

800-877-8339.] 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 conditions will be imposed, where appropriate, in a subsequent decision.

Pursuant to the provisions of 49 CFR 1152.29(e)(2), D&H 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 D&H's filing of a notice of consummation by June 16, 2004, 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 Web site at <http://www.stb.dot.gov>.

Decided: June 9, 2003.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-14974 Filed 6-13-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 201X)]

Union Pacific Railroad Company— Abandonment Exemption—In Franklin County, IA

On May 27, 2003, Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) 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 a 7.84-mile line of railroad, in the western portion of the Bristow Subdivision, extending from milepost 318.66, near Hampton, to milepost 326.50, near Coulter, in Franklin County, IA. The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Codes 50431 and 50441 and includes no stations.

The line does not contain federally granted rights-of-way. Any documentation in UP'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 September 12, 2003.

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 \$1,100 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 July 7, 2003. 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-33 (Sub-No. 201X) and must be sent to: (1) Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001; and (2) Mack H. Shumate, Jr., Senior General Attorney, 101 North Wacker Drive, Room 1920, Chicago, IL 60606. Replies to the UP petition are due on or before July 7, 2003.

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) 565-1552. [Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) 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 after 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: June 10, 2003.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-15118 Filed 6-13-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Departmental Offices, Treasury: Study of the Potential Effects of Acts of Terrorism on the Availability of Other Lines of Insurance

SUMMARY: The terrorism insurance legislation enacted on November 26, 2002, requires the Secretary of the Treasury (Treasury), after consultation with the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC), representatives of the insurance industry, and other experts in the insurance field, to conduct a study of the potential effects of acts of terrorism on the availability of life insurance and other lines of insurance coverage, including personal lines, and to submit a report to the Congress on the results of the study by August 26, 2003. To assist in the study, the Treasury is soliciting comments on the questions listed below.

DATES: Comments must be received by July 5, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Send comments by e-mail to Otherlinesstudy@do.treas.gov, or by mail to Lucy Huffman, Office of Microeconomic Analysis, U.S. Treasury Department, 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, DC 20220. Please include your name, affiliation, address, e-mail address (if applicable), and telephone number. All submissions should be captioned "Comments on Study of Other Lines".

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lucy Huffman, Project Manager, Office of Microeconomic Analysis, 202-622-0198; or John Worth, Director, Office of Microeconomic Analysis, 202-622-2683.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 103(i) of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 (Pub. L. 107-297) (Act) requires the Treasury, after consultation with the NAIC, representatives of the insurance industry, and other experts in the insurance field, to conduct a study of "the potential effects of acts of terrorism on the availability of life insurance and other lines of insurance coverage, including personal lines". The Treasury is directed to submit a report to the Congress on the results of the study not later than 9 months after the date of enactment of the Act.

To assist in the study, Treasury is soliciting comment in response to the following questions, including empirical data in support of such comments where appropriate and available.

I. Exposure of Insurance Lines Not Covered Under Section 102(6) of the Act to Acts of Terrorism Defined in Section 102(1) of the Act

1.1 What lines of insurance would not be likely to experience potentially significant reductions in availability as a result of the occurrence of future acts of terrorism or the risk of acts of terrorism?

1.2 What lines of insurance would be likely to experience potentially significant reductions in availability as a result of the occurrence of future acts of terrorism or the risk of acts of terrorism?

1.3 What are the attributes of those lines cited in 1.2 that could lead to potentially significant reductions in availability? For example, are there unavoidable concentrations of risk? Is there a particular exposure to certain types of acts of terrorism?

1.4 What is the market structure of those lines of insurance cited in 1.2? In your answer, please describe, as quantitatively as you can, the degree of competition in the markets for those lines, the net premiums to surplus ratios for companies in those lines, and other measures of market structure that you believe are relevant; and compare them to the insurance industry average. What is the distribution of market share (highly concentrated among a few entities, broadly distributed, other)? What types of insurers hold the majority of the market share (local, regional, national, other)?

1.5 What is the current capacity of insurers in those lines cited in 1.2 to bear the risk of acts of terrorism, individually and as affiliates of other companies with support from them?

1.6 Compared to the condition of reinsurance and alternative markets before the attack of September 11, 2001, what is the availability and affordability of reinsurance or of alternatives sources of protection, for insurers offering coverage in lines cited in 1.2? What is the degree to which those insurers can mitigate their exposure through other means? Are there additional loss control programs or mitigation measures that could be undertaken?

1.7 What is the Federal and State regulatory structure applicable to those lines of insurance cited in 1.2? In particular please describe whether exclusions are allowed and for what risks.

II. Current Insurance Availability Conditions

2.1 Please describe current insurance availability conditions in as much detail as possible for customers of

the lines cited in 1.2. If there is reduced availability of a particular line of insurance for some customers, please indicate the line and describe the reduced availability as quantitatively as possible, including, to the extent you can, which customers have been significantly affected, by type and location. Please indicate whether such customers have access to alternative sources of insurance, including the cost and availability of these alternative sources, or whether the customers are not covered.

2.2 What is the impact on community and regional economies and well being, and the national economy of such reduced availability and affordability for those customers?

III. Impact of Potential Future Acts of Terrorism

In this section we solicit comment on the effect of potential future acts of terrorism—single events or aggregation of several events across locale or across a time period—that could cause significant and extended disruptions in availability of insurance lines cited in 1.2.

3.1 In order to facilitate our analysis, please set out the consequences of potential future acts of terrorism for each line of insurance cited in 1.2 within the following broad dimensions:

(1) The relative concentration of the insurance industry exposed to the loss (including the following categories: (a) Loss broadly distributed—share of loss is equivalent to market share; (b) concentration of loss among many small companies—share of loss is greater than market share for large number of small companies and less than market share among market leaders; (c) concentration of loss among market leaders—share of loss is greater than market share for large companies and less than market share among small companies; (d) other distributions deemed of interest); and

(2) the size of the loss (including the following categories: net present value of losses of approximately the following sizes: \$5 billion, \$15 billion, \$30 billion, \$60 billion or larger).

Within each “cell” identified by a single concentration and loss category, please describe as specifically as possible:

- Impact on financial capacity of insurers in the line (*e.g.*, as reduction in share of large local, regional or national market), whether and how many insolvencies might be the result, the extent to which state guarantee funds might be affected, any systemic impact on the insurance industry; and the length of time over which the industry might be able to recover.

- Scope of any significant reduction in availability of coverage in the line, including length of time over which coverage is reduced and numbers of customers or subsets of customers potentially affected.

- Scope of impact on the economies and well being of the communities in which the reductions in availability take place, the associated regions, and the national economy. Please be specific as to how the impact is transmitted from the affected community to the regional and national economy.

If you do not believe this format allows you to adequately answer the question, please alter as needed. Please note that descriptions of scenarios of individual events are not likely to be as helpful as broad aggregates.

3.2 If not already identified in the matrix above, please describe the class of events with the “worst” impact for the line of insurance affected, indicating the concentration and the size of the event (or aggregate of events).

3.3 Please describe, to the extent possible, the likelihood of the events included in the matrix above.

3.4 Please indicate whether you believe that the severity and likelihood of these events as you have described them is accurately reflected in current insurance availability conditions. Please be as specific as possible, including citing instances from your answers to questions 2.1–2.4.

Dated: June 6, 2003.

Mark Warshawsky,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Economic Policy.

[FR Doc. 03–15074 Filed 6–13–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4810–25–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Form 4626

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104–13(44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the IRS is soliciting comments concerning Form