

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 59008)

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Associate Administrator, Office of Disaster Recovery & Resilience.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice: 12424]

30-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Global Community Liaison Office (GCLO) Professional Development Fellowship (PDF) Application

ACTION: Notice of request for public comment and submission to OMB of proposed collection of information.

SUMMARY: The Department of State has submitted the information collection described below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for approval. In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 we are requesting comments on this collection from all interested individuals and organizations. The purpose of this Notice is to allow 30 days for public comment.

DATES: Submit comments up to July 8, 2024.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Find this particular information collection by selecting “Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments” or by using the search function.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

- *Title of Information Collection:* GCLO Professional Development Fellowship (PDF) Application.
- *OMB Control Number:* 1405-0229.
- *Type of Request:* Renewal of a Currently Approved Collection.
- *Originating Office:* Bureau of Global Talent Management, Global Community Liaison Office (GTM/GCLO).
- *Form Number:* DS-4297.
- *Respondents:* The PDF program is open to spouses and partners of direct-hire U.S. Government employees from all agencies serving overseas under Chief of Mission authority.
- *Estimated Number of Responses:* 255.
- *Average Time per Response:* 2.75 hours.
- *Total Estimated Burden Time:* 701 hours.

- *Frequency:* Annually.
- *Obligation to Respond:* Required to Obtain a Fellowship.

We are soliciting public comments to permit the Department to:

- Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper functions of the Department.
- Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the time and cost burden for this proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used.
- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected.
- Minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Please note that comments submitted in response to this Notice are public record. Before including any detailed personal information, you should be aware that your comments as submitted, including your personal information, will be available for public review.

Abstract of Proposed Collection

The GCLO needs the information collected in the PDF application to determine who will receive a Professional Development Fellowship. The information is provided to selection committees that use a set of criteria to score the applications. Respondents are spouses and partners of direct-hire U.S. Government employees from all agencies serving overseas under Chief of Mission who want to develop, maintain, and/or refresh their professional skills while overseas. The information is sought pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2651a—Organization of Department of State, 22 U.S.C. 3921—Management of the Foreign Service, 22 U.S.C. 4026(b) Establishment of Family Liaison Office.

Methodology

Applicants will email the completed application to GCLO’s PDF program manager.

Ramona M. Sandoval,

Acting Director, Global Community Liaison Office, Bureau of Global Talent Management, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 2024-12543 Filed 6-6-24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice: 12423]

Determinations Regarding Use of Chemical Weapons by Russia Under the Chemical and Biological Weapons Control and Warfare Elimination Act of 1991

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Acting Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, acting under authority delegated pursuant to an Executive order, has determined pursuant to section 306(a) of the Chemical and Biological Weapons Control and Warfare Elimination Act of 1991 (the Act), that the Government of the Russian Federation has used chemical weapons in violation of international law. In addition, the Acting Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs has determined and certified to Congress pursuant to section 307(d) of the Act that it is essential to the national security interests of the United States to partially waive the application of the sanctions required under section 307(a) of the Act with respect to foreign assistance, licenses for the export of items on the U.S. Munitions List (USML), and the licensing of national security-sensitive goods and technology. The following is a notice of the sanctions to be imposed pursuant to section 307(a) of the Act, subject to these waivers.

DATES: June 7, 2024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Pamela K. Durham, Office of Missile, Biological, and Chemical Nonproliferation, Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation, Department of State, Telephone (202) 647-4930.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to sections 306(a), 307(a), and 307(d) of the Chemical and Biological Weapons Control and Warfare Elimination Act of 1991 (22 U.S.C. 5604(a), 5605(a), and 5605(d)), on April 25, 2024 the Acting Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs determined that the Government of the Russian Federation has used chemical or biological weapons in violation of international law or lethal chemical or biological weapons against its own nationals. As a result, the following sanctions are hereby imposed:

1. *Foreign Assistance:* Termination of assistance to Russia under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, except for urgent humanitarian assistance and food or other agricultural commodities or products.

The Acting Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs has determined that

it is essential to the national security interests of the United States to waive the application of this restriction.

2. *Arms Sales*: Termination of (a) sales to Russia under the Arms Export Control Act of any defense articles, defense services, or design and construction services, and (b) licenses for the export to Russia of any item on the United States Munitions List.

The Acting Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs has determined that it is essential to the national security interests of the United States to waive the application of this sanction with respect to the issuance of licenses in support of government space cooperation, provided that applications for such licenses shall be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and consistent with export licensing policy for Russia prior to the date of the determination. Licenses in support of commercial space launches, shall be reviewed subject to a policy of denial.

3. *Arms Sales Financing*: Termination of all foreign military financing for Russia under the Arms Export Control Act.

