

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD****[Docket No. AB 122 (Sub-No. 2X)]****Terminal Railroad Association of St. Louis—Abandonment Exemption—in St. Louis County, Mo.**

Terminal Railroad Association of St. Louis (TRRA) has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR part 1152 subpart F—*Exempt Abandonments* to abandon an approximately 0.1-mile segment of rail line, between milepost 0.7 (near Bodine Industrial Drive crossing) and milepost 0.8 (the end of the track) in St. Louis County, Mo., (the Line). The Line traverses U.S. Postal Service Zip Code 63114.

TRRA has certified that: (1) No local traffic has moved over the Line for at least two years; (2) there is no overhead traffic that cannot 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 a complainant within the two-year period; and (4) the requirements at 49 CFR 1105.7(b) and 1105.8(c) (notice of environmental and 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 Railroad—Abandonment Portion Goshen Branch Between Firth & Ammon, in Bingham & Bonneville Counties, Idaho*, 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,<sup>1</sup> this exemption will be effective on September 15, 2021, unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay that do not involve environmental issues,<sup>2</sup> formal expressions of intent to

file an OFA under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2), and interim trail use/rail banking requests under 49 CFR 1152.29 must be filed by August 26, 2021.<sup>3</sup> Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by September 7, 2021.

All pleadings, referring to Docket No. AB 122 (Sub-No. 2X), should be filed with the Surface Transportation Board via e-filing on the Board's website. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on TRRA's representative, Audrey L. Brodrick, Fletcher & Sippel LLC, 29 North Wacker Drive, Suite 800, Chicago, IL 60606.

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

TRRA has filed a combined environmental and historic report that addresses the potential effects, if any, of the abandonment on the environment and historic resources. OEA will issue a Draft Environmental Assessment (Draft EA) by August 20, 2021. The Draft EA will be available to interested persons on the Board's website, by writing to OEA, or by calling OEA at (202) 245-0294. Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Comments on environmental and historic preservation matters must be filed within 15 days after the Draft 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), TRRA shall file a notice of consummation with the Board to signify that it has exercised the authority granted and fully abandoned the Line.<sup>4</sup> If consummation has not been effected by TRRA's filing of a notice of consummation by August 16, 2022, and there are no legal or regulatory barriers to consummation, the authority to abandon will automatically expire.

Board decisions and notices are available at [www.stb.gov](http://www.stb.gov).

cannot be made before the exemption's effective date. See *Exemption of Out-of-Serv. 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.

<sup>3</sup> Filing fees for OFAs and trail use requests can be found at 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25) and (27), respectively.

<sup>4</sup> After TRRA filed its verified notice of exemption, West Belt Railway LLC (WBRY) filed a verified notice of exemption to discontinue service over the Line. WBRY Notice 1, Aug. 4, 2021, *West Belt Ry.—Discontinuance of Serv. Exemption—in St. Louis Cnty., Mo.*, AB 1318X. There, WBRY states that it leases the Line from TRRA. See *id.* at 2. TRRA may not consummate abandonment of the Line until WBRY has received authority to discontinue service over the Line.

Decided: August 11, 2021.

By the Board, Scott M. Zimmerman, Acting Director, Office of Proceedings.

**Jeffrey Herzig,**  
Clearance Clerk.

[FR Doc. 2021-17499 Filed 8-13-21; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4915-01-P**

**TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY****Sunshine Act Meetings**

**TIME AND DATE:** 10 a.m. on August 18, 2021.

**PLACE:** Please use the following link for the live stream of meeting: <https://tva.com/board/watch>.

**STATUS:** Open, via live streaming only.

**MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:****Meeting No. 21-03**

The TVA Board of Directors will hold a public meeting on August 18, 2021. Due to the ongoing risks associated with the COVID-19 outbreak, the meeting will be streamed to the public. The meeting will be called to order at 10 a.m. ET to consider the agenda items listed below. TVA Board Chair John Ryder and TVA management will answer questions from the news media following the Board meeting.

Public health concerns also require a change to the Board's public listening session. Although in-person comments from the public are not feasible, the Board is encouraging those wishing to express their opinions to submit written comments that will be provided to the Board members before the August 18 meeting. Written comments can be submitted through the same online system used to register to speak at previous listening sessions.

**Agenda**

1. Approval of minutes of the May 6, 2021 Board Meeting
2. Report of the Finance, Rates, and Portfolio Committee
  - A. FY 2022 Pandemic recovery credit
  - B. FY 2022 Financial plan and budget
  - C. FY 2022 Bond issuance and financing authority
3. Report of the People and Performance Committee
  - A. Corporate goals for FY 2022
4. Report of the Audit, Risk, and Regulation Committee
  - A. FY 2022 External auditor selection
5. Report of the Nuclear Oversight Committee
  - A. Financial assurance for nuclear decommissioning activities
6. Report of the External Relations Committee
7. Information Items

<sup>1</sup> Persons interested in submitting an OFA must first file a formal expression of intent to file an offer, indicating the type of financial assistance they wish to provide (*i.e.*, subsidy or purchase) and demonstrating that they are preliminarily financially responsible. See 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2)(i).

