

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Federal Aviation Administration****Notice of Extension of the Public Comment Period for the Chicago Terminal Airspace Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement**

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of extension of public comment period.

SUMMARY: The Federal Aviation Administration, Great Lakes Region, is issuing this notice to advise the public that it is extending the public comment period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Chicago Terminal Airspace Project (CTAP) until February 15, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Annette Davis, Federal Aviation Administration, Great Lakes Region, Air Traffic Division, 2300 East Devon Avenue, Des Plaines, Illinois, 60018, (847) 294-8091.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed CTAP changes could affect flights to and from airports within the Chicago region, including Chicago O'Hare International Airport, Chicago Midway Airport, Milwaukee Mitchell International Airport, and general aviation reliever airports. The changes proposed by CTAP are designed to improve traffic flows and reduce airborne and ground delays. CTAP would not result in significant adverse impacts to any resource category. Pursuant to requests received by the public, the public comment period associated with the CTAP DEIS has been extended from January 12, 2001, to February 15, 2001. Copies of the CTAP DEIS are available at the following locations:

State of Illinois

Bensenville Public Library, 200 S. Church Rd., Bensenville, IL 60106
 Des Plaines Public Library, 841 Graceland Ave., Des Plaines, IL 60016
 Eisenhower Public Library, 4652 N. Olcott Ave., Harwood Heights, IL 60656
 Elk Grove Village Public Library, 1001 Wellington Ave., Elk Grove Village, IL 60007
 Elmhurst Public Library, 211 Prospect Ave., Elmhurst, IL 60126
 Franklin Park Public Library, 10311 Grand Ave., Franklin Park, IL 60131
 Garfield Ridge Branch Library, 6348 South Archer Ave., Chicago, IL 60638
 Harold Washington Library, 400 South State St., 5th Floor, Chicago, IL 60605

Mount Prospect Public Library, 10 S. Emerson St., Mount Prospect, IL 60056

Northlake Public Library, 231 N. Wolf Rd., Northlake, IL 60164

Oriole Park Branch Library, 5201 N.

Oketo Ave., Chicago, IL 60656

Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S.

Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, IL 60068

Schiller Park Public Library, 4200 Old River Rd., Schiller Park, IL 60176

State of Indiana

Lake County Public Library, 1919 W. 81st Ave., Merrillville, IN 46410-5382

State of Wisconsin

Milwaukee Central Public Library, 814 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53233

Oak Creek Public Library, 8620 S. Howell Ave., Oak Creek, WI 53154

Issued in Des Plaines, Illinois, on December 21, 2000.

Denis C. Burke,

Manager, Airspace Branch, Air Traffic Division, Great Lakes Region.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Surface Transportation Board**

[STB Docket No. AB-491 (Sub-No. 1X)]

R.J. Corman Railroad Company/ Pennsylvania Lines, Inc.— Abandonment Exemption—In Clearfield and Centre Counties, PA

On December 14, 2000, R.J. Corman Railroad Company/Pennsylvania Lines, Inc. (RJCP) filed with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) a petition under 49 U.S.C. 10502 for exemption from the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 10903 to abandon approximately 22.7 miles of the Wallaceton Branch in Clearfield and Centre Counties, PA. The segments of the Wallaceton Branch proposed for abandonment are: (1) The Wallaceton Secondary, between approximately milepost 9.2, near Bigler, and approximately milepost 11.7, near Wallaceton; (2) the Mills Industrial Track, between approximately milepost 11.2, near Wallaceton, and approximately milepost 24.5, near Osceola Mills; (3) the Bigler Industrial Track, between approximately mileposts 31.4 and 31.8; (4) the Moshannon-Clearfield Industrial Track, between approximately mileposts 0.0 and 4.0; (5) the Trout Run Branch, between approximately mileposts 0.0 and 2.2; and (6) the Big Run Branch, between approximately mileposts 0.0 and 0.3. The lines traverse U.S. Postal Service

Zip Codes 16825, 16876, 16866, 16666, 16938, 16879, 16942, 16701, 17841, and 17506.

The lines do not contain federally granted rights-of-way. Any documentation in RJCP'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. Co.—Abandonment—Goshen*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979).

By issuing this notice, the Board is instituting an exemption proceeding pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10502(b). A final decision will be issued by April 3, 2001.

Any offer of financial assistance (OFA) 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 OFA must be accompanied by a \$1,000 filing fee. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

All interested persons should be aware that, following abandonment of rail service and salvage of the line, the line may be suitable for other public use, including interim trail use. Any request for a public use condition under 49 CFR 1152.28 or for trail use/rail banking under 49 CFR 1152.29 will be due no later than January 23, 2001. Each trail use request must be accompanied by a \$150 filing fee. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(27).

All filings in response to this notice must refer to STB Docket No. AB-491 (Sub-No. 1X) and must be sent to: (1) Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001; and (2) Kevin M. Sheys and Edward J. Fishman, Oppenheimer Wolff & Donnelly LLP, 1350 Eye Street, N.W., Suite 200, Washington, DC 20005-3324. Replies to the RJCP petition are due on or before January 23, 2001.

