMVs in interstate commerce. Accordingly, the agency will evaluate the qualifications of each applicant to determine whether granting the exemption will achieve the required level of safety.

Qualifications of Applicants

1. Ronald G. Austin

Mr. Austin, 55, has amblyopia in his right eye. His visual acuity in the right eye is 20/100 and in the left, 20/20. His ophthalmologist examined him in 2003 and certified, "In my medical opinion, Mr. Ronald Austin has sufficient vision to perform the driving tasks required to operate a commercial vehicle." Mr. Austin reported that he has driven straight trucks and tractor-trailer combinations for 17 years, accumulating 340,000 miles in the former and 85,000 miles in the latter. He holds a Class AM CDL from Alabama. His driving record for the last 3 years shows no accidents or convictions for moving violations in a CMV.

2. William E. Barrett

Mr. Barrett, 70, has had macular degeneration in his left eye for 5 years. His best-corrected visual acuity in the right eye is 20/25 and in the left, counting fingers. Following an examination in 2003, his ophthalmologist stated, "Mr. Barrett has had a long-standing decrease in vision in the left eye. His right visual acuity as well as peripheral visual fields remain excellent. I feel that he can continue to perform his driving duties as in the

past." Mr. Barrett reported that he has driven straight trucks and tractor-trailer combinations for 49 years, accumulating 735,000 miles in the former and 245,000 miles in the latter. He holds a Class A CDL from Connecticut. His driving record for the last 3 years shows no accidents or convictions for moving violations in a CMV.

3. Eric D. Bennett

Mr. Bennett, 40, has a chorioretinal scar in his left eye due to trauma in 1997. His best-corrected visual acuity in the right eye is 20/20 and in the left, 20/80. His ophthalmologist examined him in 2003 and stated, "In my medical opinion, Mr. Bennett has sufficient vision to perform the driving tasks required to operate a commercial vehicle." Mr. Bennett submitted that he has driven straight trucks for 4 years, accumulating 200,000 miles, and tractor-trailer combinations for 10 years, accumulating 900,000 miles. He holds a Class A CDL from New Hampshire. His driving record for the last 3 years shows no accidents or convictions for moving violations in a CMV.

4. Zack Bradford, Sr.

Mr. Bradford, 48, is blind in his right eye due to trauma in 1993. His visual acuity in the left eye is 20/20. His optometrist examined him in 2002 and stated, "Mr. Bradford has sufficient vision to drive a commercial vehicle." Mr. Bradford reported that he has driven straight trucks for 17 years, accumulating 238,000 miles. He holds a Class C driver's license from Georgia. His driving record for the last 3 years shows no accidents or convictions for moving violations in a CMV.

5. Rickey C. Dalton

Mr. Dalton, 51, lost his left eye due to an accident that occurred in 1986. His best-corrected visual acuity in the right eye is 20/20. Following an examination in 2003, his optometrist certified, "His right eye is sufficient to operate and perform driving tasks in a commercial vehicle." Mr. Dalton reported that he has driven tractor-trailer combinations for 14 years, accumulating 1.8 million miles. He holds a Class A CDL from Utah. His driving record for the last 3 years shows no accidents or convictions for moving violations in a CMV.

6. Dustin G. Davis

Mr. Davis, 26, has a macular scar in his right eye due to trauma in 1995. His visual acuity in the right eye is 20/200 and in the left, 20/15. Following an examination in 2003, his ophthalmologist certified, "In my opinion, despite Mr. Davis' visual acuity