

The State of Ohio purchased the line from EL's bankruptcy estate in 1981, and the Van Wert County and Allen County Port Authorities (Authorities) acquired the line from the State in September 1982. In 1990, SPEG gave notice of intent to terminate service and no longer provides service on the line.<sup>2</sup>

Indiana Hi-Rail Corporation (IHRC) took over operations on the line in 1991, and acquired a modified rail certificate to operate the line. *Indiana Hi-Rail Corporation—Modified Rail Certificate*, Finance Docket No. 31871 (ICC served June 20, 1991). IHRC ceased service on the line in November 1993.

Pursuant to a sub-operating agreement dated March 26, 1996, and an addendum dated April 3, 1996, between RJCW (sub-operator) and SPEG (operator), RJCW will assume operations over the line for a two-year period from May 20, 1996, to May 20, 1998, subject to renewal upon agreement by the parties.

This rail line qualifies for a modified certificate of public convenience and necessity. A rail line which was approved for abandonment under the Final System Plan, but over which operations were continued by a D-OP, has been "fully abandoned, or approved for abandonment" within the meaning of 49 CFR 1150.21. *See Common Carrier Status of States, State Agencies and Instrumentalities, and Political Subdivisions*, Finance Docket No. 28990F (ICC served July 16, 1981), pp. 9-10.

No subsidy is involved and there are no preconditions for shippers to meet in order to receive rail service. Operations over the line will be conducted for a two-year period, subject to renewal upon agreement by the parties, unless terminated upon appropriate notice in accordance with 49 CFR 1150.24.

This line connects with Conrail at Lima and with IHRC at Ohio City, OH. RJCW will interchange traffic with CSX Transportation, Inc., Norfolk and Western Railway Company, and its existing line at Lima, which will promote new business on the line.

This notice must be served on the Association of American Railroads (Car Service Division) as agent of all railroads subscribing to the car-service and car-hire agreement: Association of American Railroads, 50 F St., NW., Washington, DC 20001; and on the

American Short Line Railroad Association: American Short Line Railroad Association, 1120 G St., NW., Suite 520, Washington, DC 20005.

Decided: June 19, 1996.

By the Board, David M. Konschnick, Director, Office of Proceedings.  
Vernon A. Williams,  
*Secretary*.

[FR Doc. 96-16407 Filed 6-26-96; 8:45 am]

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### Surface Transportation Board<sup>1</sup>

[STB Docket No. AB-449 (Sub-No. 2)]

#### Western Kentucky Railway, L.L.C.— Abandonment—Between Blackford and Princeton, KY

The Board has issued a certificate authorizing Western Kentucky Railway, L.L.C. (WKR), to abandon its 34.75-mile line between milepost JE62.5 at Blackford and milepost JE97.25 at Princeton, in Crittenden and Caldwell Counties, KY, subject to the standard employee protective conditions.

The abandonment certificate will become effective on July 27, 1996, unless within 15 days after publication of this notice, the Board finds that: (1) a financially responsible person has offered financial assistance (through subsidy or purchase) to enable rail service to be continued.

Requests for public use conditions must be filed with the Board and WKR no later than July 8, 1996.

Any offers of financial assistance must also be filed with the Board and WKR no later than July 8, 1996. The offer, referring to Docket No. AB-449 (Sub-No. 2), must be addressed to: (1) Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Branch, 1201 Constitution Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20423; and (2) Patricia E. Kolesar, Slover and Loftus, 1224 17th Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20036. The following notation must be typed in bold face on the lower left-hand corner of the envelope containing the offer: "Office of Proceedings, AB-OFA". Any offer previously made must be remade within this 10-day period.

Information and procedures regarding financial assistance for continued rail service are contained in 49 U.S.C. 10903 and 49 CFR 1152.27. Requests for public use conditions must conform with 49 CFR 1152.28(a)(2). Additional

information is contained in the Board's decision. To purchase a copy of the full decision, write to, call, or pick up in person from: DC News & Data, Inc., Room 2229, 1201 Constitution Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20423. Telephone: (202) 289-4357/4359. [Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through TDD services at (202) 927-5721.]

Decided: June 20, 1996.

By the Board, David M. Konschnick, Director, Office of Proceedings.  
Vernon A. Williams,  
*Secretary*.

[FR Doc. 96-16410 Filed 6-26-96; 8:45 am]

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### Federal Aviation Administration

#### Proposed Advisory Circular (AC) 23.733-X, Tundra Tires

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of Proposed Advisory Circular (AC) 23.733-X, and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the availability of and request for comments on a proposed advisory circular (AC) that serves several purposes. First, it summarizes the results of flight tests recommended by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and conducted by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) investigating the effects of tundra tires installed on a Piper PA-18. Second, it provides information concerning possible hazards associated with the type of operations common for tundra tire users and potential adverse effects of untested installations. Third, it provides general information about the certification process for oversize "tundra" tires, as well as an example "compliance checklist" for the installation of such tires on light airplanes, which have Civil Air Regulations (CAR) part 3 for a certification basis.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before July 29, 1996.

**ADDRESSES:** Send all comments on the proposed AC to: Federal Aviation Administration, Attention: Standards Office, ACE-110, Small Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service, 601 East 12th Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64106.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Terre Flynn, Regulations and Policy Branch, ACE-111, at the address above, telephone number (816) 426-6941.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Any person may obtain a copy of this

<sup>2</sup> While no longer conducting operations as a rail carrier, SPEG remains in existence as a wholly owned subsidiary of an on-line shipper, Countrymark Cooperative, Inc. Under an existing contract between SPEG and the Authorities, SPEG is responsible for administering the line and arranging for an operator to provide rail service thereon.

