

Issued in Renton, Washington on May 28, 1997.

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-501 (Sub-No. 1X)]

#### Longhorn Railway Company et al.; Discontinuance Exemption; in Burnet County, TX

On May 15, 1997, Longhorn Railway Company (Longhorn) filed with the Surface Transportation Board a petition under 49 U.S.C. 10502 for exemption from the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 10903 to discontinue service over approximately a .25-mile segment of the Burnet City track owned by the City of Austin, TX, extending between Polk Street and the end of the line at Washington Street in Burnet, which traverses through U.S. Postal Zip Code 78611. Longhorn has indicated that the only station to be affected by the proposed discontinuance of service is Burnet, TX.

The line does not contain federally granted rights-of-way. Any documentation in Longhorn's possession will be made available promptly to those requesting it. The interest of railroad employees will be protected by the conditions set forth in *Oregon Short Line R. Company—Abandonment—Goshen*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979).

By issuance of this notice, the Board is instituting an exemption proceeding pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10502(b). In a prior decision, Longhorn was specifically directed to address the exemption criteria of 49 U.S.C. 10502(b) if it filed a petition for discontinuance of service exemption. See *Longhorn Railway Company—Discontinuance Exemption—In Burnet, TX*, STB Finance Docket No. AB-501X(STB served Apr. 1, 1997) (*Longhorn*). Because the instant petition fails to include a discussion of the exemption criteria, Longhorn is directed to submit a supplemental filing addressing the exemption criteria within 10 days of the service of this decision. Failure to do so will result in termination of this exemption proceeding. Assuming we receive the supplemental information, a final decision will be issued by September 2, 1997.

Any offer of financial assistance to subsidize continued rail service under 49 CFR 1152.27(b)(2) will be due no later than 10 days after service of a decision granting the petition for exemption. Each offer of financial assistance must be accompanied by a \$900 filing fee. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

Because this is a discontinuance proceeding and not an abandonment, trail use/rail banking and public use conditions are not appropriate.

Longhorn and the rail line owners, the City of Austin, TX, and Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority, have filed the required environmental report necessary before the rail line may be discontinued and abandoned. See *Longhorn, supra*.

All filings in response to this notice must refer to STB Docket No. AB-501(Sub-No. 1X) and must be sent to: (1) Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001; and (2) Donald T. Cheatham, 10220-E Metropolitan Drive, Austin, TX 78758.

Persons seeking further information concerning abandonment and discontinuance procedures may contact the Board's Office of Public Services at (202) 565-1592 or refer to the full abandonment or discontinuance regulations at 49 CFR part 1152. Questions concerning environmental issues may be directed to the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) at (202) 565-1545. [TDD for the hearing impaired is available at (202) 565-1695.]

An environmental assessment (EA) (or environmental impact statement (EIS), if necessary), prepared by SEA will be served upon all parties of record and upon any agencies or other persons who commented during its preparation. Other interested persons may contact SEA to obtain a copy of the EA (or EIS). EAs normally will be made available within 60 days of the filing of the petition. The deadline for submission of comments on the EA will generally be within 30 days of its service.

Decided: May 30, 1997.

By the Board, Vernon A. Williams,  
Secretary.

**Vernon A. Williams,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-14731 Filed 6-4-97; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Customs Service

[T.D. 97-47]

#### Country of Origin Marking of Products of Hong Kong

**AGENCY:** U.S. Customs Service, Department of the Treasury.

**ACTION:** Notice of Policy.

**SUMMARY:** This document notifies the public that, with respect to imported goods produced in Hong Kong after the reversion of that region to China on July 1, 1997, the proper country of origin marking for such goods will continue to be "Hong Kong."

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** The position set forth in this document is effective for merchandise entered or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption on or after July 1, 1997.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Craig Walker, Special Classification and Marking Branch (202) 482-6980.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

Section 304 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1304), provides that, unless excepted, every article of foreign origin (or its container) imported into the U.S. shall be marked in a conspicuous place as legibly, indelibly, and permanently as the nature of the article (or its container) will permit, in such a manner as to indicate to the ultimate purchaser in the U.S. the English name of the country of origin of the article. Failure to mark an article in accordance with the requirements of 19 U.S.C. 1304 shall result in the levy of a duty of ten percent *ad valorem*. Part 134, Customs Regulations (19 CFR Part 134), implements the country of origin marking requirements and exceptions of 19 U.S.C. 1304.

Pursuant to the Sino-British Joint Declaration, signed in 1984, the People's Republic of China will resume the exercise of sovereignty over Hong Kong on July 1, 1997. With respect to goods produced in Hong Kong while under the sovereignty of Great Britain, the Customs Service has taken the position that such goods should properly be marked to indicate that their origin is "Hong Kong."

