

354 I.C.C. 605 (1978), as modified in *Mendocino Coast Ry., Inc.—Lease and Operate*, 360 I.C.C. 653 (1980).

Decided: June 6, 1996.

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

Vernon A. Williams,  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-15047 Filed 6-12-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

[STB Finance Docket No. 32972]

**K & E Railway Company—Acquisition and Operation Exemption—The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company**

K & E Railway Company, a noncarrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.31 to acquire and operate over approximately 57.69 miles of rail lines of The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company as follows: (i) Between milepost 0.6, at or near Kiowa, KS, and milepost 56.98, at or near Blanton, OK; and (ii) between mileposts 299.88 and 301.19 near Cherokee, OK.

The transaction was expected to be consummated on or after May 30, 1996.

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*. Petitions to reopen the proceeding 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. 32972, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Branch, 1201 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20423. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on Karl Morell, Ball, Janik & Novack, 1455 F Street, NW., Suite 225, Washington, DC 20005.

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<sup>1</sup> The ICC Termination Act of 1995, Pub. L. No. 104-88, 109 Stat. 803, which was enacted on December 29, 1995, and took effect on January 1, 1996, abolished the Interstate Commerce Commission and transferred certain functions to the Surface Transportation Board (Board). This notice relates to functions that are subject to Board jurisdiction pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10901.

**UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY**

**Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program**

**ACTION:** Notice; request for proposals.

**SUMMARY:** The Office of Academic Programs of the United States Information Agency's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for an assistance award. Washington-based public and private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in IRS regulation 26 CFR 1.501(c)(3)-1 may apply to assist USIA in the administration of the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program Washington Workshop. The organization will plan and implement a conference up to four days for approximately 117 mid-career professionals from developing countries, Central/Eastern Europe, and the NIS between the dates of May 3 to May 21, 1997 (final dates to be determined).

Overall grant making authority for this program is contained in the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, Public Law 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 programs are subject to the availability of funds.

**ANNOUNCEMENT TITLE AND NUMBER:** All communications with USIA concerning this announcement should refer to the above title and reference number *E/ASU-96-05*.

**DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS:** All copies must be received at the U.S. Information Agency by 5 p.m. Washington, DC time on Thursday, July 11, 1996. Faxed documents will not be accepted, nor will documents postmarked July 11 but received at a later date. It is the responsibility of each applicant to ensure that proposals are received by the above deadline. Grant should begin on or about September 16, 1996.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Ms. Leigh Rieder, Specialized Programs Unit, E/ASU, Room 349, U.S. Information Agency, 301 4th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20547, telephone: (202) 619-5289, fax: (202) 401-1433, Internet address: [rieder@usia.gov](mailto:rieder@usia.gov), to request a Solicitation Package containing more detailed award criteria, 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

The Solicitation Package may be downloaded from USIA's website at <http://www.usia.gov/> or from the Internet Gopher at <gopher.usia.gov>. Under the heading "International Exchange/Training," select "Request for Proposals." Please read "About the Following RFPs" before downloading.

Please specify USIA Program Officer Leigh Rieder on all inquiries and correspondences. Interested applicants should read the complete Federal Register announcement before sending inquiries or submitting proposals. Once the RFP deadline has passed, Agency staff may not discuss this competition in any way with applicants until the Bureau proposal review process has been completed.

**Submissions**

Applicants must follow all instructions given in the Solicitation Package. The original and six copies of the proposal should be sent to: U.S. Information Agency, Ref.: E/ASU-96-05, Office of Grants Management, E/XE, Room 326, 301 4th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20547.

**Diversity Guidelines**

Pursuant to the Bureau's authorizing legislation, programs must maintain a non-political character and should be balanced and representative of the diversity of American political, social, and cultural life. "Diversity" should be interpreted in the broadest sense and encompass differences including, but not limited to ethnicity, race, gender, religion, geographic location, socio-economic status, and physical challenges. Applicants are strongly encouraged to adhere to the advancement of this principle both in program administration and in program content. Please refer to the review criteria under the "Support for Diversity" section for specific suggestions on incorporating diversity into the total proposal.