

Dated: August 19, 2004.

Hector V. Barreto,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 04-19500 Filed 8-25-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-P

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Advisory Committee on Veterans Business Affairs; Public Meeting

The SBA Advisory Committee on Veterans Business Affairs

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), pursuant to the Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999 (Public Law 106-50), will be hosting its third meeting of fiscal year 2004, the Advisory Committee on Veterans Business Affairs. The meeting will begin on Wednesday, September 8, 2004, until Thursday, September 9, 2004, starting at 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. The meeting will be held at the U.S. Small Business Administration Headquarters, located at 409 3rd Street, SW., Washington, DC 20416, in the Eisenhower Conference Room, located on the 2nd floor, Side B.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this meeting, please contact Cheryl Clark in the Office of Veterans Business Development (OVBD) at (202) 205-6773.

Matthew K. Becker,
Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 04-19499 Filed 8-25-04; 8:45 am]

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

African Growth and Opportunity Act Implementation Subcommittee of the Trade Policy Staff Committee; Public Comments on Annual Review of Country Eligibility for Benefits Under the African Growth and Opportunity Act

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The African Growth and Opportunity Act Implementation Subcommittee of the Trade Policy Staff Committee (the "Subcommittee") is requesting written public comments for the annual review of the eligibility of sub-Saharan African countries to receive the benefits of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). The Subcommittee will consider these comments in developing

recommendations on AGOA country eligibility for the President. Comments received related to the child labor criteria may also be considered by the Secretary of Labor for the preparation of the Department of Labor's report on child labor as required under section 412(c) of the Trade and Development Act of 2000. This notice identifies the eligibility criteria that must be considered under AGOA, and lists those sub-Saharan African countries that are currently eligible for AGOA and those that are currently ineligible for the AGOA.

DATES: Public comments are due at the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) by noon, Friday, September 17, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Submission by electronic mail: FR0444@ustr.gov. Submissions by facsimile: Gloria Blue, Executive Secretary, Trade Policy Staff Committee, at (202) 395-6143. The public is strongly encouraged to submit documents electronically rather than by facsimile. See requirements for submissions below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For procedural questions, please contact Gloria Blue, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, NW., Room F516, Washington, DC 20508, (202) 395-3475. All other questions should be directed to Constance Hamilton, Senior Director for African Affairs, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20508, (202) 395-9514.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The AGOA (Title I of the Trade and Development Act of 2000, Public Law 106-200) (19 U.S.C. 3721 *et seq.*), as amended, authorizes the President to designate sub-Saharan African countries as beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries eligible for duty-free tariff treatment for certain products under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) (Title V of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2461 *et seq.*) (the "1974 Act")), as well as for the preferential treatment the AGOA provides for certain textile and apparel articles.

The President may designate a country as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country eligible for both the additional GSP benefits and the textile and apparel benefits of the AGOA (if the country also meets certain statutory requirements intended to prevent unlawful transshipment of such articles) if he determines that the country meets the eligibility criteria set forth in: (1) Section 104 of the AGOA; and (2) section 502 of the 1974 Act. For 2004, 37 countries have been designated as

beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries. These countries, as well as the 11 currently ineligible countries, are listed below. Section 506A of the 1974 Act provides that the President shall monitor, review, and report to Congress annually on the progress of each sub-Saharan African country in meeting the foregoing eligibility criteria in order to determine whether each beneficiary sub-Saharan African country should continue to be eligible, and whether each sub-Saharan African country that is currently not a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country should be designated as such a country. The President's determinations will be included in the annual report submitted to Congress as required by Section 106 of the AGOA. Section 506A of the 1974 Act requires that, if the President determines that a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country is not making continual progress in meeting the eligibility requirements, he must terminate the designation of the country as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country.

The Subcommittee is seeking public comments in connection with the annual review of the eligibility of beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries for the AGOA's benefits. The Subcommittee will consider any such comments in developing recommendations on country eligibility for the President. Comments related to the child labor criteria may also be considered by the Secretary of Labor in making the findings required under section 504 of the 1974 Act.

Beneficiary Sub-Saharan African Countries

The following have been designated as beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries for 2004:

Republic of Angola, Republic of Benin, Republic of Botswana, Republic of Cameroon, Republic of Cape Verde, Republic of Chad, Republic of the Congo, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gabonese Republic, Republic of The Gambia, Republic of Ghana, Republic of Guinea, Republic of Guinea-Bissau, Republic of Kenya, Kingdom of Lesotho, Republic of Madagascar, Republic of Malawi, Republic of Mali, Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Republic of Mauritius, Republic of Mozambique, Republic of Namibia, Republic of Niger, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Republic of Rwanda, Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe, Republic of Senegal, Republic of Seychelles, Republic of Sierra Leone, Republic of South Africa, Kingdom of Swaziland,

United Republic of Tanzania, Republic of Uganda, Republic of Zambia.

