

eligibility of countries for the benefits of the ATPA, as amended.

In a **Federal Register** notice dated August 17, 2004, USTR initiated the 2004 ATPA Annual Review and announced a deadline of September 15, 2004 for the filing of petitions (69 FR 51138). Several of these petitions requested the review of certain practices in certain beneficiary developing countries regarding compliance with the eligibility criteria set forth in sections 203(c) and (d) and section 204(b)(6)(B) of the ATPA, as amended (19 U.S.C. 3203 (c) and (d); 19 U.S.C. 3203(b)(6)(B)).

In a **Federal Register** notice dated November 15, 2004, USTR published a list of the responsive petitions filed pursuant to the announcement of the annual review (69 FR 65674). The Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) has conducted a preliminary review of these petitions. It has determined that the petition filed by the American Cast Iron Pipe Company concerning Ecuador does not require action and terminates its review.

With respect to the remaining 2004 petitions, the TPSC is modifying the schedule for this review, in accordance with 15 CFR 2016.2(b). The results will be announced on or about May 31, 2005. The TPSC is similarly modifying the date of the announcement of the results of preliminary review for the remaining 2003 petitions to May 31, 2005. Following is the list of all petitions that remain under review:

Peru: Engelhard;
Peru: Princeton Dover;
Peru: LeTourneau;
Peru: Duke Energy;
Ecuador: AFL-CIO; Human Rights Watch; and US/LEAP;
Ecuador: Chevron Texaco;
Ecuador: Electrolux Home Products, Inc.;
Peru: Parsons Corporation.

Carmen Suro-Bredie,

Chairman, Trade Policy Staff Committee.

[FR Doc. 05-865 Filed 1-14-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3190-W5-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Environmental Impact Statement: Addison and Rutland Counties, VT

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that an

environmental impact statement will be prepared for proposed improvements to freight transportation to and from Middlebury, Vermont.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rob Sikora, Environmental Program Manager, Federal Highway Administration, P.O. Box 568, Montpelier, Vermont 05601. Telephone: 802-828-4573.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FHWA, in cooperation with the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans), will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a proposal to improve the transportation of large amounts of industrial materials to and from Middlebury along the U.S. Route 7 corridor.

Improvements in the corridor are considered necessary to provide for existing and projected movement of freight to and from Middlebury via U.S. Route 7. Alternatives under consideration include (1) taking no action; (2) improving existing U.S. Route 7; and (3) adding a new rail line with associated connector tracks and access roads. Incorporated into and studied with the various build alternatives will be design variations of grade and alignment.

Letters describing the proposed action and soliciting comments will be sent to appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies, and to private organizations and citizens who have previously expressed or are known to have an interest in this proposal. A series of public meetings will be held in Middlebury and other communities along Route 7. In addition, a public hearing will be held. Public notice will be given of the time and place of the meetings and hearing. The draft EIS will be available for public and agency review and comment prior to the public hearing. No formal scoping meeting is planned at this time.

To ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposed action are addressed and all significant issues identified, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments or questions concerning this proposed action and the EIS should be directed to the FHWA at the address provided above.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation on Federal programs and activities apply to this program)

Issued on: January 11, 2005.

Kenneth R. Sikora, Jr.,

Environmental Program Manager, Montpelier, Vermont.

[FR Doc. 05-899 Filed 1-14-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-22-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Environmental Impact Statement: New Hanover County, NC

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that an environmental impact statement will be prepared for the proposed extension of Independence Boulevard in New Hanover County, North Carolina.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John F. Sullivan, III, PE, Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration, 310 New Bern Avenue, Ste 410, Raleigh, North Carolina 27601-1418, Telephone: (919) 856-4346.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FHWA, in cooperation with the North Carolina Department of Transportation, will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) on a proposal to provide an extension to Independence Boulevard in New Hanover County, North Carolina. The proposed improvement would involve the extension of Independence Boulevard as an urban boulevard with a grass median and partially controlled access between Randall Parkway and Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway for a distance of about 2 miles.

Improvements to the corridor are considered necessary to provide for the existing and projected traffic demand. Also, included in this proposal is the potential construction of a partial cloverleaf interchange at Princess Place (with ramps and loops in the southwest and northeast quadrants, and spanning the CSX Railroad crossing). A trumpet interchange at Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway may also be necessary. Letters describing the proposed action and soliciting comments will be sent to appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies, and to private organizations and citizens who have previously expressed or are known to have interest in this proposal. Public meetings will be held in Wilmington, North Carolina throughout the development of the EIS. In addition, a public hearing will be held. Public notice will be given of the time and place of the meetings and

hearing. The draft EIS will be available for public and agency review and comment prior to the public hearing.

To ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposed action are addressed and all significant issues identified, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments or questions concerning this proposed action and the EIS should be directed to the FHWA at the address provided above.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation on Federal programs and activities apply to this program)

Issued on: January 4, 2005.

John F. Sullivan, III,
Division Administrator, Raleigh, North Carolina.

[FR Doc. 05-914 Filed 1-14-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-22-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[Ex Parte No. 333]

Sunshine Act Meeting

TIME AND DATE: 10 a.m., January 19, 2005.

PLACE: The Board's Hearing Room, Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423.

