

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 January 1, 1998, 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 December 12, 1997. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by December 22, 1997, with: Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20423.

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to applicant's representative: Larry D. Starns, Esq., Leonard, Street & Deinard, 150 South Fifth Street, Suite 2300, Minneapolis, MN 55402.

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

Soo has filed an environmental report which addresses the abandonment's effects, if any, on the environment and historic resources. The Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) will issue an environmental assessment (EA) by December 5, 1997. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA by writing to SEA (Room 500, Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423) or by calling SEA, at (202) 565-1545. 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), Soo 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 Soo's filing of a notice of consummation by December 2, 1998, and there are no

legal or regulatory barriers to consummation, the authority to abandon will automatically expire.

Decided: November 25, 1997.

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

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-31557 Filed 12-1-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

[Treasury Directive Number 74-13]

Premium-Class Travel, Authority Delegation

Dated: November 24, 1997.

1. Purpose. This Directive establishes policy and responsibilities for the approval of premium-class transportation accommodations, in accordance with Chapters 301 and 304 of the Federal Travel Regulation (FTR) (41 CFR (Code of Federal Regulations) parts 301 and 304) and White House and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidance on perquisites.

2. Definitions. The terms "premium-class," "first-class," "reasonably available," and "security reasons" are defined in FTR 301.3 (41 CFR 301.3).

3. Scope.

a. This Directive applies to all bureaus, the Departmental Offices (DO), and the Office of Inspector General (OIG) for travel by officers and employees of the Department when they travel in support of the Department's programs, including programs funded from sources other than appropriations, e.g., fees or assessments. It also applies to travel paid for by a non-Federal source pursuant to FTR Chapter 304 (41 CFR part 304), and to travel by persons other than employees whose travel is on an invitational basis and paid for by the Department.

b. Neither this Directive nor the restrictions on premium-class travel apply to travel:

(1) for which an employee is reimbursed by certain tax exempt organizations or a State, county, or municipality, incident to attendance at meetings, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 4111;

(2) which is accepted by an employee pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 7342, concerning foreign gifts and decorations; or

(3) for a partisan purpose in the case of an employee who is exempt from the statutory prohibitions on partisan political activity, and the travel is not paid for with Government funds.

4. Policy. It is the policy of the Department of the Treasury that:

a. prior authorization by the Assistant Secretary for Management and Chief Financial Officer is required for first-class travel in all bureaus, except for U.S. Secret Service (USSS) agents on protective missions;

b. first-class travel shall not be authorized, unless no other commercial service is reasonably available, or such travel is necessary for reasons of disability or physical impairment, or for security reasons, as these terms are defined in FTR 301-3.3 (41 CFR 301-3.3); and

c. first-class airline accommodations shall not be authorized or approved when obtained as an accommodations upgrade through the redemption of frequent traveler benefits accumulated while traveling on official business, unless the first-class accommodations are justified independently under the FTR (41 CFR part 301).

5. Responsibilities For First-Class Travel. The Deputy Assistant Secretary (Administration), Heads of Bureaus, and the Inspector General:

a. shall submit Treasury Department Form (TD F) 70-02.6, "First-Class Travel Request and Authorization," by mail or facsimile (FAX) to the Assistant Secretary for Management and Chief Financial Officer at least ten working days prior to travel for review and authorization, unless extenuating circumstances or emergency situations make advance authorization impossible. If advance authorization cannot be obtained, the traveler shall obtain written authorization at the earliest possible time;

b. except as specifically permitted under paragraph 6., shall not authorize, pay for, or reimburse employees or others for the use of first-class travel accommodations without the prior authorization of the Assistant Secretary for Management and Chief Financial Officer; and

c. shall submit an annual report on all approved first-class travel that began during the fiscal year to the Deputy, Chief Financial Officer (DCFO), Office of Accounting and Internal Control, DO, (Attention: Travel Program Coordinator). The report is due to the General Services Administration by November 30 of each year. See FTR 301-3.3(e) (41 CFR 301-3.3) for data collection and submission requirements. Negative reports are required in writing.

6. Exceptions.

a. The Director, USSS, is delegated authority to approve first-class travel accommodations solely with respect to Secret Service agents' protective details when necessary for security reasons. Such approval does not require the advance or subsequent authorization by

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 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 \$900. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

the Assistant Secretary for Management and Chief Financial Officer. The Director may redelegate this authority, in writing, only to the Deputy Director.

b. To the extent that information is protected from disclosure by statute or Executive Order, data shall be submitted by the Director, USSS, in accordance with FTR 301-3.3(e)(4) (41 CFR 301-3.3(e)(4)), as prescribed in paragraph 5.c. herein.