Sub-Saharan African Countries Not Designated as Beneficiary Countries

The following have not been designated as beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries for 2004:

Burkina Faso, Republic of Burundi, Central African Republic, Federal Islamic Republic of the Comoros, Republic of Equatorial Guinea, State of Eritrea, Republic of Liberia, Somalia, Republic of Togo, Republic of Sudan, Republic of Zimbabwe.

Requirements for Submissions: In order to facilitate the prompt processing of submissions, USTR strongly urges and prefers electronic (e-mail) submissions to FR0444@ustr.gov in response to this notice. In the event that an e-mail submission is impossible, submissions should be made by facsimile. Persons making submissions by e-mail should use the following subject line: "2004 AGOA Annual Country Review." Documents should be submitted as WordPerfect, MSWord, or text (.TXT) files. Supporting documentation submitted as spreadsheets are acceptable as Quattro Pro or Excel. For any document containing business confidential information submitted electronically, the file name of the business confidential version should begin with the characters "BC-" and the file name of the public version should begin with the characters "P-". The "P-" or "BC-" should be followed by the name of the submitter. Persons who make submissions by e-mail should not provide separate cover letters; information that might appear in a cover letter should be included in the submission itself. Similarly, to the extent possible, any attachments to the submission should be included in the same file as the submission itself, and not as separate files.

Written comments will be placed in a file open to public inspection pursuant to 15 CFR 2003.5, except confidential business information exempt from public inspection in accordance with 15 CFR 2003.6. Confidential business information submitted in accordance with 15 CFR 2003.6 must be clearly marked "BUSINESS CONFIDENTIAL" at the top of each page, including any cover letter or cover page, and must be accompanied by a nonconfidential summary of the confidential information. All public documents and nonconfidential summaries shall be available for public inspection in the USTR Reading Room. The USTR Reading Room is open to the public, by appointment only, from 10 a.m. to 12

noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. An appointment to review the file may be made by calling (202) 395-6186. Appointments must be scheduled at least 48 hours in advance.

Carmen Suro-Bredie,

Chairman, Trade Policy Staff Committee.

[FR Doc. 04-19556 Filed 8-25-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3190-W4-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

Reports, Forms and Recordkeeping Requirements Agency Information Collection Activity Under OMB Review

AGENCY: Maritime Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *seq.*), this notice announces that the Information Collection abstracted below has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval. The nature of the information collection is described as well as its expected burden. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on the following collection of information was published on May 28, 2004, and comments were due by July 27, 2004. No comments were received.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before September 27, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William Kurfels, Maritime Administration, 400 7th Street SW., Washington, DC 20590. Telephone: (202) 366-2318; FAX: (202) 493-2180; or e-mail: bill.kurfels@marad.dot.gov. Copies of this collection also can be obtained from that office.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Maritime Administration (MARAD)

Title: Application and Reporting Requirements for Participation in the Maritime Security Program.

OMB Control Number: 2133-0525.

Type of Request: Extension of currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Vessel operators.

Forms: None.

Abstract: The Maritime Security Act of 2003 provides for the enrollment of qualified vessels in the Maritime Security Program Fleet. Applications and amendments are used to select vessels for the fleet. Periodic reporting is used to monitor adherence of contractors to program parameters.

Annual Estimated Burden Hours: 224 hours.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503, Attention MARAD Desk Officer.

Comments are invited on: Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. A comment to OMB is best assured of having its full effect if OMB receives it within 30 days of publication.

Authority: 49 CFR 1.66.

Issued in Washington, DC, on August 20, 2004.

Joel C. Richard,

Secretary, Maritime Administration.

[FR Doc. 04-19496 Filed 8-25-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 34535]¹

Kansas & Oklahoma Railroad, Inc.—Trackage Rights Exemption—Atlantic & Pacific Railroad and Transportation Company

Atlantic & Pacific Railroad and Transportation Company (APR) has agreed to grant local and overhead trackage rights to Kansas & Oklahoma Railroad, Inc. (KO), over 4 miles of rail line extending from the point of interchange with KO's main line at approximately milepost 87.0 (at or near Chase, KS) to the point of interchange with KO's main line at approximately milepost 91.0 (at or near Silica, KS).²

The transaction is scheduled to be consummated on or after August 13, 2004, the effective date of the exemption (7 days after the notice was filed).

¹ Through inadvertence, the docket number originally assigned to this proceeding was STB Finance Docket No. 34520.

² APR states that it has filed a notice of exemption to lease the line from KO and operate it. See *Atlantic & Pacific Railroad and Transportation Company—Lease and Operation Exemption—Kansas & Oklahoma Railroad*, STB Finance Docket No. 34451 (STB served July 20, 2004).