

improvements also include a bike path "loop" which utilizes, among other corridors, the new stormwater conveyance channel, and a new community park. Taking no action is also under consideration.

Scoping Meetings

Public scoping meetings include a two-day Town Hall meeting and three public information meetings. The Town Hall Meeting will be held on Friday, November 7, 1997 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. and Saturday, November 8, 1997 from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Lincoln High School, 2229 "J" Street, Lincoln, NE 68510. This two day event includes a presentation of planning and analysis and screening conducted to date, questions and answers, small group sessions, and a tour of the study area. In addition, three public scoping meetings will be held in greater Lincoln as follows:

Lincoln East High School, 1000 South 70th Street, Lincoln, NE 68510,
Tuesday, November 18, 1997 at 7 p.m.

Southeast High School, 2930 South 37th Street, Lincoln, NE 68506,
Wednesday, November 19, 1997 at 7 p.m.

Lincoln Northeast High School, 2635 North 63rd Street, Lincoln, NE 68507,
Thursday, November 20, 1997 at 7 p.m.

Comment Due Date

To ensure that the full range of issues related to the proposed actions are addressed and all significant issues identified, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested individuals, organizations, and federal, state and local agencies. Comments and questions concerning this proposed action and the EIS should be directed to the COE, FHWA or the City of Lincoln at the address provided.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Project Number 20.205 Highway Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation of federal programs and activities apply to this program)

Issued on October 23, 1997.

Edward Kosola,

Realty Officer, Nebraska Division, Federal Highway Administration, Lincoln, Nebraska.
[FR Doc. 97-28794 Filed 10-29-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-22-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33486]

Adventure Trail d/b/a Sea Lion Railroad—Acquisition and Operation Exemption—The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company

Adventure Trail d/b/a Sea Lion Railroad (SLR),¹ a noncarrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.31 to acquire and operate² a total of approximately 2.7 miles of rail line owned by The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company, known as the Ballard Branch, from MP 0.09 (1000 feet from clearpoint to mainline) to terminus at MP 2.7 (near Northwest 40th Street) in the Ballard region in the City of Seattle, King County, WA. The transaction was expected to be consummated on October 15, 1997.

If the notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*. Petitions to revoke the exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) may be filed at any time. The filing of a petition to revoke will not automatically stay the transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 33486, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001 and served on: Charles H. Montange, 426 NW 162d Street, Seattle, WA 98177.

Decided: October 21, 1997.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-28785 Filed 10-29-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Customs Service

Public Meeting on Reconciliation

AGENCY: Customs Service, Department of the Treasury.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces that a public meeting regarding reconciliation will be held in Hearing Room A of the

¹ SLR is a nonprofit corporation located in the State of Washington.

² SLR states that it intends to apply for a rehabilitation grant from the State of Washington and that it has entered into a contract with an operator, Ballard Terminal Railroad Company, for operational services.

Interstate Commerce Commission Building in Washington, DC., commencing at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, November 12, 1997. The purpose of this meeting is to (1) discuss transfer pricing issues and (2) analyze a proposal for a menu-approach to reconciliation. Customs has received various comments from members of the importing community that a flexible approach should be developed for reconciliation, under which companies can choose an option which will best suit their business needs.

DATES: The meeting will be held November 12, 1997, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Interstate Commerce Commission Building, Hearing Room A, 12th Street & Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To attend the meeting, please contact the Office of Regulations and Rulings at (202) 927-0760.

For additional information on the meeting, please contact either John Durant, Office of Regulations and Rulings, at (202)927-1964 or Shari McCann, Office of Field Operations at (202)927-1106.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On December 8, 1993, the President signed the North American Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (Pub. L. 103-182). Title VI of the Act contained provisions relating to Customs modernization and is popularly known as the Customs Modernization Act or Mod Act. In Title VI, section 637 amends section 484 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1484) to create a new subsection (b) entitled "Reconciliation."

Reconciliation allows a party to provide information, other than admissibility information, which is undeterminable at time of entry summary, to Customs at a later date. A reconciliation is treated as an entry for purposes of liquidation, reliquidation and protest.

Customs has published several notices in the **Federal Register** regarding prototype tests of reconciliation. On May 10, 1996, Customs published a notice in the **Federal Register** (61 FR 21534) regarding a reconciliation test covering entries to which antidumping and countervailing duties applied. This test has been completed.

Customs also published two notices regarding plans to test reconciliation for related party importers who had reason to believe upward adjustments may have been made to the price of imported merchandise for tax purposes pursuant

to 26 U.S.C. 482 (60 FR 64470 and 60 FR 46141).

The Account-based Declaration Prototype (62 FR 14731, published 3/27/97), which includes a reconciliation component, is currently being designed under the Automated Commercial Environment.

