

Date: February 16, 1999.

**John R. Crook,**

*Assistant Legal Adviser for United Nations Affairs; Executive Director, Advisory Committee of International Law.*

[FR Doc. 99-4728 Filed 2-24-99; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Coast Guard

[USCG-1999-5126]

#### Agency Information Collection Activities Under OMB Review

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Coast Guard has submitted an information collection request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for emergency processing, review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act. The ICR concerns a national recreational boating survey. OMB approval of the ICR has been requested by February 26, 1999.

**DATES:** Comments must be reach the Coast Guard on or before April 26, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** You may mail comments to the Docket Management Facility, (USCG-1999-5126), U.S. Department of Transportation, room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001, or deliver them to room PL-401, located on the Plaza Level of the Nassif Building at the same address between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The telephone number is 202-366-9329.

The Docket Management Facility maintains the public docket for this document. Comments will become part of this docket and will be available for inspection or copying at room PL-401, located on the Plaza Level of the Nassif Building at the same address between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. You may also access this docket on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov>. Copies of the complete Information Collection Request are available through this docket Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov> and also from Commandant (G-SII-2), U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, room 6106, (Attn: Barbara Davis), 2100 Second Street SW., Washington, DC 20593-0001. The telephone number is 202-267-2326.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Barbara Davis, Office of Information Management, 202-267-2326, for questions on this document. Should

there be questions on the docket, contact Dorothy Walker, Chief, Documentary Services Division, U.S. Department of Transportation, 202-366-9330.

#### Request for Comments

The Coast Guard encourages interested persons to submit written comments. Persons submitting comments should include their names and addresses, identify this document (USCG-1999-5126) and the specific Information Collection (ICR) to which each comment applies, and give the reason(s) for each comment. Please submit all comments and attachments in an unbound format no larger than 8½ by 11 inches, suitable for copying and electronic filing. Persons wanting acknowledgment of receipt of comments should enclose stamped, self-addressed postcards or envelopes.

#### Information Collection Requests

1. *Title:* National Recreational Boating Survey.

*OMB Control Number:* 2115-new.

*Summary:* The goal of the National Recreational Boating Survey is to obtain information on boating practices, safety, and exposure. This information will enable boating safety officials to assess boating risks and implement appropriate safety intervention strategies. It will also provide means to measure program effectiveness in reducing the number of fatalities, injuries and the amount of property damage associated with the use of recreational boats.

*Need:* In compliance with the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) of 1993, the National Recreation Boating Survey will provided data needed to: (a) link the effectiveness of Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) Program activities (awareness, education, standards and regulations) to reductions in a person's risk of experiencing a boating incident resulting in fatalities, injuries or property damages; (b) enhance the Coast Guard's ability to identify and satisfy vital customer needs; (c) improve program effectiveness by implementing well-defined program goals; and (d) enhance administration and congressional policymaking, spending decisions, and program oversight using the best performance measures and safety indicators.

*Respondents:* Owners and operators of recreational boats in 1998.

*Frequency:* Every two—three years.

*Burden Estimate:* The estimated burden is 3,926 hours annually.

Dated: February 19, 1999.

**G.N. Naccara,**

*Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard, Director of Information and Technology.*

[FR Doc. 99-4720 Filed 2-24-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-15-M

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33706]

#### Illinois Railnet, Inc.—Acquisition and Operation Exemption—The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company

On January 8, 1999, Illinois Railnet, Inc. (IR), a Class III rail carrier,<sup>1</sup> filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.41 to acquire and operate approximately 23.5-miles of rail line that is currently owned and operated by The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF). The line, known as the "Rockford Subdivision," runs between milepost 0.29 north of Flag Center, IL, and milepost 23.79 at Rockford, IL.<sup>2</sup>

The transaction was scheduled to be consummated on or after January 15, 1999.

If the verified 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 does not automatically stay the transaction.<sup>3</sup>

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 33706, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, one copy of each pleading must be served on counsel for IR: Robert A. Wimbish, REA, CROSS & AUCHINCLOSS, Suite 420, 1920 N Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036.

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

Decided: February 18, 1999.

<sup>1</sup> IR certifies that its annual revenues, including those expected to be derived from the line that is the subject of this notice, will not exceed \$5 million.

<sup>2</sup> Pursuant to a pre-existing agreement with BNSF, I&M Rail Link (IMRL) possesses trackage rights over a portion of the line between milepost 11.69 at Davis Junction, IL, and milepost 23.79 at Rockford, IL. As a result of the instant transaction, IR will assume BNSF's rights and obligations under its trackage rights agreement with IMRL, and IMRL will retain its trackage rights.