<sup>2</sup> The Board will grant a stay if an informed decision on environmental issues (whether raised by a party or by the Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) in its independent investigation)

- A. Selection of Board Chair
- B. TVARS Board proposal—pension changes
- 8. Governance Items
  - A. Committee structure and assignments
- 9. Report from President and CEO

**CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

For more information: Please call Jim Hopson, TVA Media Relations at (865) 632-6000, Knoxville, Tennessee. Anyone who wishes to comment on any of the agenda in writing may send their comments to: TVA Board of Directors, Board Agenda Comments, 400 West Summit Hill Drive, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902.

Dated: August 11, 2021.

**David Fountain,**

*Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2021-17597 Filed 8-12-21; 4:15 pm]

**BILLING CODE 8120-08-P**

## OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

[Docket Number USTR-2021-0014]

### Request for Comments and Notice of Public Hearing Concerning Russia's Implementation of Its WTO Commitments

**AGENCY:** Office of the United States Trade Representative.

**ACTION:** Request for comments and notice of public hearing.

**SUMMARY:** The interagency Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) is seeking public comments to assist the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) in the preparation of its annual report to Congress on Russia's implementation of its obligations as a Member of the World Trade Organization (WTO). Due to COVID-19, the TPSC will foster public participation via written submissions rather than an in-person hearing. This notice includes the schedule for submission of comments and responses to questions from the TPSC for the Russia report.

**DATES:**

*September 22, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. EDT:* Deadline for submission of written comments for the 2021 Russia WTO Implementation Report.

*September 30, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. EDT:* Deadline for the TPSC to pose questions on written comments.

*October 20, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. EDT:* Deadline for submission of commenters' responses to questions from the TPSC.

**ADDRESSES:** USTR strongly prefers electronic submissions made through

the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov> (REGS.GOV). Follow the instructions for submitting comments in section III below. The docket number is USTR-2021-0014. For alternatives to online submissions, please contact Spencer Smith at [Spencer.L.Smith2@ustr.eop.gov](mailto:Spencer.L.Smith2@ustr.eop.gov) or (202) 395-2974 before transmitting a comment and in advance of the relevant deadline.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For procedural questions concerning written comments, contact Spencer Smith at [Spencer.L.Smith2@ustr.eop.gov](mailto:Spencer.L.Smith2@ustr.eop.gov) or (202) 395-2974. Direct all other questions to Betsy Hafner, Deputy Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Russia and Eurasia at [Elizabeth\\_Hafner@ustr.eop.gov](mailto:Elizabeth_Hafner@ustr.eop.gov) or (202) 395-9124.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****I. Background**

Russia became a Member of the WTO on August 22, 2012, and on December 21, 2012, following the termination of the application of the Jackson-Vanik amendment to Russia and the extension of permanent normal trade relations to the products of Russia, the United States and Russia both filed letters with the WTO withdrawing their notices of non-application and consenting to have the WTO Agreement apply between them. In accordance with Section 201(a) of the Russia and Moldova Jackson-Vanik Repeal and Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act of 2012 (Pub. L. 112-208), USTR is required annually to submit a report to Congress on the extent to which Russia is implementing the WTO Agreement, including the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights. The report also must assess Russia's progress on acceding to and implementing the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) and the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA). In addition, to the extent that USTR finds that Russia is not implementing fully any WTO agreement or is not making adequate progress in acceding to the ITA or the GPA, USTR must describe in the report the actions it plans to take to encourage Russia to improve its implementation and/or increase its accession efforts. In accordance with Section 201(a), and to assist it in preparing this year's report, the TPSC is soliciting public comments.

The terms of Russia's accession to the WTO are contained in the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization and the Protocol on the Accession of the Russian Federation

to the WTO (including its annexes) (Protocol). The Report of the Working Party on the Accession of the Russian Federation (Working Party Report) provides detail and context to the commitments listed in the Protocol. You can find the Protocol and Working Party Report on USTR's website at <https://ustr.gov/node/5887> or on the WTO website at <http://docsonline.wto.org> (document symbols: WT/ACC/RUS/70, WT/MIN(11)/2, WT/MIN(11)/24, WT/L/839, WT/ACC/RUS/70/Add.1, WT/MIN(11)/2/Add.1, WT/ACC/RUS/70/Add.2, and WT/MIN(11)/2/Add.1.).

**II. Public Participation**

Due to COVID-19, the TPSC will foster public participation via written submissions rather than an in-person hearing on Russia's implementation of its WTO commitments. USTR invites public comments on Russia's implementation according to the schedule set out in the Dates section above. Written comments should address Russia's implementation of the commitments made in connection with its accession to the WTO, including, but not limited to, commitments in the following areas:

- a. Import regulation (*e.g.*, tariffs, tariff-rate quotas, quotas, import licenses).
- b. Export regulation.
- c. Subsidies.
- d. Standards and technical regulations.
- e. Sanitary and phytosanitary measures.
- f. Trade-related investment measures (including local content requirements).
- g. Taxes and charges levied on imports and exports.
- h. Other internal policies affecting trade.
- i. Intellectual property rights (including intellectual property rights enforcement).
- j. Services.
- k. Government procurement.
- l. Rule of law issues (*e.g.*, transparency, judicial review, uniform administration of laws and regulations).
- m. Other WTO commitments.

The TPSC will review comments and may ask clarifying questions to commenters. The TPSC will post the questions on the public docket, other than questions that include properly designated business confidential information (BCI). USTR will send questions that include properly designated BCI to the relevant commenters by email, and will not post these questions on the public docket. Replies to questions that contain BCI must follow the procedures in section IV below.