

(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 11, 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 March 23, 1998. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by April 1, 1998, 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: John J. Paylor, Association General Counsel, Consolidated Rail Corporation, 2001 Market Street—16A, Philadelphia, PA 19101-1416.

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

Conrail 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 March 17, 1998. 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

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). This fee is scheduled to increase to \$1000, effective March 20, 1998.

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), Conrail 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 Conrail's filing of a notice of consummation by March 12, 1999, and there are no legal or regulatory barriers to consummation, the authority to abandon will automatically expire.

Decided: March 4, 1998.

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

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-6232 Filed 3-11-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Community Development Financial Institutions Fund; Notice of Open Meeting of the Community Development Advisory Board

AGENCY: Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, Department of the Treasury.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the third meeting of the Community Development Advisory Board (the "Advisory Board"), which provides advice to the Director of the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (the "Fund").

DATES: The third meeting of the Community Development Advisory Board will be held on Friday, March 27, 1998 at 10:00 a.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, U.S. Department of the Treasury, 601 13th Street, NW., Suite 200 South, Washington, D.C. 20005, (202) 622-8662 (this is not a toll-free number).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 104(d) of the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4703(d)) established the Community Development Advisory Board. The charter for the Advisory Board has been filed in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App.), and with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury.

The function of the Advisory Board is to advise the Director of the Fund (who has been delegated the authority to administer the Fund) on the policies regarding the activities of the Fund. The Fund is a wholly owned corporation within the Department of the Treasury. The Advisory Board shall not advise the Fund on the granting or denial of any particular application. The Advisory Board shall meet at least annually.

It has been determined that this document is not a major rule as defined in Executive Order 12291 and that regulatory impact analysis therefore is not required. In addition, this document does not constitute a rule subject to the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. Chapter 6).

The third meeting of the Advisory Board, all of which will be open to the public, will be held in the Boardroom of the American Institute of Architects, 1735 New York Avenue, NW., Washington, D.C., on Friday, March 27, 1998 at 10:00 a.m. The room will accommodate 75 persons. Seats are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Participation in the discussions of the meeting will be limited to Advisory Board members and Department of the Treasury staff. Anyone who would like to have the Advisory Board consider a written statement must submit it to the Fund, at the address of the Fund specified above in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section, by 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 24, 1998.

At the meeting, the new management of the Fund will be introduced, information will be presented on the past rounds of the Community Development Financial Institutions Program and the Bank Enterprise Award Program, and the Director of the Fund will seek advice from members of the Community Development Advisory Board regarding future rounds under these programs, new initiatives of the Fund and the utilization of the Advisory Board.

Authority: 12 U.S.C. 4703; Chapter X, Pub. L. 104-19, 109 Stat. 237.

Dated: March 9, 1998.

Ellen Lazar,

Director, Community Development Financial Institutions Fund.

[FR Doc. 98-6412 Filed 3-11-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4810-70-P

UNITED STATES INSTITUTE OF PEACE

Sunshine Act Meeting

DATE/TIME: Thursday, March 19, 1998, 9:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

LOCATION: 1550 M Street, NW., M Street Lobby Conference Room, Washington, DC 20005.

STATUS: Open Session—Portions may be closed pursuant to Subsection (c) of Section 552(b) of Title 5, United States Code, as provided in subsection 1706(h)(3) of the United States Institute of Peace Act, Public Law 98–525.

AGENDA: March 1998 Board Meeting; Approval of Minutes of the Eighty-Third Meeting (January 22, 1998) of the Board of Directors; Chairman's Report; President's Report; Committee Reports; Review of Unsolicited Grant Applications; Review of fellowship applications; Space Plans; Other General Issues.

CONTACT: Dr. Sheryl Brown, Director, Office of Communications, Telephone: (202) 457–1700.

Dated: March 10, 1998.

Charles E. Nelson,

Vice President for Management and Finance, United States Institute of Peace.

[FR Doc. 98–6535 Filed 3–10–98; 12:32 pm]

BILLING CODE 6820–AR–M

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Advisory Committee on Former Prisoners of War, Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under Public Law 92–463 that a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Former Prisoners of War will be held on May 4th through 6th, 1998, at the Department of Veterans Affairs, VA Central Office, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420. On May 4th, the meeting will be held in Room 930 and on both May 5th and 6th, the meeting will be held in Room 630. Each day the meeting will convene at 9:00 a.m. and end at 5:00 p.m. The meeting is open to the public.

The purpose of the meeting is to advise the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on the administration of benefits under title 38, United States Code, for veterans who are former prisoners of war, and to make recommendations on the need of such veterans for compensation, health care and rehabilitation.

The agenda for May 4th will begin with a review of committee reports and an update on the eight issues and five recommendations made to the Secretary on ways to help VA improve services to our POW community since the last meeting. The agenda on May 5th will include general business and a presentation of POW issues by the administrative and medical subcommittee of the Advisory Committee. The Committee has invited medical professionals from VA field activities (those who work with Ex-POW veterans) and medical professionals from the National Institute of Health and from the Naval Aero Medical Institute, Pensacola, Florida, for their input to the Committee. On May 6th, there will be discussions relating to complaints received from former POWs as to their care, treatment at VA medical centers, and compensation benefits. Subcommittee work will also be completed by medical professionals who sit on the Committee. They will review and analyze the comments that had been discussed by the Committee throughout the meeting for the purpose of assisting and compiling a final report to be sent to the Secretary.

Members of the public may direct questions or submit prepared statements for review by the Committee in advance of the meeting, in writing only, to Ms. Krsitine Moffitt, Director, Compensation and Pension Service (21), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420. Submitted material must be received at least five business days prior to the meeting. Members of the public may be asked to

clarify submitted material prior to consideration by the Committee. A report of the meeting and roster of Committee members may be obtained from Ms. Moffitt.

Dated: March 5, 1998.

By Direction of the Acting Secretary.

Heyward Bannister,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 98–6366 Filed 3–11–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Special Medical Advisory Group, Notice of Availability of Annual Report

Under Section 10(d) of Public Law 92–463 (Federal Advisory Committee Act), notice is hereby given that the Annual Report of the Department of Veterans Affairs Special Medical Advisory Group for Fiscal Year 1997 has been issued.

The report summarizes activities of the Group relative to the care and treatment of disabled veterans and other matters pertinent to the Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Health Administration. It is available for public inspection at two locations:

Federal Documents Section, Exchange and Gift Division, LM 632, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20540 and

Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of the Under Secretary for Health, VA Central Office, Room 811, 810 Vermont Avenue, N.W, Washington, D.C. 20420.

Dated: February 26, 1998.

By Direction of the Secretary.

Heyward Bannister,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 98–6359 Filed 3–11–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320–01–M