<sup>1</sup> The ICC Termination Act of 1995, Pub. L. No. 104-88, 109 Stat. 803, which was enacted on December 29, 1995, and took effect on January 1, 1996, abolished the Interstate Commerce Commission and transferred certain functions to the Surface Transportation Board (Board). This notice relates to functions that are subject to Board jurisdiction pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10903.

proposed AC by contacting the person named above under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

#### Comments Invited

Interested parties are invited to submit such written data, views, or arguments as they may desire. Comments must identify the AC and submit comments to the address specified above. All communications received on or before the closing date for comments will be considered by the Standards Staff before issuing the final AC. Comments may be inspected at FAA, Aircraft Certification Service, Small Airplane Directorate, Standards Office, ACE-110, Suite 900, 1201 Walnut, Kansas City, Missouri, between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. weekdays, except Federal holidays.

#### Background

In its Safety Recommendation A-95-13, dated February 7, 1995, the NTSB shared some of their safety concerns about tundra tires with the FAA and requested that the possibility of problems with tundra tires be investigated. The NTSB stated: "Since the early 1960s, hundreds of airplanes operating in Alaska have been equipped with tundra tires, and dozens of versions of tundra tires—some exceeding 35 inches in diameter—have been marketed. The Safety Board is concerned that filed approvals and STC's have been granted for use of these tires without flight test or other data on the aerodynamic effects of the tires and wheels. The Piper PA-18 is the airplane most frequently equipped with tundra tires. The Safety Board believes that the FAA should conduct a demonstration flight test to determine the effects of tundra tires on the PA-18's flight characteristics, including cruise, climb, takeoff, and landing performance; and, in both straight and turning flight, stall warning and aircraft stability at or near the critical angle of attack. Further, if the tests of the PA-18 indicate the need, the FAA should take corrective action and expand testing to other airplane types equipped with oversized tires."

Issued in Kansas City, Missouri, on June 20, 1996.

Henry A. Armstrong,

*Acting Manager, Small Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.*

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BILLING CODE 4910-13-M

## UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

### International Education and Cultural Activities—Discretionary Grant Program

**ACTION:** Notice; Request for proposals.

**SUMMARY:** The Office of Citizen Exchanges (E/P) of the United States Information Agency's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for an assistance award program. Public or private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in IRS regulation 26 CFR 1.501(c)(3)-1 may apply to develop projects that link their international exchange interests with counterpart institutions/groups in ways supportive of the aims of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Overall grant making authority for this program is contained in the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, as amended, Public Law 87-256, also known as the Fulbright Hays Act.

The purpose of the Act is "to enable the Government of the United States to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries \* \* \*; to strengthen the ties which unite us with other nations by demonstrating the educational and cultural interests, developments, and achievements of the people of the United States and other nations. \* \* \* and thus to assist in the development of friendly, sympathetic and peaceful relations between the United States and the other countries of the world." Programs and projects must conform with Agency requirements and guidelines outlined in the Application Package. USIA projects and programs are subject to the availability of funds.

Interested applicants should read the complete Federal Register announcement before addressing inquiries to the Office of Citizen Exchanges or submitting their proposals. Once the RFP deadline has passed, the Office of Citizen Exchanges may not discuss this competition in any way with applicants until after the Bureau program and project review process has been completed.

**ANNOUNCEMENT NAME AND NUMBER:** All communications concerning this announcement should refer to the Annual Discretionary Grant Program. The announcement number is E/P-97-1. Please refer to title and number in all correspondence or telephone calls to USIA.

**Deadline for Proposals:** All copies must be received at the U.S. Information

Agency by 5 p.m. Washington, DC time on Friday, October 11, 1996. Faxed documents will not be accepted, nor will documents postmarked on October 11, 1996, but received at a later date. It is the responsibility of each grant applicant to ensure that proposals are received by the above deadline. This action is effective from the publication date of this notice through October 11, 1996, for projects where activities will begin between January 1, 1997 and December 31, 1997.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Interested organizations/institutions must contact the Office of Citizen Exchanges, E/PL, Room 216, United States Information Agency, 301 4th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20547, (202) 619-5326, to request detailed application packets which include award criteria; all application forms; and guidelines for preparing proposals, including specific criteria for preparation of the proposal budget. Please direct inquiries and correspondence to USIA Program Officer *Laverne Johnson*, E-Mail {LJohnson@USIA.GOV}.

**TO DOWNLOAD A SOLICITATION PACKAGE VIA INTERNET:** The Solicitation Package may be downloaded from USIA's website at <http://www.usia.gov/> or from the Internet Gopher at <gopher://gopher.usia.gov>. Under the heading "International Exchanges/Training" select "Request for Proposals (RFPs)." Please read "About the Following RFPs" before beginning to download.

**ADDRESSES:** Applicants must follow all instructions given in the Application Package and send only complete applications with 15 copies to:

U.S. Information Agency, REF: E/P-97-1 Annual Discretionary Grant Competition, Grants Management Division (E/XE), 301-4th Street, SW., Room 336, Washington, DC 20547.

Applicants must also submit to E/XE the "Executive Summary" and "Narrative" sections of each proposal on a 3.5" diskette, formatted for DOS. This material must be provided in ASCII text (DOS) format with a maximum line length of 65 characters. USIA will transmit these files electronically to USIS posts overseas for their review, with the goal of reducing the time it takes to get posts' comments for the Agency's grants review process.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Pursuant to the Bureau's authorizing legislation, programs must maintain a non-political character and should be balanced and representative of the diversity of American political, social, and cultural life. "Diversity" should be interpreted