

and development of the (IBDP) that address: competence in accounting; competence in marketing; competence in cash flow management; access to credit; access to capital; access to surety; access to Federal procurement, non-Federal procurement and subcontracts; access to further training, which may include marketing, human resources, accounting, management, technical/professional skills.

SBA plans to award approximately \$1,000,000.00, subject to the availability of funds, under this notice. This amount would fund one or multi-awards which would provide business development training workshops and DVDs to approximately 1,500 firms including 8(a) participants entering the program and other eligible 7(j) executives. SBA reserves the right to fund, in whole or in part, any, all, or none of the proposals submitted in response to this notice. Awards will have a project period of one (1) year. Award amounts may vary, depending on the number of 7(j) eligible clients that an applicant is able to train.

The selection criteria to be used for this competition will be provided in the application package.

DATES: The closing date for applications will be March 24, 2004.

ADDRESSES: To obtain a copy of the complete application package call Adrienne Dinkins at (202) 205-7140, or go to SBA's Web site at <http://www.sba.gov>.

FOR APPLICATIONS AND FURTHER

INFORMATION: Questions concerning the technical aspects of this notice should be directed to Jacqueline Fleming at (202) 205-6177. Questions about budget or funding matters should be directed to Adrienne Dinkins at (202) 205-7140.

Program Authority: 15 U.S.C. 636(j)

Eugene Cornelius, Jr.,
Associate Administrator, Business
Development.

[FR Doc. 04-3471 Filed 2-17-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-P

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

National Advisory Council; Public Meeting

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) will be hosting a meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Advisory Council (NAC). The meeting will be held on Monday, February 23, 2004 at the Sheraton Old Town Hotel located 800 Rio Grande Boulevard NW., Albuquerque, NM 87104.

Anyone wishing to attend and make an oral presentation to the Board must

contact Kimberly Mace, no later than Tuesday, February 17, 2004 via e-mail or fax. Kimberly Mace, U.S. Small Business Administration, 409 3rd Street SW., Washington, DC 20416 (202) 205-8414 phone or (202) 205-6113 fax or e-mail kimberly.mace@sba.gov.

Matthew Becker,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 04-3472 Filed 2-17-04; 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 (Pub. L. 106-50), will be hosting its first Advisory Committee meeting on Veterans Business Affairs for Fiscal Year 2004. The meeting will be held on March 1-2, 2004 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and on March 3, 2004 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. in the Eisenhower Conference Room. The conference room is located on the 2nd Floor-Side B, at SBA Headquarters, 409 3rd Street SW., Washington, DC, 20416. If you have any questions regarding this meeting, please contact Cheryl Clark in the Office of Veterans Business development at (202) 205-6773.

Matthew Becker,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 04-3473 Filed 2-17-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33388 (Sub-No. 91)]

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 [General Oversight]

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board, DOT.

ACTION: Decision No. 12 in STB Finance Docket No. 33388 (Sub-No. 91); Notice of Public Hearings in Trenton, NJ, and Washington, DC.

SUMMARY: The Surface Transportation Board (Board) will hold two public

hearings in this proceeding: the first on Friday, April 2, 2004, in Trenton, NJ; and the second on Monday, May 3, 2004, in Washington, DC. The hearings will provide a forum for interested persons to express their views on the matters at issue in this proceeding. Persons wishing to speak at either or both of the hearings should notify the Board in writing.