7. Other Premium-Class Travel Accommodations. The Deputy Assistant Secretary (Administration), Heads of Bureaus, and the Inspector General are delegated authority to approve premium-class other than first-class transportation accommodations when such accommodations meet the criteria in FTR 301-3.3 (41 CFR 301-3.3). This authority may be redelegated, in writing, only to the principal deputy, with the exception of:

a. the USSS, who may redelegate to the Assistant Special Agent in Charge (ASAC), Office of Administration; and

b. the U.S. Customs Service, who may redelegate to the U.S. Customs Service Assistant Commissioners, Offices of Investigations and Internal Affairs for covert investigative assignments only. Use of premium-class other than first-class accommodations shall be approved only when use of such accommodations is clearly consistent with the criteria in the FTR; the justification on the travel authorization should address any additional costs involved. Approval of business-class accommodations by a non-Federal source shall be in accordance with FTR Chapter 304 (41 CFR part 304). Further, in situations where the business-class travel accommodations are provided by a non-Federal source on a reimbursement, rather than an in-kind basis, the use of premium-class other than first-class must be justified independently and in accordance with the criteria in FTR 301-3.3 (41 CFR 301-3.3). The use of premium-class other than first-class airline accommodations for "security purposes or exceptional circumstances" as permitted by FTR 301-3.3(d)(5)(iv) (41 CFR 301-3.3(d)(5)(iv)) shall be strictly limited to those situations where their use is essential to the successful performance of the agency's mission.

8. Supply of Forms. TD F 70-02.6 may be obtained from the Records Management and Resources Branch, DO, or by submitting a printing requisition through the bureau forms control manager to the DCFO, Office of Accounting and Internal Control, DO.

9. Authorities.

a. President's Memorandum of February 10, 1993, "Restricted Use of Government Aircraft."

b. OMB Bulletin 93-11, "Fiscal Responsibility and Reducing Perquisites," dated April 19, 1993.

c. FTR Chapter 301-3 (41 CFR 301.3), "Use of Commercial Transportation," and Chapter 304 (41 CFR Part 304), "Payment from a Non-Federal Source for Travel Expenses."

d. 5 U.S.C. 4111, "Acceptance of Contributions, Awards, and Other Payments."

e. 5 U.S.C. 7342, "Receipt and Disposition of Foreign Gifts and Decorations."

10. Cancellation. Treasury Directive 74-13, "Premium-Class Travel," dated October 26, 1994, is superseded.

11. Expiration Date. This Directive expires three years after the date of issuance unless superseded or canceled by that date.

12. Offices of Primary Interest. Office of Accounting and Internal Control; Office of the Deputy Chief Financial Officer; Office of the Assistant Secretary for Management and Chief Financial Officer.

Nancy Killefer,

Assistant Secretary for Management and Chief Financial Officer.

[FR Doc. 97-31526 Filed 12-1-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

[Treasury Directive Number 16-21]

Disposal of Obligations, Including Bonds, Notes or Other Securities; Authority Delegation

Dated: November 25, 1997.

1. Delegation. By virtue of the authority granted to the Fiscal Assistant Secretary by Treasury Order (TO) 101-05, the Commissioner, Bureau of the Public Debt, is delegated the authority to dispose of obligations, including bonds, notes or other securities, acquired by the Secretary of the Treasury for the United States Government or delivered by an executive agency pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 324, and to perform any functions necessary to effect such disposition. The Commissioner, Bureau of the Public Debt, shall be responsible for referring to the Fiscal Assistant Secretary any matters on which action should be appropriately taken by the Fiscal Assistant Secretary.

2. Redelegation. The Commissioner, Bureau of the Public Debt, may redelegate this authority, and it may be exercised in the individual capacity and

under the individual title of each official receiving such authority.

3. Authorities.

a. TO 101-05, "Reporting Relationships and Supervision of Officials, Offices and Bureaus, Delegation of Certain Authority, and Order of Succession in the Department of the Treasury."

b. 31 U.S.C. 324.

4. Cancellation.

a. Treasury Directive 16-21, "Disposal of Obligations, Including Bonds, Notes or Other Securities," dated May 3, 1995, is superseded, except as provided below.

b. Any matter being processed on the date of this Directive by the Commissioner, Financial Management Service, that requires the disposal of obligations, including bonds, notes or other securities, may be completed under the authority delegated to the Commissioner, Financial Management Service, in the May 3, 1995, Directive, if the Fiscal Assistant Secretary so directs.

5. Expiration Date. This Directive expires three years from the date of issuance unless cancelled or superseded by that date.

6. Office of Primary Interest. Division of Accounting Operations, Office of Public Debt Accounting, Bureau of the Public Debt.

Gerald Murphy,

Fiscal Assistant Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Enhanced-Use Lease of Property at the James H. Quillen Veterans Affairs Medical Center at Mountain Home, Tennessee

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice of designation and intent to execute an Enhanced-Use Lease.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs is designating the James H. Quillen Veterans Affairs Medical Center at Mountain Home, Tennessee (the Medical Center), for an Enhanced-Use Lease development. The Department intends to enter into a long-term lease of real property at the Medical Center with the State of Tennessee (through the East Tennessee State University—ETSU) in order to transfer the long-term maintenance and development responsibilities of 31 acres of land (including 9 buildings) to the State of Tennessee. The Enhanced-Use lease will