

PEC (Pilot Evaluation Committee) Chairman's Report to BOPC (Board of Pilot Commissioners)

March 18, 2026

The Pilot Evaluation Committee met on Wednesday, March 18th at 0730, in this office. The members present were Captains Wehr, Stultz, Bridgman, and Ruff. From 0730 to 0750, Captain Garfinkle joined us in open session.

- we discussed Captain Garfinkle trip to Port Revel.

-sim test evaluators

-CCR § 214(f) extending trainee probation period beyond one year, by a set period, to 1.5 years.

At 0750 open session completed, we moved to the small room for closed sessions.

Agenda Item A:

There are three trainees including Captains Johnson, Thinger, and Roberts. The trainees' time in the program ranges from 7 months to 26 months. They are observing, part handling and handling under the direct supervision of a licensed San Francisco Bar Pilot. Captains Johnson, and Thinger have completed all testing for first class pilotage and continue learning the fine art of piloting. PEC unanimously agreed to put Captain Thinger into the Eval phase of the training program. This is "finishing school" and is a minimum of three months while maintaining a 4.0 gpa or higher. The supervising pilot should be letting Captain Thinger operate as though he were the pilot and only step in when absolutely necessary. Captain Roberts is in the beginning stage of FCP testing and has started out strong and we are happy for his success. Federal closure of USCG REC is still impeding his progress, for now. I tried to use personal contacts to see about getting Captain Roberts into CMA for FCP testing, while their mates exams were being administered, and I was denied. In conversation with him, I encouraged him to be ready to schedule and take the next exam when they open. In individual closed session meetings, trainees talked about issues and or difficulties encountered, and the committee came up with strategies to help in their training.

Agenda item B: Probation or dismissal

No action currently

Agenda item C: Completing training program

No action currently

Agenda item D:

Agenda item E: PEC recommendation to amend CCR 214F to extend pilot trainee probation period from one year to 1.5 years.

In open session,

-Public or committee member comments not on agenda. There were none.

-The next meeting will be held here on April 15th at 0730

-At 1030, meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully given Captain Paul Ruff