DATES: The public hearings will take place on Friday, April 2, 2004 (in Trenton, NJ), and on Monday, May 3, 2004 (in Washington, DC). Persons wishing to speak at the first hearing (to be held April 2nd, in Trenton, NJ) should file with the Board a written notice of intent to speak (and should indicate a requested time allotment) as soon as possible but no later than March 18, 2004. Persons wishing to speak at the second hearing (to be held May 3rd, in Washington, DC) should file with the Board a written notice of intent to speak (and should indicate a requested time allotment) as soon as possible but no later than April 16, 2004. Any person wishing to speak at both hearings may file a single written notice of intent to speak (provided that such notice is filed by the March 18th deadline for the first hearing) or, if such person prefers, such person may file two separate written notices of intent to speak (provided that each such notice is filed by the appropriate deadline, *i.e.*, March 18th for the first hearing and April 16th for the second hearing). Written statements by persons speaking at either or both of the hearings may be submitted prior to the appropriate hearing but are not required. Persons wishing to submit written statements in advance of the first hearing should do so by March 26, 2004. Persons wishing to submit written statements in advance of the second hearing should do so by April 26, 2004.

ADDRESSES: An original and 10 copies of all notices of intent to speak and any written statements should refer to STB Finance Docket No. 33388 (Sub-No. 91) and should be sent to: Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Julia M. Farr, (202) 565-1655.

[Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.]

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In *CSX Corp. et al.—Control—Conrail Inc. et al.*, 3 S.T.B. 196 (1998) (*Merger Dec. No. 89*), the Board approved, subject to various conditions (including a 5-year general oversight condition): (1) the acquisition of control of Conrail Inc. and Consolidated Rail Corporation

(collectively, Conrail) by (a) CSX Corporation and CSX Transportation, Inc. (collectively, CSX) and (b) Norfolk Southern Corporation and Norfolk Southern Railway Company (collectively, NS); and (2) the division of the assets of Conrail by and between CSX and NS. Pursuant to *Merger Dec. No. 89*, acquisition of control of Conrail was effected by CSX and NS on August 22, 1998 (the Control Date), and the division of the assets of Conrail by and between CSX and NS was effected on June 1, 1999 (the Split Date). The transaction that the Board approved in *Merger Dec. No. 89* is referred to as the Conrail Transaction.

In *Merger Dec. No. 89*, the Board established general oversight for 5 years so that the Board might assess the progress of implementation of the Conrail Transaction and the workings of the various conditions the Board had imposed, and the Board retained jurisdiction to impose additional conditions and/or to take other action if, and to the extent, the Board determined that it was necessary to impose additional conditions and/or to take other action to address harms caused by the Conrail transaction. See *Merger Dec. No. 89*, 3 S.T.B. at 217 (item 38), 365–66, 385 (ordering paragraph 1).

In a recently served decision, see *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 [General Oversight]*, STB Finance Docket No. 33388 (Sub-No. 91), Decision No. 11 (STB served January 21, 2004) (*Oversight Dec. No. 11*), the Board discussed the issues that had been raised in the fourth annual round of the “general oversight” proceeding; set the schedule for the filing of pleadings in the fifth and final annual round of the “general oversight” proceeding (comments are due on July 1, 2004, and replies are due on August 2, 2004); and announced that, to allow interested parties an opportunity to express their views for the Board’s consideration, at least one public hearing would be held prior to June 1, 2004 (the fifth anniversary of the Split Date).

Because the Board is interested in hearing what members of the public have to say about any matter connected with the Conrail Transaction, the Board has now decided to hold, prior to June 1, 2004, two public hearings at which interested parties will have an opportunity to express, in a public forum, their views respecting such matters. The Board anticipates that interested parties will, if they think it

appropriate, follow up on their spoken statements at the public hearings by filing, on or before July 1st, written comments in the fifth annual round of the “general oversight” proceeding. Interested parties should understand that, although the Board has referred to the fifth annual round as the final annual round, and although the due date for written comments to be filed in the fifth annual round comes after the fifth anniversary of the Split Date, the formal oversight process of the Conrail Transaction that the Board established when it approved that transaction will not be concluded on June 1, 2004 (the fifth anniversary of the Split Date), but, rather, will be concluded only at such time as the Board issues a decision concluding that formal oversight process. See *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 [General Oversight]*, STB Finance Docket No. 32760 (Sub-No. 21), Decision No. 21 (STB served December 20, 2001), slip op. at 1 (“[W]e are now concluding, as scheduled, our formal oversight process for the UP/SP merger.”), slip op. at 12, ordering paragraph 1 (“The formal oversight process of the UP/SP merger that we established when we approved that merger is concluded.”).

