

incorporate comments submitted on previous Exchange proposals to which the Exchange has previously responded. In addition, one commenter states in their latest letter that “the Exchanges are misleading in stating that their last increase in the 10Gb ULL connection was in 2021 while fully aware that the Exchanges have been charging members this increased rate since January 2023.”¹⁰³ The Exchange has clarified the references to the 2021 fee increase, and acknowledges that a version of this proposed fee change has been in effect since January 2023, all legally pursuant to the currently effective process set forth in Section 19(b) of the Exchange Act. The Exchange also received comment letters from a separate commenter on the Sixth and Seventh Proposals.¹⁰⁴ The Exchange believes issues raised by each commenter are not germane to this proposal in particular, but rather raise larger issues with the current environment surrounding exchange non-transaction fee proposals that should be addressed by the Commission through rule making, or Congress, more holistically and not through an individual exchange fee filings. Among other things, the commenters are requesting additional data and information that is both opaque and a moving target and would constitute a level of disclosure materially over and above that provided by any competitor exchanges.

III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action

The foregoing rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act,¹⁰⁵ and Rule 19b-4(f)(2)¹⁰⁶ thereunder. At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission shall institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule should be approved or disapproved.

¹⁰³ See letter from John C. Pickford, SIG, to Vanessa Countryman, Secretary, Commission, dated March 1, 2024.

¹⁰⁴ See letters from Thomas M. Merritt, Deputy General Counsel, Virtu Financial, Inc. (“Virtu”), to Vanessa Countryman, Secretary, Commission, dated November 8, 2023 and January 2, 2024.

¹⁰⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

¹⁰⁶ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(2).

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

Electronic Comments:

- Use the Commission’s internet comment form (<https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>); or
- Send an email to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include file number SR-EMERALD-2024-12 on the subject line.

Paper Comments

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to file number SR-EMERALD-2024-12. This file number should be included on the subject line if email is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission’s internet website (<https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>). Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for website viewing and printing in the Commission’s Public Reference Room, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Copies of the filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. Do not include personal identifiable information in submissions; you should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. We may redact in part or withhold entirely from publication submitted material that is obscene or subject to copyright protection. All submissions should refer to file number SR-EMERALD-2024-12 and should be submitted on or before April 17, 2024.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.¹⁰⁷

Sherry R. Haywood,

Assistant Secretary.

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SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[Disaster Declaration #20232; LOUISIANA Disaster Number LA-20001 Declaration of Economic Injury]

Administrative Declaration of an Economic Injury Disaster for the State of Louisiana

AGENCY: Small Business Administration.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This is a notice of an Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) declaration for the State of Louisiana dated 03/21/2024.

Incident: Severe or Extreme Drought.
Incident Period: 09/19/2023 through 12/05/2023.

DATES: Issued on 03/21/2024.

Economic Injury (EIDL) Loan Application Deadline Date: 12/23/2024.

ADDRESSES: Visit the MySBA Loan Portal at <https://lending.sba.gov> to apply for a disaster assistance loan.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Alan Escobar, Office of Disaster Recovery & Resilience, U.S. Small Business Administration, 409 3rd Street SW, Suite 6050, Washington, DC 20416, (202) 205-6734.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given that as a result of the Administrator’s EIDL declaration, applications for disaster loans may be submitted online using the MySBA Loan Portal <https://lending.sba.gov> or other locally announced locations. Please contact the SBA disaster assistance customer service center by email at disastercustomerservice@sba.gov or by phone at 1-800-659-2955 for further assistance.

The following areas have been determined to be adversely affected by the disaster:

Primary Parishes: Acadia, Allen, Ascension, Assumption, Avoyelles, Beauregard, Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Calcasieu, Caldwell, Cameron, Catahoula, Claiborne, Concordia, De Soto, East Baton Rouge, East Carroll, East Feliciana, Evangeline, Franklin, Grant, Iberia, Iberville, Jackson, Jefferson, Jefferson Davis, Lasalle, Lafayette, Lafourche, Lincoln, Livingston,

¹⁰⁷ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

Madison, Morehouse, Natchitoches, Orleans, Ouachita, Plaquemines, Pointe Coupee, Rapides, Red River, Richland, Sabine, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Tensas, Terrebonne, Union, Vermilion, Vernon, Washington, Webster, West Baton Rouge, West Carroll, West Feliciana, Winn.

