

this important safety program through statutory changes. We invite the public, state and local governments, industry, labor unions, and other interested parties to submit their ideas and comments to us for review and consideration. Information on how to submit your comments and ideas to us is contained above under the heading, **ADDRESSES**.

Issued in Washington, DC on January 5, 2001, under authority delegated in 49 CFR Part 1.

Robert A. McGuire,

Associate Administrator for Hazardous Materials Safety.

[FR Doc. 01-763 Filed 1-9-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-60-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-406 (Sub-No. 14X)]

Central Kansas Railway, L.L.C.— Abandonment Exemption—in Sedgwick County, KS

On December 21, 2000, Central Kansas Railway, L.L.C. (CKR), filed with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) a petition under 49 U.S.C. 10502 for exemption from the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 10903-10905 to abandon a line of railroad extending between milepost 19.5 near Garden Plain, KS, and milepost 3.5 southeast of the grade crossing at McCormick Avenue in Wichita, KS, a distance of 16 miles in Sedgwick County, KS. The line traverses U.S. Postal Service Zip Codes 67050, 67201-67220, 67221, 67223, 67226, 67227, 67228, 67230, 67231, 67232, 67233, 67235, 67236, 67251, 67256, 67257, 67259, 67260, 67275, 67276, 67277, and 67278, and includes no stations.

In addition to an exemption from 49 U.S.C. 10903, petitioner seeks exemption from 49 U.S.C. 10904 (offer of financial assistance procedures) and 49 U.S.C. 10905 (public use conditions). In support, CKR contends that exemption from these provisions is necessary because the City of Wichita, the County of Sedgwick, and the State of Kansas have developed various plans for flood control, redesign of a highway interchange, development of a green way, and removal of crossings to enhance safety, all of which are dependent on abandonment of the line. These entities want to obtain the right-of-way after abandonment for the valid public purposes discussed above. Petitioner further asserts that there is no overriding public need here for

continued rail service. These requests will be addressed in the final decision.

The line does not contain federally granted rights-of-way. Any documentation in the railroad's possession will be made available promptly to those requesting it.

The interest of railroad employees will be protected by the labor protective conditions imposed in *Oregon Short Line R. Co.—Abandonment—Goshen*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979).

By issuing this notice, the Board is instituting an exemption proceeding pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10502(b). A final decision will be issued by April 10, 2001.

Any offer of financial assistance (OFA) under 49 CFR 1152.27(b)(2) will be due no later than 10 days after service of a decision granting the petition for exemption. Each offer must be accompanied by a \$1,000 filing fee. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

All interested persons should be aware that, following abandonment of rail service and salvage of the line, the line may be suitable for other public use, including interim trail use. Any request for a public use condition under 49 CFR 1152.28 or for trail use/rail banking under 49 CFR 1152.29 will be due no later than January 30, 2001. Each trail use request must be accompanied by a \$150 filing fee. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(27).

All filings in response to this notice must refer to STB Docket No. AB-406 (Sub-No. 14X) and must be sent to: (1) Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001, and (2) Karl Morell, Ball Janik LLP, 1455 F Street, NW., Suite 225, Washington, DC 20005. Replies to the CKR petition are due on or before January 30, 2001.

Persons seeking further information concerning abandonment procedures may contact the Board's Office of Public Services at (202) 565-1592 or refer to the full abandonment or discontinuance regulations at 49 CFR 1152. Questions concerning environmental issues may be directed to the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) at (202) 565-1545 (TDD for the hearing impaired is available at 1-800-877-8339.)

An environmental assessment (EA) (or environmental impact statement (EIS), if necessary) prepared by SEA will be served upon all parties of record and upon any agencies or other persons who commented during its preparation. Other interested persons may contact SEA to obtain a copy of the EA (or EIS). EAs in these abandonment proceedings normally will be made available within 60 days of the filing of the petition. The

deadline for submission of comments on the EA will generally be within 30 days of its service.

Board decisions and notices are available on our website at <http://WWW.STB.DOT.GOV>.

Decided: January 4, 2001.

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

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 01-734 Filed 1-9-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Departmental Offices; Debt Management Advisory Committee Meeting

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. App. 10(a)(2), that a meeting will be held at the U.S. Treasury Department, 15th and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC, on January 30, 2001, of the following debt management advisory committee:

The Bond Market Association
Treasury Borrowing Advisory Committee

The agenda for the meeting provides for a technical background briefing by Treasury staff, followed by a charge by the Secretary of the Treasury or his designate that the Committee discuss particular issues, and a working session. Following the working session, the Committee will present a written report of its recommendations.

The background briefing by Treasury staff will be held at 9:00 a.m. Eastern time and will be opened to the public. The remaining sessions and the committee's reporting session will be closed to the public, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. App. 10(d).

This notice shall constitute my determination, pursuant to the authority placed in heads of departments by 5 U.S.C. App. 10(d) and vested in me by Treasury Department Order No. 101-05, that the closed portions of the meeting are concerned with information that is exempt from disclosure under 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(9)(A). The public interest requires that such meetings be closed to the public because the Treasury Department requires frank and full advice from representatives of the financial community prior to making its final decision on major financing operations. Historically, this advice has been offered by debt management advisory committees established by the several major segments of the financial community. When so utilized, such a committee is recognized to be an

advisory committee under 5 U.S.C. App. 3.

Although the Treasury's final announcement of financing plans may not reflect the recommendations provided in reports of the advisory committee, premature disclosure of the committee's deliberations and reports would be likely to lead to significant financial speculation in the securities market. Thus, these meetings fall within the exemption covered by 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(9)(A).

The Office of Financial Markets is responsible for maintaining records of debt management advisory committee meetings and for providing annual reports setting forth a summary of committee activities and such other matters as may be informative to the public consistent with the policy of 5 U.S.C. 552b.

Dated: January 3, 2001.

Lee Sachs,

Assistant Secretary, Financial Markets.

[FR Doc. 01-647 Filed 1-9-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4810-25-M

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Rehabilitation Research and Development Service Scientific Merit Review Board, Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs gives notice under Public Law 92-463

(Federal Advisory Committee Act) as amended, by section 5(c) of Public Law 94-409 that a meeting of the Rehabilitation Research and Development Service Scientific Merit Review Board will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 1001 14th Street, NW., Washington, DC, on January 31 through February 1, 2001.

The sessions on January 31 and February 1, 2001, are scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at 6:30 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to review rehabilitation research and development applications for scientific and technical merit and to make recommendations to the Director, Rehabilitation Research and Development Service, regarding their funding.

The meeting will be open to the public for the January 31 session from 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. for the discussion of administrative matters, the general status of the program, and the administrative details of the review process. On January 31, from 9:00 a.m. through February 1, 2001, the meeting is closed during which the Board will be reviewing research and development applications.

This review involves oral comments, discussion of site visits, staff and consultant critiques of proposed research protocols, and similar analytical documents that necessitate the consideration of the personal qualifications, performance and competence of individual research

investigators. Disclosure of such information would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. Disclosure would also reveal research proposals and research underway which could lead to the loss of these projects to third parties and thereby frustrate future agency research efforts.

Thus, the closing is in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(6), and (c)(9)(B) and the determination of the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs under Section 10(d) of Public Law 92-463 as amended by Section 5(c) of Public Law 94-409.

Those who plan to attend the open session should write to Ms. Victoria Mongiardo, Program Analyst, Rehabilitation Research and Development Service (122P), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20420 (Phone: 202-408-3684) at least five days before the meeting.

Dated: December 28, 2000.

By Direction of the Secretary.

Marvin R. Eason,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 01-621 Filed 1-9-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-M