Date/Time/Place of First Hearing; Subject Matter; Expected Appearances. The first hearing will be held on Friday, April 2, 2004, in Trenton, NJ. The time and the precise location at which the first hearing will be held will be announced in the near future, as soon as final arrangements have been made.

The first hearing will deal with the three “shared assets areas” (SAAs) that were created in connection with the Conrail Transaction. See 3 S.T.B. at 228 (describing the North Jersey SAA, the South Jersey/Philadelphia SAA, and the Detroit SAA). The Board expects that the first hearing will start with testimony by employees of CSX and NS (and also, if CSX and NS so desire, an employee of Conrail) respecting both the present status of operations within the SAAs and also any plans for any future fundamental changes in such operations. Following such testimony, interested parties will have an opportunity to express any concerns they may have respecting any or all of the three SAAs.

Date/Time/Place of Second Hearing; Subject Matter; Expected Appearances. The second hearing will be held on

Monday, May 3, 2004, beginning at 10 a.m., in Room 760, the Board’s hearing room, on the 7th Floor at the Board’s headquarters in the Mercury Building, 1925 K Street, NW. (on the northeast corner of the intersection of 20th St., NW., and K Street, NW.), Washington, DC.

The second hearing will deal with all aspects of the Conrail Transaction other than the SAAs. The Board expects that the second hearing will start with testimony by the CEOs of CSX and NS respecting the non-SAA aspects of the Conrail Transaction. Following such testimony, interested parties will have an opportunity to express any concerns they may have respecting any non-SAA aspect of the Conrail Transaction.

Notice of Intent To Speak; Written Statements; Paper Copies. Persons wishing to speak at the first hearing (to be held April 2nd, in Trenton, NJ) should file with the Board a written notice of intent to speak, and should indicate a requested time allotment, as soon as possible but no later than March 18, 2004. Persons wishing to speak at the second hearing (to be held May 3rd, in Washington, DC) should file with the Board a written notice of intent to speak, and should indicate a requested time allotment, as soon as possible but no later than April 16, 2004. Any person wishing to speak at both hearings may file a single written notice of intent to speak (provided that such notice is filed by the March 18th deadline for the first hearing) or, if such person prefers, such person may file two separate written notices of intent to speak (provided that each such notice is filed by the appropriate deadline, *i.e.*, March 18th for the first hearing and April 16th for the second hearing). Written statements by persons speaking at either or both of the hearings may be submitted prior to the appropriate hearing but are not required. Persons wishing to submit written statements in advance of the first hearing should do so by March 26, 2004. Persons wishing to submit written statements in advance of the second hearing should do so by April 26, 2004.

Paper Copies. Persons intending to speak at either or both of the hearings and/or to submit written statements prior to either or both of the hearings should submit an original and 10 paper copies, respectively, of their notices and/or written statements.

Board Releases Available Via the Internet. Decisions and notices of the Board, including this notice, are available on the Board’s Web site at “<http://www.stb.dot.gov>.”

This action will not significantly affect either the quality of the human

environment or the conservation of energy resources.

Dated: February 12, 2004.

By the Board, Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 04-3436 Filed 2-17-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-156 (Sub-No. 24X)]

Delaware and Hudson Railway Company, Inc., d/b/a Canadian Pacific Railway Company—Abandonment Exemption—in Albany County, NY

Delaware and Hudson Railway Company, Inc., d/b/a Canadian Pacific Railway Company (D&H), has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR part 1152, subpart F—*Exempt Abandonments* to abandon a 1.3 ± mile line of railroad known as the Troy Branch extending from milepost T1.81 ± at Green Island to milepost T3.11 ± at Cohoes, in Albany County, NY. The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Codes 12047 and 12183.

