

49 CFR 1152.50(d)(1) (notice to governmental agencies) have been met.

As a condition to this exemption, any employee adversely affected by the abandonment shall be protected under *Oregon Short Line R. Co.—Abandonment—Goshen*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979). To address whether this condition adequately protects affected employees, a petition for partial revocation under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) must be filed. Provided no formal expression of intent to file an offer of financial assistance (OFA) has been received, this exemption will be effective on July 5, 1998, unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay that do not involve environmental issues,¹ formal expressions of intent to file an OFA under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2),² and trail use/rail banking requests under 49 CFR 1152.29 must be filed by June 15, 1998. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by June 25, 1998, with: Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20423.

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to applicant's representative: Joseph D. Anthofer, General Attorney, Union Pacific Railroad Company, 1416 Dodge Street, Room 830, Omaha, NE 68170.

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*.

UP has filed an environmental report which addresses the effects of the abandonment and discontinuance, if any, on the environment and historic resources. The Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) will issue an environmental assessment (EA) by June 10, 1998. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA by writing to SEA (Room 500, Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423) or by calling SEA, at (202) 565-1545. Comments on environmental and historic preservation matters must be filed within 15 days after the EA becomes available to the public.

Environmental, historic preservation, public use, or trail use/rail banking

¹ The Board will grant a stay if an informed decision on environmental issues (whether raised by a party or by the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis in its independent investigation) cannot be made before the exemption's effective date. See *Exemption of Out-of-Service Rail Lines*, 5 I.C.C.2d 377 (1989). Any request for a stay should be filed as soon as possible so that the Board may take appropriate action before the exemption's effective date.

² Each offer of financial assistance must be accompanied by the filing fee, which currently is set at \$1000. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

conditions will be imposed, where appropriate, in a subsequent decision.

Pursuant to the provisions of 49 CFR 1152.29(e)(2), UP shall file a notice of consummation with the Board to signify that it has exercised the authority granted and fully abandoned the line. If consummation has not been effected by UP's filing of a notice of consummation by June 5, 1999, and there are no legal or regulatory barriers to consummation, the authority to abandon will automatically expire.

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

Decided: May 27, 1998.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Treasury Advisory Committee on Commercial Operations of the U.S. Customs Service

AGENCY: Departmental Offices, Treasury.

ACTION: Renewal of Treasury Advisory Committee on Commercial Operations of the U.S. Customs Service and solicitation of applications for committee membership.

SUMMARY: It is in the public interest to renew the Advisory Committee for another two-year term. This notice also establishes criteria and procedures for the selection of members.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dennis M. O'Connell, Director, Office of Tariff and Trade Affairs, Office of the Under Secretary (Enforcement). (202) 622-0220. Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act 5 U.S.C. App. I (1962), and section 95603 © of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1987 (Pub. L. 100-203), the Under Secretary (Enforcement) announces the renewal of the following advisory committee:

Title: The Treasury Advisory Committee on Commercial Operations of the U.S. Customs Service

Purpose: The purpose of the Committee is to present advice and recommendations to the Secretary of the Treasury regarding commercial operations of the U.S. Customs Service and to submit a report to Congress containing a summary of its operations and its views and recommendations.

Statement of Public Interest: it is in the public interest to continue the

existence of the Committee upon expiration, under the provisions of the Advisory Committee Act, of its current two-year term. The Committee provides a critical forum for distinguished representatives of diverse industry sectors to present their views on major issues involving commercial operations of the Customs Service. These views are offered directly to senior Treasury and Customs officials on a regular basis in a candid atmosphere. There exists no other single body that serves a comparable function.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

In the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1987 (Pub. L. 100-203), Congress repealed the statutory mandate for a Customs User Fee Advisory Committee and directed the Secretary of the Treasury to create a new Advisory Committee on Commercial Operations of the U.S. Customs Service. The original Committee consisted of 20 members drawn from industry sectors affected by Customs commercial operations. The Committee's charter was filed on October 17, 1988 and expired two years later. Charters were subsequently filed for second, third, and fourth, and fifth two-year terms. The current charter will expire on October 15, 1998. The Treasury Department plans to file a new charter by that date renewing the Committee for a sixth two-year term.

Objective, Scope and Description of the Committee

The Committee's objectives are to advise the Secretary of the Treasury on issues relating to the commercial operations of the Customs Service. It is expected that, during its sixth two-year term, the Committee will consider such issues as implementation of the Customs Modernization Act, administration of staff and resources for commercial operations, informed compliance and compliance assessment, the account system, automated systems, the International Trade Data System, the Year 2000 conversion, commercial enforcement, international efforts to harmonize customs practices and procedures, strategic planning, and northern border and southern board issues and the relationships with Canadian Customs and Mexican Customs.

The Committee will be chaired by the Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Enforcement. The Committee will function for a two-year period before renewal or termination and will meet approximately eight times (quarterly) during the period. Additional special

meetings of the full Committee or a subcommittee thereof may be convened if necessary.