STATUS: The Board will meet to discuss among themselves the following agenda items. Although the conference is open for public observation, no public participation is permitted.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

STB Docket No. 42057, *Public Service Company of Colorado d/b/a Xcel Energy v. The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company*.

STB Docket No. AB-156 (Sub-No. 25X), *Delaware and Hudson Railway Company, Inc.—Discontinuance of Trackage Rights Exemption—in Susquehanna County, PA, and Broome, Tioga, Chemung, Steuben, Allegany, Livingston, Wyoming, Erie, and Genesee Counties, NY*.

Embraced case: STB Finance Docket No. 34561, *Canadian Pacific Railway Company—Trackage Rights Exemption—Norfolk Southern Railway Company*.

Embraced case: STB Finance Docket No. 34562, *Norfolk Southern Railway Company—Trackage Rights Exemption—Delaware and Hudson Railway Company, Inc.*

STB Finance Docket No. 33388 (Sub-No. 95), *CSX Corporation and CSX*

Transportation, Inc., Norfolk Southern Corporation and Norfolk Southern Railway Company—Control and Operating Leases/Agreements—Conrail Inc. and Consolidated Rail Corporation [Petition to Approve Settlement Agreement and Exempt Embraced Transactions].

Embraced case: STB Finance Docket No. 33388 (Sub-No. 96), *Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway Co.—Trackage Rights Exemption—Norfolk Southern Railway Co. Between Bellevue and Toledo, OH*.

Embraced case: STB Finance Docket No. 33388 (Sub-No. 97), *Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway Co.—Trackage Rights Exemption—Norfolk Southern Railway Co. in Cleveland, OH*.

Embraced case: STB Finance Docket No. 33388 (Sub-No. 98), *Norfolk Southern Railway Co.—Trackage Rights Exemption—Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway Co. Between Clairton, PA and Bellevue, OH*.

Embraced case: STB Finance Docket No. 33388 (Sub-No. 99), *Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway Co.—Petition for Exemption—Purchase of the Toledo Pivot Bridge—Norfolk Southern Railway Co.*

Embraced case: STB Finance Docket No. 32516 (Sub-No. 1), *Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway Co.—Lease and Operation Exemption—Norfolk and Western Railway Co.'s Dock at Huron, OH*.

Embraced case: STB Finance Docket No. 32525 (Sub-No. 1), *Wheeling & Erie Railway Co.—Trackage Rights Exemption—Norfolk and Western Railway*.

STB Finance Docket No. 34483, *SMS Rail Service, Inc.—Petition for Declaratory Order*.

STB Finance Docket No. 32760 (Sub-No. 43), *Union Pacific Corporation, Union Pacific Railroad Company, and Missouri Pacific Railroad Company—Control and Merger—Southern Pacific Rail Corporation, Southern Pacific Transportation Company, St. Louis Southwestern Railway Company, SPCSL Corp., and The Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad Company (Arbitration Review)*.

STB Finance Docket No. 34633, *Wisconsin & Southern Railroad Co.—Acquisition Exemption—Union Pacific Railroad Company*.

STB Docket No. AB-444 (Sub-No. 1X), *Lamoille Valley Railroad Company—Abandonment and Discontinuance of Trackage Rights Exemption—in Caledonia, Washington, Orleans, Lamoille, and Franklin Counties, VT*.

STB Docket No. AB-68 (Sub-No. 4X), *Lake Superior & Ishpeming Railroad Company—Abandonment Exemption—in Marquette County, MI*.

STB Docket No. AB-882, *Minnesota Commercial Railway Company—Adverse Discontinuance—in Ramsey County, MN*.

Embraced case: STB Docket No. AB-884, *MT Properties, Inc.—Adverse Abandonment—in Ramsey County, MN*.

STB Ex Parte No. 656, *Motor Carrier Bureaus—Periodic Review Proceeding*.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: A. Dennis Watson, Office of Congressional and Public Services, Telephone: (202) 565-1596, FIRS: 1-800-877-8339.

Dated: January 12, 2005.

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 05-1003 Filed 1-13-05; 11:12 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-290 (Sub-No. 242X)]

Norfolk Southern Railway Company—Discontinuance of Service Exemption—Between Newark and Kearny, NJ, in Essex and Hudson Counties, NJ

Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSR) has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR part 1152 subpart F—*Exempt Abandonments and Discontinuances of Service* to discontinue service over a 10.0-mile line of railroad between milepost WD-2.2 in Newark, NJ, and milepost WD-8.4 in Kearny, NJ (which is a segment of a branch line known as the Boonton line), and between milepost NK-4.3 and milepost NK-8.1 on the adjacent Newark Industrial Track in Essex and Hudson Counties, NJ. The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Codes 07029, 07032, 07094, 07099, 07102-07108, 07112 and 07114.

NSR has certified that: (1) No local traffic has moved over the line for at least 2 years; (2) any overhead traffic can be rerouted over other lines; (3) no formal complaint filed by a user of rail service on the line (or by a State or local government entity acting on behalf of such user) regarding cessation of service over the line either is pending with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) or with any U.S. District Court or has been decided in favor of complainant within the 2-year period; and (4) the requirements at 49 CFR 1105.12 (newspaper publication) and 49 CFR 1152.50(d)(1) (notice to governmental agencies) have been met.

As a condition to this exemption, any employee adversely affected by the discontinuance shall be protected under