D&H has certified that: (1) No local traffic has moved over the line for at least 2 years; (2) all overhead traffic can be and has been 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 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 1105.7 (environmental reports), 49 CFR 1105.8 (historic reports), 49 CFR 1105.11 (transmittal letter), 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 abandonment shall be protected under *Oregon Short Line R. Co.—Abandonment—Goshen*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979). To address whether this condition adequately protects affected employees, a petition for partial revocation under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) must be filed. Provided no formal expression of intent to file an offer of financial assistance (OFA) has been received, this exemption will be effective on March 19, 2004, unless stayed pending reconsideration.

Petitions to stay that do not involve environmental issues,¹ formal expressions of intent to file an OFA under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2),² and trail use/rail banking requests under 49 CFR 1152.29 must be filed by February 27, 2004. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by March 9, 2004, with: Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001.

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to applicant's representative: Diane P. Gerth, Leonard, Street and Deinard Professional Association, 150 South Fifth Street, Suite 2300, Minneapolis, MN 55402.

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*.

D&H has filed an environmental report which addresses the abandonment's effects, if any, on the environment and historic resources. SEA will issue an environmental assessment (EA) by February 23, 2004. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA by writing to SEA (Room 500, Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423-0001) or by calling SEA, at (202) 565-1539. (Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.) Comments on environmental and historic preservation matters must be filed within 15 days after the EA becomes available to the public.

Environmental, historic preservation, public use, or trail use/rail banking conditions will be imposed, where appropriate, in a subsequent decision.

Pursuant to the provisions of 49 CFR 1152.29(e)(2), D&H shall file a notice of consummation with the Board to signify that it has exercised the authority granted and fully abandoned the line. If consummation has not been effected by D&H's filing of a notice of consummation by February 18, 2005, and there are no legal or regulatory barriers to consummation, the authority to abandon will automatically expire.

¹ The Board will grant a stay if an informed decision on environmental issues (whether raised by a party or by the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) in its independent investigation) cannot be made before the exemption's effective date. See *Exemption of Out-of-Service Rail Lines*, 5 I.C.C.2d 377 (1989). Any request for a stay should be filed as soon as possible so that the Board may take appropriate action before the exemption's effective date.

² Each offer of financial assistance must be accompanied by the filing fee, which currently is set at \$1,100. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

Board decisions and notices are available on our Web site at <http://www.stb.dot.gov>.

Decided: February 9, 2004.

By the Board, David M. Konschnik,
Director, Office of Proceedings.

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 04-3357 Filed 2-17-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

February 10, 2004.

The Department of the Treasury has submitted the following public information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling the Treasury Bureau Clearance Officer listed. Comments regarding this information collection should be addressed to the OMB reviewer listed and to the Treasury Department Clearance Officer, Department of the Treasury, Room 11000, 1750 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20220.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before March 19, 2004, to be assured of consideration.

Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

OMB Number: 1545-0117.

Form Number: IRS Form 1099-OID.

Type of Review: Extension.

Title: Original Issue Discount.

Description: Form 1099-OID is used for reporting original issue discount as required by section 6049 of the Internal Revenue Code. It is used to verify that income earned on discount obligations is properly reported by the recipient.

Respondents: Business or other for-profit.

Estimated Number of Respondents/Recordkeepers: 9,185.

Estimated Burden Hours Respondent/Recordkeeper: 12 minutes.

Frequency of Response: Annually.

Estimated Total Reporting/Recordkeeping Burden: 1,142,324 hours.

OMB Number: 1545-1379.

Form Number: IRS Form 8831.

Type of Review: Extension.

Title: Excise Taxes on Excess

Inclusion of REMIC Residual Interests.

Description: Form 8831 is used by a real estate mortgage investment conduit (REMIC) to figure its excise tax liability under Code sections 860E(e)(1), 860E(e)(6), and 860E(e)(7). IRS uses the