It has been determined that no change in the current practice regarding the country of origin marking of goods produced in Hong Kong should be made as a result of the reversion of that region's sovereignty to China. Therefore, this document notifies the public that, unless excepted from marking, goods

produced in Hong Kong which are entered or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption into the U.S. on or after July 1, 1997, shall continue to be marked to indicate that their origin is "Hong Kong."

Dated: May 29, 1997.

**Stuart P. Seidel,**

*Assistant Commissioner, Office of Regulations and Rulings.*

[FR Doc. 97-14662 Filed 6-4-97; 8:45 am]

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## UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

### Census of Foreign Students in the United States

**ACTION:** Request for proposal.

**SUMMARY:** The Advising and Student Services Branch of the United States Information Agency's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for an assistance award. U.S. educational, cultural, public, and private for-profit and not-for-profit organizations with significant substantive experience in international education may apply to conduct a statistical survey (census) of foreign nationals affiliated with institutions of higher learning in the United States. The census should identify in the most economical way possible the number of foreign students and scholars studying, conducting research, or teaching at all accredited universities and colleges in the United States starting in the 1997-1998 academic year; it must provide detailed individual student profile data which should include which students are first-time entrants to the U.S. higher educational system, country-specific aggregate data in the form of Country Locator Reports, and survey the number of American students studying abroad. Proposals should describe the methodology which will be used to collect the data and how the material will be analyzed and presented to the public. The proposals must also include plans to establish an advisory board to provide assistance in identifying and framing policy issues to be addressed.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Overview

As the Federal agency tasked with promoting international educational exchange, USIA considers it essential to have an accurate picture of foreign study and scholarship in the United States, such as that provided by the statistical survey. This survey should

provide a detailed and comprehensive picture of the number and characteristics of foreign nationals (excluding permanent residents and refugees) affiliated with American institutions of higher learning and the number of U.S. students studying abroad. Topics of interest include the number of students and scholars, their gender, countries of origin, and fields of study. Information about students' academic level (undergraduate, graduate, post-doctorate), primary source of financial support, financial contributions they make while in the United States, and location of study should be included. A survey of students in intensive English language programs would be of interest but is not required.

The Agency will consider funding a publication, database, newsletter, or any other medium presented as a viable vehicle for making census data about the U.S. and foreign student population widely available in a timely manner and in a clear and concise format. Continued support, assuming availability of funding, will be contingent upon accurate data collection, quality of presentation of that data, and prompt publication of the census. The Agency reserves the right to reproduce, publish or otherwise use any work developed under this grant for Government purposes.

#### Guidelines

Proposals should include a description of the methodology to be used to canvass colleges and universities for information about their statistics. Provision should be made for securing the highest possible response rate. Data collected from the surveys of foreign students enrolled in regionally accredited U.S. institutions of higher learning should be collected annually with 650 copies of the first edition being published in hard-copy and shipped to USIA in the fall of 1998. For a more detailed analysis and cross tabulation of the characteristics of the foreign student population, individual student profile data should be collected annually with the first data appearing biennially in computerized diskette format along with the hard copy in the fall of 1999. This individual student profile data should also be provided to USIA in a format that is country-specific on diskette in the summer of 1998 and should specify detailed information showing the number of students from a specific country attending institutions of higher education in each state of the U.S.

The Agency is interested in a clear presentation of the data collected as well as a rigorous analysis of the data

which will draw conclusions about the trends in international study in the U.S. and make data recommendations for policy for both government and academia. An advisory board must be established to provide assistance in identifying and framing policy issues to be addressed and should meet at least once a year. Board members would likely be drawn from a broad range of disciplines and organizations such as NAFSA: Association of International Educators and the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers, and would be expected to provide fresh perspectives on topics that are related to the internationalization of higher education.

Scholarly analyses of census data addressing pertinent policy issues should be included, taking into consideration a wide range of prospective readers and policymakers in government, academia, and business. The publication should include a section on the mechanics and uses of data analysis, highlighting how conclusions can be drawn from the data collected, what some of the limitations of that analysis can be, and how the data can benefit those supplying it, i.e. as a campus advocacy or recruiting tool.

Please include with the proposal a complete list of proposed chapter headings and sample analyses. We welcome innovative approaches to the presentation of material. Topics we would like to see addressed might include:

- (1) Relationship to immigration flows
- (2) Global competitiveness: How changing patterns in preferred fields of study among international students reflect sociological and economic trends in other countries;
- (3) The impact on the U.S. economy and labor market;
- (4) Global trade;
- (5) A comparative analysis of readily available statistics on foreign student enrollment in countries with significant international student presence;
- (6) How demographics of the international student population in the U.S. is affected by visa control;
- (7) U.S. faculty and students lecturing and researching abroad: The countries/regions they are going to, the fields of study, and who pays for it.

Grant should begin on or about October 1, 1997 and run through September 30, 1999.

Proposed budget: Budget may not exceed \$175,000. Applicants must submit a comprehensive budget for the entire program. There must be a summary budget as well as a breakdown reflecting both the administrative budget and the program budget. For