Customs is also currently designing the ACS Reconciliation Prototype and published a notice in the **Federal Register** (62 FR 51181) on September 30, 1997, announcing plans to conduct a test of this prototype. The testing period of this prototype is scheduled to be implemented in October, 1998.

The importing community has raised concerns to Customs that reconciliation, as is currently envisioned, is overly burdensome in the data required. Customs and the trade are working together in an attempt to provide a series of options for reconciliation, which will provide the controls and information needed by the government and a practical mechanism which accommodates various business situations.

This document announces that a public meeting will be held to discuss issues related to the development of reconciliation by Customs. At this meeting, Customs and the trade participants will address reconciliation under the current legal structure, and analyze a menu-approach to reconciliation. The goal will be to secure a definition of the various business problems for which reconciliation does not fit, analyze a series of options under which to design reconciliation, and finalize a joint Customs/Industry proposal. Customs will discuss with the trade participants whether any statutory, regulatory or policy changes are required before reconciliation can be best implemented.

The meeting will be held in Hearing Room A of the Interstate Commerce Commission Building in Washington, DC., commencing at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, November 12, 1997. Because seating is limited, reservations are required.

The morning session of this meeting will be devoted to a discussion of transfer pricing, including the issues companies face in working under both the Customs and IRS statutes and transfer pricing situations in need of a reconciliation reporting mechanism. The afternoon session will be devoted to government/industry analysis of a menu-approach to reconciliation. The menu-approach is intended to provide a series of options which address various business needs, including the entire range of value issues (e.g., assists, indirect payments, transfer pricing, etc.)

Dated: October 27, 1997.

John Durant.

Director, Mod Act Task Force.

[FR Doc. 97-28779 Filed 10-29-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4820-02-P

UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

Multi-Regional and Regional Projects for International Visitors

ACTION: Notice; request for proposals.

SUMMARY: The Office of International Visitors (E/V) of the United States Information Agency's (USIA) Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for assistance awards. Public and private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in IRS regulation 26 CFR 1.501(c)(3)-1 may apply to develop projects for Multi-Regional and Regional Groups of International Visitors nominated by U.S. embassies abroad.

The objective of the International Visitor Program is to increase mutual understanding through communication and collaboration with professional counterparts in the U.S. Participants are current or potential foreign leaders in government, politics, media, education, science, labor relations, and other key fields. They are selected by American embassies abroad and approved by USIA in Washington, DC. Since the program's earliest inception in 1941, more than 120,000 distinguished visitors have participated in the program, and over 155 program alumni have subsequently become heads of state or government in their home countries.

Overall grant making authority for this program is contained in the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, Pub. L. 87-256, as amended, 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 Solicitation

Package. USIA projects and assistance awards are subject to the availability of funds.

ANNOUNCEMENT TITLE AND NUMBER: All communications with USIA concerning this RFP should refer to the announcement's title and reference number E/V-98-02.

DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS: All copies must be received at the U.S. Information Agency by 5 p.m. Washington, DC, time on the due date indicated for submission of proposals for each project described below. Faxed or e-mailed documents will not be accepted at any time. Documents postmarked by the due date but received at a later date will not be accepted.

TO REQUEST A SOLICITATION PACKAGE, CONTACT:

For Multi-Regional Projects (MRPs): The Office of International Visitors, Group Projects Division (E/VP), Room 255, U.S. Information Agency, 301 4th Street SW., Washington, DC 20547; Tel: (202) 205-3058; Fax: (202) 205-0792.

For Regional Projects (RPs): The Office of International Visitors, Grants Division (E/VG), Room 255, U.S. Information Agency, 301 4th Street SW., Washington, DC 20547, Tel: (202) 205-9596; Fax: (202) 205-7974.

Please request required application forms, and standard guidelines for preparing proposals, including specific criteria for preparation of the proposal budget.

TO DOWNLOAD A SOLICITATION PACKAGE VIA INTERNET: Information about USIA's IV Program is available via Internet at website: <http://www.usia.gov>. The entire Solicitation Package may be downloaded from USIA's website at <http://www.usia.gov/education/rfps>.

TO RECEIVE A SOLICITATION PACKAGE VIA FAX ON DEMAND: The entire Solicitation Package may be received via the Bureau's "Grants Information Fax on Demand System", which is accessed by calling 202/401-7616. Please request a "Catalog" of available documents and order numbers when first entering the system.

SUBMISSIONS: Applications must follow all instructions given in the Solicitation Package. The original and 10 copies of the application should be sent to: U.S. Information Agency, Ref.: E/V-98-02, Project Title: Contact Officer: Office of Grants Management, E/XE, Room 326, 301 4th Street SW., Washington, DC 20547. Applicants must also submit the proposal on a 3.5" diskette, formatted for WordPerfect.