

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**[Docket No. FD 36604]****Georgia Central Railway, L.P.—Lease and Operation Exemption—City of Vidalia, Ga.**

Georgia Central Railway, L.P. (GC), a Class III railroad, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.41 to replace a lease between GC and the City of Vidalia (the City) for GC to lease and operate as a common carrier over approximately 2.6 miles of track owned by the City beginning at milepost 152.2 and extending to milepost 149.6 (the Line).

According to the verified notice, GC has been the sole operator providing local service on the Line since at least 1997. GC states that the lease agreement (New Lease) supersedes and replaces the current lease, and GC will continue to lease and operate as the sole common carrier on the Line.

GC certifies that the New Lease does not include an interchange commitment. It also certifies that its projected annual revenues from this transaction will not exceed those that would qualify it as a Class III carrier, but that its revenues currently exceed \$5 million. Pursuant to 49 CFR 1150.42(e), if a carrier's projected annual revenues will exceed \$5 million, it must, at least 60 days before the exemption is to become effective, post a notice of its intent to undertake the proposed transaction at the workplace of the employees on the affected lines, serve a copy of the notice on the national offices of the labor unions with employees on the affected lines, and certify to the Board that it has done so. However, GC's verified notice includes a request for waiver of the 60-day advance labor notice requirements. GC's waiver request will be addressed in a subsequent decision. The Board will establish the effective date of the exemption in its separate decision on the waiver request.

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 will not automatically stay the effectiveness of the exemption. Petitions for stay must be filed no later than May 18, 2022.

All pleadings, referring to Docket No. FD 36604, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board either via e-filing on the Board's website or in writing addressed to 395 E Street SW, Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on GC's representative, Justin

J. Marks, Clark Hill PLC, 1001 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 1300 South, Washington, DC 20004.

According to GC, this action is categorically excluded from environmental review under 49 CFR 1105.6(c) and from historic preservation reporting requirements under 49 CFR 1105.8(b).

Board decisions and notices are available at www.stb.gov.

Decided: May 6, 2022.

By the Board, Valerie O. Quinn, Acting Director, Office of Proceedings.

Brendetta Jones,
Clearance Clerk.

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE**[Docket Number USTR-2022-0004]****Annual Review of Country Eligibility for Benefits Under the African Growth and Opportunity Act**

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) is announcing the initiation of the annual review of the eligibility of the sub-Saharan African countries to receive the benefits of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). The AGOA Implementation Subcommittee of the Trade Policy Staff Committee (AGOA TPSC Subcommittee) is developing recommendations for the President on AGOA country eligibility for calendar year 2023 and requests comments for this review. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the AGOA TPSC Subcommittee 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 AGOA TPSC Subcommittee related to this review.

DATES:

June 23, 2022 at 11:59 p.m. EDT: Deadline for submission of written comments on the eligibility of sub-Saharan African countries to receive the benefits of AGOA.

July 7, 2022 at 11:59 p.m. EDT: Deadline for the AGOA TPSC Subcommittee to pose any questions on written comments.

July 15, 2022 at 11:59 p.m. EDT: Deadline for submission of commenters'

responses to questions from the AGOA TPSC Subcommittee.

July 22, 2022 at 11:59 p.m. EDT: Deadline for replies from other interested parties to the written comments and responses to the AGOA TPSC Subcommittee questions.

August 3, 2022 at 11:59 p.m. EDT: The AGOA TPSC Subcommittee to pose any additional questions on written comments.

August 12, 2022 at 11:59 p.m. EDT: Deadline for submission of responses to any additional questions from the AGOA TPSC Subcommittee.

ADDRESSES: USTR strongly prefers electronic submissions made through the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <https://www.regulations.gov> (Regulations.gov), using Docket Number USTR-2022-0004. Follow the instructions for submitting comments in 'Requirements for Submissions' below. For alternatives to on-line submissions, please contact Jeremy Streatfeild, Director of African Affairs, Office of African Affairs, in advance of the relevant deadline at Jeremy.E.Streatfeild@ustr.eop.gov or (202) 395-8642.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeremy Streatfeild, Director of African Affairs, Office of African Affairs, at Jeremy.E.Streatfeild@ustr.eop.gov or (202) 395-8642.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Background**

AGOA (Title I of the Trade and Development Act of 2000, Pub. L. 106-200) (19 U.S.C. 2466a *et seq.*), as amended, authorizes the President to designate sub-Saharan African countries as beneficiaries eligible for duty-free treatment for certain additional products not included for duty-free treatment under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) (Title V of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2461 *et seq.*) (1974 Act), as well as for the preferential treatment for certain textile and apparel articles. The President may designate a country as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country eligible for AGOA benefits if he determines that the country meets the eligibility criteria set forth in section 104 of AGOA (19 U.S.C. 3703) and section 502 of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2462).

Section 104 of AGOA includes requirements that the country has established or is making continual progress toward establishing, among other things:

- A market-based economy
- the rule of law
- political pluralism
- the right to due process
- the elimination of barriers to U.S. trade and investment