The meetings will generally be held in the Treasury Department, Washington, D.C. However, typically one meeting period year, but generally not more than two, may be held outside of Washington at a Customs port. In recent years, meetings have been held in Baltimore, New Orleans, Oakland, Nogales, Los Angeles and Seattle, among other locations.

The meetings are open to public observers, including the press, unless special procedures have been followed to close a meeting. During the first five terms of the Committee, only a portion of the one meeting was closed.

The members shall be selected by the Secretary of the Treasury from representatives of the trade or transportation community serviced by Customs, the general public, or others who are directed affected by Customs commercial operations. In addition, members shall represent major regions of the country, and not more than ten members may be affiliated with the same political party. No person who is required to register under the Foreign Agents Registration Act as an agent or representative of a foreign principal may serve on an advisory committee. Members shall not be paid compensation nor shall they be considered Federal Government employees for any purpose. No per diem, transportation, or other expenses are reimbursed for the cost of attending Committee meetings at any location.

Members who are serving on the Committee during its expiring two-year term are eligible to reapply for membership. A new application letter and updated resume are required. It is expected that approximately half of the current membership of the Committee will be replaced with new appointees.

Membership on the Committee is personal to the appointee. Under the Committee By-Laws, a member may not send an alternate to represent him at a Committee meeting. However, since Committee meetings are open to the public, another person from a member's organization may attend and observe the proceedings in a nonparticipating capacity. Regular attendance is essential; a member who is absent for two consecutive meetings or two meetings in a calendar year shall lose his seat on the Committee.

Application for Advisory Committee Appointment

Any interested person wishing to serve on the Treasury Advisory Committee on Commercial Operations

of the U.S. Customs Service must provide the following:

- Statement of interest and reasons for application;
- Complete professional biography or resume;
- Political affiliation. In order to ensure balanced representation. (Mandatory. If no party registration or allegiance, indicate "independent" or "unaffiliated").

In addition, applicants must state in their applications that they agree to submit to preappointment security and tax checks. There is no prescribed format for the application. Applicants may send a cover letter describing their interest and qualifications and enclosing a resume.

The application period for interested candidates will extend to July 15, 1998. Applications should be submitted in sufficient time to be received by the close of business on the closing date by Dennis M. O'Connell, Director, Office of Tariff and Trade Affairs, Office of the Under Secretary (Enforcement), Room 4004, Department of the Treasury, 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20220, ATTN: COAC 1998.

Dated: June 2, 1998.

Dennis M. O'Connell,

*Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary,
(Regulatory, Tariff and Trade Enforcement).*
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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Treasury Advisory Committee on International Child Labor Enforcement

AGENCY: Departmental Offices, Treasury.

ACTION: Proposed establishment of the Treasury Advisory Committee on International Child Labor Enforcement ("the Committee") and solicitation of applications for committee membership.

SUMMARY: The Treasury Department has determined that it is in the public interest to establish an Advisory Committee on International Child Labor Enforcement. A Charter for the Committee has been prepared and will be filed 15 days following the date of publication of this notice. This notice establishes criteria and procedures for the selection of members.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dennis M. O'Connell, Director, Office of Tariff and Trade Affairs, Office of the Under Secretary (Enforcement), (202) 622-0220. Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. I (1962), the Under Secretary (Enforcement) proposes to establish the following advisory committee:

Title: The Treasury Advisory Committee on International Child Labor Enforcement.

Purpose: The purpose of the Committee is to present advice and recommendations to the Secretary of the Treasury regarding the enforcement of restrictions on the importation of merchandise manufactured in foreign countries using forced or indentured child labor.

Statement of Public Interest: It is in the public interest to establish, under the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the Advisory Committee on International Child Labor Enforcement for an initial two-year term. The Committee will provide a critical forum for distinguished representatives of nongovernmental organizations, private businesses, trade associations, academia, and the public to present their views on enforcement of the import restrictions on merchandise manufactured overseas with forced or indentured child labor. These views are offered directly to senior Treasury and Customs officials on a regular basis in a candid atmosphere. There exists no other single body that could serve a comparable function.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Section 307 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1307) prohibits the importation of "goods, wares, articles, and merchandise mined, produced, or manufactured wholly or in part in any foreign country by convict labor or/and forced labor or/and indentured labor under penal sanctions * * *." The prohibition is enforced by the United States Customs Service in accordance with the Customs Regulations, 19 CFR 12.42-12.48. A general provision in the Fiscal Year 1998 Treasury Appropriations Act made explicit that merchandise manufactured with "forced or indentured child labor" falls within the prohibition of Section 307, and also mandated that Customs not use any of the appropriation to permit the importation into the United States of such merchandise.

Following the enactment of the FY 1998 appropriations amendment regarding child labor, both the Treasury Department and the National Economic Council chaired in-depth interagency discussions aimed at strengthening the capability of the Executive Branch to enforce the prohibition on child labor imports. In his State of Union address on January 27, 1998, President Clinton pledged to "fight the most intolerable labor practice of all—abusive child labor." The establishment of the Committee is intended to create a