

By the Board, David M. Konschnik,
Director, Office of Proceedings.
Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.
[FR Doc. 99-23907 Filed 9-15-99; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 385X)]

The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company—Abandonment Exemption—in Greene County, MO

The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF) has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F—*Exempt Abandonments* to abandon a 5.82-mile line of its railroad between milepost 189.22 near Springfield and milepost 183.40 near Willard, in Greene County, MO. The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Codes 65781 and 65803.

BNSF has certified that: (1) No local traffic has moved over the line for at least 2 years; (2) any overhead traffic on the line can be rerouted over other lines; (3) no formal complaint filed by a user of rail service on the line (or by a state or local government entity acting on behalf of such user) regarding cessation of service over the line either is pending with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) or with any U.S. District Court or has been decided in favor of complainant within the 2-year period; and (4) the requirements at 49 CFR 1105.7 (environmental reports), 49 CFR 1105.8 (historic reports), 49 CFR 1105.11 (transmittal letter), 49 CFR 1105.12 (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 October 16, 1999, unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay that do not involve environmental issues,¹ formal

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

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 September 27, 1999. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by October 6, 1999, 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: Sarah Whitley Bailiff, Senior General Attorney, The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company, 3107 Lou Menk Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76131-2830.

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

BNSF 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 September 21, 1999. 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), BNSF 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 BNSF's filing of a notice of consummation by September 16, 2000, and there are no legal or regulatory barriers to consummation, the authority to abandon will automatically expire.

Board decisions and notices are available on our website at "WWW.STB.DOT.GOV."

Decided: September 9, 1999.

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 \$1000. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

By the Board, David M. Konschnik,
Director, Office of Proceedings.
Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.
[FR Doc. 99-24080 Filed 9-15-99; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Fiscal Service

Financial Management Service; Proposed Collection of Information: Minority Bank Deposit Certification Form for Admission

AGENCY: Financial Management Service, Fiscal Service, Treasury.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Financial Management Service, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on a continuing information collection. By this notice, the Financial Management Service solicits comments concerning the form "Minority Bank Deposit Certification Form for Admission."

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before November 15, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Financial Management Service, Programs Branch, Room 144, 3700 East-West Highway, Hyattsville, MD 20782.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the form(s) and instructions should be directed to the Cash Management Policy and Planning Division, 401-14th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20227, (202) 874-6657.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), the Financial Management Service solicits comments on the collection of information described below.

Title: Minority Bank Deposit Certification Form for Admission.

OMB Number: 1510-0048.

Form Number: FMS-3144.

Abstract: This form is used by financial institutions to apply for participation in Minority Bank Deposit Program. Institutions approved for acceptance in the program are entitled to special assistance and guidance from Federal agencies, State and local governments, and private sector organizations.

Current Actions: Extension of currently approved collection.

Type of Review: Regular.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit institutions.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 170.

Estimated Time Per Respondent: 30 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 85.

Comments: Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance and purchase of services to provide information.

Dated: September 8, 1999.

Betty Lane,

Assistant Commissioner.

[FR Doc. 99-24100 Filed 9-15-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4810-35-M

UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

Civic Education Curriculum Development and Teacher Training Program for Secondary Schools in Georgia; Notice: Request for Proposals

SUMMARY: The Advising, Teaching and Specialized Programs Division, of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs in the United States Information Agency announces an open competition for a Civic Education Curriculum Development and Teacher Training Program for Secondary Schools in the Republic of Georgia. For applicants' information, on October 1, 1999 the Bureau will become part of the U.S. Department of State without affecting the content of this announcement or the nature of the program described. At that time, the Advising, Teaching and Specialized Programs Division will be renamed the Office of Global Educational Programs. Public and

private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in IRS regulation 26 CFR 1.501c may submit proposals to cooperate with the Bureau in the administration of a three-year project to support the development and implementation of new curriculum units for fifth through ninth grade civic education courses in the Republic of Georgia. The grant awards up to \$500,000 to facilitate the project. The grantee will work with Gaia, a Georgian non-profit organization involved in in-service teacher training programs in human rights and civic education in Georgia. The Georgian and U.S. partner organizations will coordinate with the Ministry of Education and his appointees in Georgia and the public diplomacy section at the U.S. Embassy in Tbilisi. The program will comprise four phases of activity: (1) Selection of a small curriculum development team of Georgian educators and preliminary consultations in Tbilisi; (2) a three-month U.S.-based curriculum development workshop in which the team will produce draft curriculum units; (3) follow-up consultations in Georgia to assist in the review and field-testing of the draft curricular materials and in the training of a larger group of Georgian practitioners; (4) cooperation with Gaia in the further review and dissemination of the draft materials as needed, and to provide broader training of Georgian teachers and administrators for utilization of the revised curriculum units in Georgian classrooms.

The Bureau solicits detailed proposals from U.S. educational institutions and public and private non-profit organizations to develop and administer this project. Grantee organizations will consult regularly with the Bureau and with the public diplomacy section at the U.S. Embassy in Tbilisi with regard to participant selection, program implementation, direction, and assessment. Proposals should demonstrate an understanding of the issues confronting education in Georgia as well as expertise in civic education and curriculum development.

The funding authority for the program cited above is provided through the Freedom Support Act. Programs and projects must conform with Bureau requirements and guidelines outlined in the Solicitation Package. The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs' programs and projects are subject to availability of funds.

Program Information

Overview: The goals of the project are to assist Gaia in Tbilisi, Georgia, to develop up-to-date curriculum units to

be taught at the fifth through ninth grade levels, and to assist in training teachers for the implementation of these units. The rationale for this project is that improving citizenship education at the secondary school level will better prepare Georgian students to participate actively in building a pluralistic, democratic society and will promote democratic relations among members of the school community, including students, teachers, school administrators, and parents. Applicants may suggest topics to be developed by the curriculum team in their proposals; however, final determination of appropriate topics will be made by the curriculum development team and Gaia in cooperation with the grantee organization during the first phase of the project

Guidelines

Program Planning and Implementation

Grants should begin on or around February 1, 2000, with Phase I of the project, in which a curriculum development team of six practitioners (e.g., classroom teachers, curriculum specialists, and the project director of Gaia, who will serve as the Georgian project director for this grant) will be chosen by a selection committee in Georgia comprised of Gaia staff, local civic education specialists, members of the U.S. grantee organization and the public diplomacy section of the U.S. Embassy in Tbilisi. A Ministry of Education official may be invited to serve as a liaison between the project directorate and the Georgian government. In Phase I, the team will undertake preliminary work in Tbilisi over a period of 3-6 months. Members of the curriculum development team, in consultation with a specialist from the grantee organization and the Georgian Project Director, will familiarize themselves with civics curricula and teaching materials used in the U.S., and will select the topics to be explored in the draft curriculum units.

In Phase II, members of the curriculum development team will spend approximately three months in a highly structured U.S.-based workshop to be sponsored and organized by the U.S. grantee organization, and will attend focused curriculum seminars, observe relevant aspects of the U.S. educational system, and draft teacher and student materials for the curriculum units in consultation with U.S. specialists. The grantee organization will be responsible for introducing the Georgian team to leading U.S. civic educators with expertise that is pertinent to the topics to be explored,