

DEPARTMENT OF STATE**[Public Notice: 12349]****Defense Trade Advisory Group; Notice of Membership**

The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs "the Bureau" is accepting membership applications for the Defense Trade Advisory Group (DTAG). The Bureau is interested in applications from subject matter experts from the United States defense industry, relevant trade and labor associations, and academic and foundation personnel.

The DTAG was established as an advisory committee under the authority of 22 U.S.C. 2656 and the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. 1001 *et seq.* ("FACA"). The purpose of the DTAG is to provide the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs with a formal channel for regular consultation and coordination with U.S. private sector defense exporters and defense trade specialists on issues involving U.S. laws, policies, and regulations for exports of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services. The DTAG advises the Bureau on its support for and regulation of defense trade to help ensure that impediments to legitimate exports are reduced while the foreign policy and national security interests of the United States continue to be protected and advanced in accordance with the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended. Major topics addressed by the DTAG include (a) policy issues on defense trade and technology transfer; (b) regulatory and licensing procedures applicable to defense articles, including technical data, and defense services; (c) technical issues involving the U.S. Munitions List (USML); and (d) questions related to the implementation of the AECA and International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR).

Members are appointed by the Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs on the basis of individual qualifications and technical expertise. Past members include representatives of the U.S. defense industry, relevant trade and labor associations, and academic and foundation personnel. In accordance with the DTAG Charter, all DTAG members must be U.S. citizens. DTAG members are expected to serve a consecutive two-year term, which may be renewed or terminated at the discretion of the Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs. DTAG members are expected to represent the views of their organizations, while also demonstrating

an appreciation for the Department's mission to ensure that commercial exports of defense articles and defense services advance U.S. national security and foreign policy objectives. DTAG members are expected to understand complex issues related to defense trade and industrial competitiveness and are expected to advise the Bureau on these matters.

DTAG members' responsibilities include:

- Making recommendations in accordance with the DTAG Charter and the FACA.
- Making policy and technical recommendations within the scope of the U.S. export control regime as set forth in the AECA, the ITAR, and appropriate directives.

Please note that DTAG members may not be reimbursed for travel, per diem, and other expenses incurred in connection with their duties as DTAG members.

How to apply: Applications in response to this notice must contain the following information: (1) Name of applicant; (2) affirmation of U.S. citizenship; (3) organizational affiliation and title, as appropriate; (4) mailing address; (5) work telephone number; (6) email address; (7) resume; and (8) summary of qualifications for DTAG membership.

This information may be provided via two methods:

- *Emailed to the following address:* DTAG@State.Gov. In the subject field, please write, "DTAG Membership Application."
- *Send hardcopy to the following address:* Paula Harrison, PM/DDTC, SA-1, 12th Floor, Directorate of Defense Trade Controls, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, U.S. Department of State, Washington, DC 20522-0112. If sent via regular mail, we recommend you call Ms. Harrison (202-663-3310) to confirm she has received your package.

All applications must be postmarked by March 26, 2024.

Paula C. Harrison,

Designated Federal Officer, Defense Trade Advisory Group, U.S. Department of State.

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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**[Docket No. FD 36760]****Gulf & Atlantic Railways, LLC—Intra-Corporate Family Transaction Exemption—Chesapeake and Indiana Railroad Company, LLC and Northern Indiana Railroad Company, LLC**

Gulf & Atlantic Railways, LLC (G&A), has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(3), for the benefit of Chesapeake and Indiana Railroad Company, LLC (CKIN), and Northern Indiana Railroad Company, LLC (NIRC), both Class III railroads. G&A seeks authority for an intra-corporate family transaction pursuant to which CKIN and NIRC will merge, with CKIN the surviving carrier. CKIN and NIRC are controlled directly by G&A and indirectly by Macquarie Infrastructure Partners V GP, LLC, a Macquarie Infrastructure Partners V fund vehicle, and MIP V Rail, LLC.¹

According to the verified notice, NIRC owns 32.97 miles of rail line in Indiana but has never conducted freight rail operations on the line, has no rail employees, and does not own or lease any rolling stock. The verified notice states that CKIN currently leases and operates 27.52 miles of NIRC's rail line.² Following the merger, the lease agreement will terminate, and NIRC's separate corporate existence will cease. G&A states that the proposed merger of CKIN and NIRC will consolidate ownership and operation of the NIRC line in a single entity, simplify G&A's corporate structure, promote efficient management, and eliminate the need to maintain the current lease arrangement between NIRC and CKIN. According to the verified notice, CKIN will continue to operate the NIRC line in the same manner it does today.

G&A states that the plan of merger that will govern the proposed transaction does not include any provision that would limit the future interchange of traffic with any third-party connecting carrier, nor is NIRC's

¹ G&A is an affiliate of Macquarie Infrastructure Partners V GP, LLC. See *Macquarie Infra. Partners V GP, LLC—Control Exemption—Camp Chase Rail, LLC*, FD 36685 (STB served Apr. 7, 2023); *Macquarie Infra. Partners V GP, LLC—Control Exemption—N. Ind. R.R.*, FD 36729 (STB served Dec. 22, 2023).

² The verified notice states that CKIN discontinued service over the remaining 5.45-mile segment of NIRC's line in 2017. See *Chesapeake & Ind. R.R.—Discontinuance of Service Exemption—in Starke Cnty., Ind.*, AB 1259X (STB served Nov. 28, 2017).