4. *Denial of United States Government Credit or Other Financial Assistance*: Denial to Russia of any credit, credit guarantees, or other financial assistance by any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government, including the Export-Import Bank of the United States.

5. *Exports of National Security-Sensitive Goods and Technology*: Prohibition on the export to Russia of any goods or technology controlled for National Security reasons on the control list established under 50 U.S.C. 4813(a)(1).

The Secretary of State has determined that it is essential to the national security interests of the United States to waive the application of this sanction and replace it with the following policies:

License Exceptions: Exports and re-exports of goods or technology eligible under License Exceptions GOV, ENC, BAG, TMP, and AVS.

Safety Of Flight: Exports and re-exports of goods or technology pursuant to new licenses necessary for the safety of flight of civil fixed-wing passenger aviation, provided that applications for such licenses shall be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, consistent with export licensing policy for Russia prior to the date of the determination.

Deemed Exports/Reexports: Exports and re-exports of goods or technology

pursuant to new licenses for deemed exports and re-exports to Russian nationals, provided that applications for such licenses shall be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, consistent with export licensing policy for Russia prior to the date of the determination.

Wholly-Owned U.S. and Other Foreign Subsidiaries: Exports and re-exports of goods or technology pursuant to new licenses for exports and re-exports to wholly-owned U.S. and other foreign subsidiaries in Russia, provided that applications for such licenses shall be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, consistent with export licensing policy for Russia prior to the date of the determination.

Government Space Cooperation: Exports and re-exports of goods or technology pursuant to new licenses in support of government space cooperation, provided that applications for such licenses shall be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, consistent with export licensing policy for Russia prior to the date of the determination.

Commercial Space Launches: Exports and re-exports of goods or technology pursuant to new licenses in support of commercial space launches, will be reviewed subject to a policy of denial.

Commercial End-Users: Exports and re-exports of goods or technology pursuant to new licenses for commercial end-users for civil end-uses in Russia unless they are wholly-owned U.S. or other foreign subsidiaries in Russia, provided that applications for such licenses will be reviewed on case-by-case basis and subject to a “presumption of denial” policy.

The Department of Commerce has implemented additional restrictions against Russia in response to its invasion of Ukraine. For the most current information about these restrictions, please see the Export Administration Regulations, *e.g.*, 15 CFR parts 744 and 746. Also see <https://www.bis.gov>.

These measures shall be implemented by the responsible departments and agencies of the United States government and will remain in place for at least one year and until further notice.

Choo S. Kang,

Assistant Secretary, Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation, Department of State.

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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

[Docket No. EP 682 (Sub-No. 15)]

2023 Tax Information for Use in The Revenue Shortfall Allocation Method

The Board is publishing, and providing the public an opportunity to comment on, the 2023 weighted average State tax rates for each Class I railroad, as calculated by the Association of American Railroads (AAR), for use in the Revenue Shortfall Allocation Method (RSAM).

The RSAM figure is one of three benchmarks that together are used to determine the reasonableness of a challenged rate under the Board’s *Simplified Standards for Rail Rate Cases*, EP 646 (Sub-No. 1), slip op. at 10 (STB served Sept. 5, 2007),¹ as further revised in *Simplified Standards for Rail Rate Cases—Taxes in Revenue Shortfall Allocation Method (Simplified Standards—Taxes in RSAM)*, EP 646 (Sub-No. 2) (STB served Nov. 21, 2008). RSAM is intended to measure the average markup that the railroad would need to collect from all of its “potentially captive traffic” (traffic with a revenue-to-variable-cost ratio above 180%) to earn adequate revenues as measured by the Board under 49 U.S.C. 10704(a)(2) (*i.e.*, earn a return on investment equal to the railroad industry cost of capital). *Simplified Standards—Taxes in RSAM*, EP 646 (Sub-No. 2), slip op. at 1. In *Simplified Standards—Taxes in RSAM*, EP 646 (Sub-No. 2), slip op. at 3, 5, the Board modified its RSAM formula to account for taxes, as the prior formula mistakenly compared pre-tax and after-tax revenues. In that decision, the Board stated that it would institute a separate proceeding in which Class I railroads would be required to submit the annual tax information necessary for the Board’s annual RSAM calculation. *Id.* at 5–6.

Pursuant to 49 CFR 1135.2, AAR is required to annually calculate and submit to the Board the weighted average State tax rate for each Class I railroad for the previous year. On May 30, 2024, AAR filed its calculation of the weighted average State tax rates for 2023, listed below for each Class I railroad:

¹ *Aff’d sub nom. CSX Transp., Inc. v. STB*, 568 F.3d 236 (D.C. Cir. 2009), *vacated in part on reh’g*, 584 F.3d 1076 (D.C. Cir. 2009).