Persons seeking further information concerning abandonment 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 1-800-877-8339.]

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 in these abandonment proceedings

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.

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

Decided: December 22, 2000.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Fiscal Service

Electronic Authentication Policy

AGENCY: Financial Management Service, Fiscal Service, Treasury.

ACTION: Notice of publication of policies and practices for the use of electronic transactions and authentication techniques in Federal payments and collections.

SUMMARY: The Office of Management and Budget (OMB), as part of its procedures to implement the Government Paperwork Elimination Act (GPEA), directed the Department of the Treasury (Treasury) to develop, in consultation with Federal agencies and OMB, policies and practices for the use of electronic transactions and authentication techniques in Federal financial transactions, including payments and collections. In accord with this directive, Treasury is publishing this Electronic Authentication Policy.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gary Grippo, Director, Electronic Commerce, Financial Management Service, Department of the Treasury, 401 14th Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20227, (202) 874-6816, gary.grippo@fms.treas.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Government Paperwork Elimination Act (GPEA), Public Law 105-227, Title XVII, was signed into law on October 21, 1998. GPEA requires Federal agencies to allow individuals and entities, when practicable, the option of submitting information to or transacting business with the agency by electronic means. On May 2, 2000, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued procedures and guidelines for the implementation of the Act. 65 FR 25508. That guidance directed the Department of the Treasury (Treasury) to develop policies and

practices to be followed by agencies when making Federal payments and collections electronically, as well as other financial transactions. In particular, Treasury was directed to address the authentication of the identity of parties to such transactions, in furtherance of the goals of GPEA in these policies and practices.

Pursuant to this directive, on March 15, 2000, Treasury forwarded to OMB for circulation among Government agencies a draft policy document outlining the principles and guidelines for the use of electronic authentication techniques for Federal payment, collection and collateral transactions. In response to comments received from Government agencies on the draft policy document, Treasury has revised the guidance accordingly. The final policy document is reproduced below.

The most current version of the policy may be found on the Financial Management Service website at: <http://www.fms.treas.gov/eauth/index.html>. Given the rapidly changing nature of electronic commerce, electronic authentication techniques and the related technology infrastructure, Treasury views this policy guidance as a dynamic document which may be revised as necessary, and will accept comments at any time. Changes to this policy will be published as Notices in the **Federal Register**, as necessary, and posted to the FMS website.

Electronic Authentication Policy Payment, Collection, and Collateral Transactions

Background Discussion

Purpose: This policy sets forth principles on the use of electronic authentication techniques, including digital signatures, for Federal payment, collection, and collateral transactions conducted over open networks such as the Internet. Federal payment and collection transactions include all transactions intended to effect a credit or a debit to an account, including transactions executed by Non-Treasury Disbursing Offices. Federal collateral transactions include all electronic messages or instructions to pledge, deposit, release, or claim collateral used to secure public funds. These payment, collection, and collateral transactions may be between the Federal Government and non-Federal entities, as well as transactions between Federal entities.

Scope: This policy applies to applications that use open networks, including the Internet, since access to these networks is unrestricted and Federal users and trading partners must

be authenticated accordingly. This policy is not intended to apply to transactions over closed networks, *i.e.*, legacy financial networks where the networking infrastructure and access to it is owned or controlled by the Government, the Federal Reserve, or private financial institutions.

Focus is also placed on the use of public key cryptographic techniques, which can provide for robust electronic authentication, and on the manner in which Federal agencies must go about obtaining public key digital certificates for payment, collection, and collateral transactions. (It should be noted that in establishing such guidance, our intent is not necessarily to dictate that a particular certification authority provider be used, but rather to try to follow a general principle that offers agencies some choice, particularly where commercial certification authorities must be relied upon). In addition to public key cryptography, the policy covers other forms of remote electronic authentication and electronic signatures, including but not limited to knowledge-based authentication (Personal Identification Numbers (PINs) and passwords) and biometrics.

Goals of Authentication. The goals of authentication are to protect the integrity of Federal payment, collection, and collateral transactions by (1) ensuring that transactions are conducted only by authorized individuals, (2) pinpointing accountability and liability for transactions, (3) providing assurances to the public about the identity of Federal servers and systems on open networks, and (4) receiving assurances about the identity of commercial servers and systems on open networks. The different electronic authentication techniques achieve these goals with varying degrees of robustness.

In addition, the use of the Internet with appropriate electronic authentication techniques offers new opportunities to expand the use of the payments system. For example, digital signatures may allow finance officers to authorize Automated Clearing House (ACH) and wire transfer payments online, permitting the end users access to otherwise closed bank payment networks. These techniques will also permit electronic payments to be made peer-to-peer for the first time, using mechanisms such as electronic checks and electronic cash.

Techniques. Electronic authentication techniques include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Knowledge based authentication, or shared secrets, such as PINs and passwords;