<sup>3</sup> By decision served on January 14, 1999, the Board denied a petition to stay the effectiveness of the notice in this proceeding.

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

**Vernon A. Williams,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-4714 Filed 2-24-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

## UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

### Curriculum Development Project: Secondary School Civic Education for Moldova; Notice: Request for Proposals

**SUMMARY:** The Advising, Teaching, and Specialized Programs Division of the Office of Academic Programs of the United States Information Agency's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for a Curriculum Development Project: Secondary School Civic Education for Moldova. Public and private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in IRS regulation 26 CFR 1.501<sup>(c)</sup> may submit proposals to cooperate with USIA in the administration of a two-year project to support the development and implementation of new curriculum units for tenth through twelfth grade civic education courses in Moldova. The grant awards up to \$300,000 to facilitate the project. The grantee will work with the Independent Society for Education and Human Rights (SIEDO), a Moldovan non-profit organization concerned with training secondary school teachers in civic education issues. SIEDO works closely with the Ministry of Education of Moldova on curriculum and teacher training. The program will comprise three phases: (1) preliminary consultations in Chisinau with a curriculum development team of Moldovan educators; (2) a three-month U.S.-based curriculum development workshop in which the team will produce draft curriculum units; (3) follow-up consultation in Moldova to assist with the training of a larger group of Moldovan practitioners in the review and field-testing of the draft curriculum units. Upon the successful completion of Phases I-III, additional funds may be available to the grantee organization for a fourth phase of activity to cooperate with the Independent Society for Education and Human Rights and the curriculum development team in further reviewing and revising the draft materials and to provide broader training for implementation of the revised curriculum units with the Moldovan teachers and administrators.

USIA 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 USIA and with USIA's office in Moldova (the U.S. Information Service in Chisinau) with regard to participant selection, program implementation, direction, and assessment. Proposals should demonstrate an understanding of the issues confronting education in Moldova 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 Agency requirements and guidelines outlined in the Solicitation Package. USIA projects and programs are subject to the availability of funds.

### Program Information

**Overview:** The goal of the project is to assist the Independent Society for Education and Human Rights (SIEDO) in Chisinau, Moldova, to develop up-to-date curriculum units to be taught at the tenth through twelfth 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 Moldovan 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 SIEDO in cooperation with the grantee organization during the first phase of the project.

### Guidelines

#### Program Planning and Implementation

Grants should begin on or around August 1, 1999, with Phase I of the project, in which a curriculum development team of six practitioners (e.g., classroom teachers, curriculum specialists, and Ministry officials) will be selected by the grantee organization in consultation with the Independent Society for Education and Human Rights (SIEDO) and the U.S. Information Service (USIS) Chisinau. In Phase I, the team will undertake preliminary work in Chisinau over a period of 3-6 months. Members of the curriculum development team, in consultation with a specialist from the grantee

organization, 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 sponsored and organized by the U.S. grantee organization, attending focused curriculum seminars, observing relevant aspects of the U.S. educational system, and drafting teacher and student materials for the curriculum units in consultation with U.S. specialists. The grantee organization will be responsible for introducing the Moldovan team to leading U.S. civic educators and to a broad range of relevant resources. The workshop schedule should incorporate time for individual and group work on materials as well as intensive training on specific approaches to the teaching of civics topics. In addition, the workshop should include field experiences which are relevant to the materials being produced (such as visits to schools and professional association meetings).

In Phase III, the curriculum development team will work in Moldova with Moldovan teacher trainers and U.S. specialists from the grantee organization to provide introductory training for a larger group of practitioners in methods for implementing and reviewing the draft curriculum units in the civics classroom.

#### Visa/Insurance/Tax Requirements

U.S. lecturers and consultants participating in the project must be U.S. citizens. Programs must comply with J-1 visa regulations. Please refer to Program Specific Guidelines (POGI) in the Solicitation Package for further information. Administration of the program must be in compliance with reporting and withholding regulations for federal, state, and local taxes as applicable. Recipient organizations should demonstrate tax regulation adherence in the proposal narrative and budget.

#### Budget Guidelines

Grants awarded to eligible organizations with less than four years of experience in conducting international exchange programs will be limited to \$60,000.

Applicants must submit a comprehensive budget for the entire program. Awards may not exceed \$300,000. There must be a summary budget as well as breakdowns reflecting both administrative and program