Contiguous Counties:

Arkansas: Union, Ashley, Chicot, Columbia, Lafayette, Miller
Mississippi: Walthall, Claiborne, Jefferson, Marion, Adams, Warren, Pike, Harrison, Pearl River, Wilkinson, Amite, Issaquena, Hancock
Texas: Panola, Jefferson, Marion, Sabine, Orange, Shelby, Harrison, Cass, Newton

The Interest Rates are:

	Percent
Business and Small Agricultural Cooperatives without Credit Available Elsewhere	4.000
Non-Profit Organizations without Credit Available Elsewhere	2.375

The number assigned to this disaster for economic injury is 202320.

The States which received an EIDL Declaration are Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 59008)

Isabella Guzman,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. 2024-06441 Filed 3-26-24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8026-09-P

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

[Docket No. EP 526 (Sub-No. 20)]

Notice of Railroad-Shipper Transportation Advisory Council Vacancies

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board (Board).

ACTION: Notice of vacancies on the Railroad-Shipper Transportation Advisory Council (RSTAC) and solicitation of nominations.

SUMMARY: The Board hereby gives notice of vacancies on RSTAC for a small railroad representative and a large shipper representative. The Board seeks nominations for candidates to fill these vacancies.

DATES: Nominations are due on April 26, 2024.

ADDRESSES: Nominations may be submitted via e-filing on the Board's website at www.stb.gov. Submissions will be posted to the Board's website under Docket No. EP 526 (Sub-No. 20).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gabriel Meyer at (202) 245-0150. If you require an accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act, please call (202) 245-0245.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Board, created in 1996 to take over many of the functions previously performed by the Interstate Commerce Commission, exercises broad authority over transportation by rail carriers, including regulation of railroad rates and service (49 U.S.C. 10701-47, 11101-24), the construction, acquisition, operation, and abandonment of rail lines (49 U.S.C. 10901-07), as well as railroad line sales, consolidations, mergers, and common control arrangements (49 U.S.C. 10902, 11323-27).

The ICC Termination Act of 1995 (ICCTA), enacted on December 29, 1995, established RSTAC to advise the Board's Chair; the Secretary of Transportation; the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate; and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives with respect to rail transportation policy issues RSTAC considers significant. RSTAC focuses on issues of importance to small shippers and small railroads including car supply, rates, competition, and procedures for addressing claims. ICCTA instructs RSTAC to endeavor to develop private sector mechanisms to prevent, or identify and address, obstacles to the most effective and efficient transportation system practicable. The members of RSTAC also prepare an annual report concerning RSTAC's activities. RSTAC is not subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

RSTAC's 15 appointed members consist of representatives of small and large shippers, and small and large railroads. These members are appointed by the Chair. In addition, members of the Board and the Secretary of Transportation serve as ex officio members. Of the 15 appointed members, nine are voting members and are appointed from senior executive officers of organizations engaged in the railroad and rail shipping industries. At least four of the voting members must be representatives of small shippers as determined by the Chair, and at least four of the voting members must be representatives of Class II or III railroads. The remaining voting member

has traditionally been an at-large representative. The other six members—three representing Class I railroads and three representing large shipper organizations—serve in a nonvoting, advisory capacity, but may participate in RSTAC deliberations.

Meetings of RSTAC are required by statute to be held at least semi-annually. RSTAC typically holds meetings quarterly at the Board's headquarters in Washington, DC, although some meetings are held virtually or in other locations.

The members of RSTAC receive no compensation for their services and are required to provide for the expenses incidental to their service, including travel expenses. Currently, RSTAC members have elected to submit annual dues to pay for RSTAC expenses.

RSTAC members must be citizens of the United States and represent as broadly as practicable the various segments of the railroad and rail shipper industries. They may not be full-time employees of the United States Government. According to revised guidance issued by the Office of Management and Budget, it is permissible for federally registered lobbyists to serve on advisory committees, such as RSTAC, as long as they do so in a representative capacity, rather than an individual capacity. See *Revised Guidance on Appointment of Lobbyists to Fed. Advisory Comms., Bds., & Comm'ns*, 79 FR 47482 (Aug. 13, 2014). Members of RSTAC are appointed to serve in a representative capacity.

Each RSTAC member is appointed for a term of three years. No member will be eligible to serve in excess of two consecutive terms. However, a member may serve after the expiration of his or her term until a successor has taken office.

Due to the expiration of two RSTAC members' terms, vacancies exist for a small railroad representative and a large shipper representative. Nominations for candidates to fill the vacancies should be submitted in letter form, identifying the names of the candidates, providing a summary of why the candidates are qualified to serve on RSTAC, and containing representations that the candidates are willing to serve as RSTAC members effective immediately upon appointment. Candidates may nominate themselves. The Chair is committed to having a committee reflecting diverse communities and viewpoints and strongly encourages nominations of candidates from diverse backgrounds. RSTAC candidate nominations should be filed with the Board by April 26, 2024. Members