

Other required information that must be included in the application materials by candidates are:

- Name and title of the individual requesting consideration;
- Name and address of the company where the candidate is employed;
- The particular business sector the candidate would represent;
- Company's product or service line;
- Company size (market capitalization, annual revenues, number of employees); and
- Company's experience in Japan (exports, sales, employees, years in Japan).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Karin Ryerson, Office of Japan, Department of Commerce, Room 2320, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230, facsimile (202) 482-0469; or John Neuffer, Office of North Asian Affairs, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20508, facsimile (202) 395-3597.

Dated: March 16, 2004.

Wendy Cutler,

Assistant United States Trade Representative for North Asian Affairs.

[FR Doc. 04-6267 Filed 3-19-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3190-W3-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Environmental Impact Statement: Hays and Caldwell Counties, State of Texas

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of Intent (NOI) to rescind NOI of November 17, 1987.

SUMMARY: The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that they are rescinding the NOI to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on a proposal to construct a loop designated as Farm-to-Market (FM) 110 Loop around the City of San Marcos in Hays and Caldwell Counties, Texas.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Salvador Deocampo, District Engineer, FHWA, Texas Division Office, 300 E. 8th Street, Suite 826, Austin, Texas, 78701, Telephone: (512) 536-5950.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FHWA, in cooperation with the Texas Department of Transportation, is rescinding the NOI published in the **Federal Register** on November 17, 1987, to prepare an EIS for a proposed FM 110 Loop roadway in Hays and Caldwell Counties, Texas. The project limits,

study area and the type of environmental documentation for the proposed FM 110 Loop have changed. In 1994, FM 110 was evaluated as a full-circle loop roadway in a Preliminary Draft Environmental Impact Statement (PDEIS), which was never officially approved by FHWA or distributed for agency or public review and comment. Since the preparation of the PDEIS, the western portion of the FM 110 Loop project has been eliminated from further consideration. However, based on the information gathered from the PDEIS, enough environmental analysis was developed to assess any potential impacts associated with the proposed FM 110 portion located east of IH-35. Therefore, based on that information, and since the scope of the original FM 110 has been decreased, an Environmental Assessment (EA) for only the portion of FM 110 east of IH-35 will be prepared instead of an EIS.

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

Issued on: March 11, 2004.

Salvador Deocampo,

District Engineer, Austin, Texas.

[FR Doc. 04-6314 Filed 3-19-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-22-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 408X)]

The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company—Abandonment Exemption—in Hamilton and Merrick Counties, NE

The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF) has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 subpart F—*Exempt Abandonments* to abandon a 15.60-mile line of railroad between BNSF milepost 1.90, near Aurora, and milepost 17.50, near Central City, in Hamilton and Merrick Counties, NE. The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Codes 68818, 68854, and 68826.

BNSF has certified that: (1) No local traffic has moved over the line for at least 2 years; (2) there is no overhead traffic to be rerouted; (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 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 April 21, 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 April 1, 2004. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by April 12, 2004, with the Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001.

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to BNSF's representative: Michael Smith, Freeborn & Peters, 311 S. Wacker Dr., Suite 3000, Chicago, IL 60606-6677.

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

BNSF 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 March 26, 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

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 OFA must be accompanied by the filing fee, which currently is set at \$1,100. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).