

outlined below under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**. In preparing comments, the public is encouraged to refer to:

- The environment chapter of the U.S.-Chile Free Trade Agreement, available at: <http://www.ustr.gov/new/fta/Chile/final/19.environment.PDF>;
- The U.S.-Chile Environmental Cooperation Agreement, available at: <http://www.state.gov/g/oes/rls/or/22185.htm>; and
- The Final Environment Review of the U.S.-Chile Free Trade Agreement, available at: <http://www.ustr.gov/environment/tpa/chile-environment.pdf>.

DATES: To guarantee receipt in proper time for consideration prior to the meeting, comments are requested no later than July 20, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be sent by fax to (202) 647-5947 or 202-647-1052, by e-mail to OES-ENV-Mail@state.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Luke Ney, Department of State, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, Office of Environmental Policy, telephone 202-647-6867.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The U.S.-Chile Free Trade Agreement (FTA) entered into force on January 1, 2004. Article 3 of Chapter 19 (Environment) of the FTA establishes an Environment Affairs Council (the "Council"), which is required to meet once a year, or more often if agreed by the two governments, to discuss the implementation of, and progress under, Chapter 19. Chapter 19 requires that meetings of the Council include a public session, unless otherwise agreed by the two governments. Through this notice the Department announces that the first meeting of the Council will be held on July 22, 2004, in Santiago, Chile, to discuss issues of mutual concern related to Chapter 19 of the FTA, including matters related to the eight cooperation projects listed in Annex 19.3 of the FTA. In this meeting the Council will also consider how to implement the provisions of Chapter 19, including public participation. Written comments from the public regarding agenda items for the Council meeting, as well as written comments regarding the eight cooperative projects, may be submitted to the contact addresses listed above.

The Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Chile on Environmental Cooperation (the "Environmental Cooperation Agreement," or ECA) entered into force on May 1, 2004. The objective of the ECA is to establish a framework for cooperation between the two governments to support sustainable

development by promoting the conservation and protection of the environment, the prevention of pollution and degradation of natural resources and ecosystems, and the rational use of natural resources. Article II of the ECA establishes a U.S.-Chile Joint Commission for Environmental Cooperation (the "Commission"), comprised of representatives from both governments. The Commission is responsible for establishing and developing programs of work resulting from the ECA, examining and evaluating the cooperative activities under the ECA, making recommendations to the two governments on ways to improve cooperation under the ECA, and undertaking other activities as the two governments agree. Through this notice, the Department announces the first meeting of the Commission, to take place immediately following the Council meeting, on July 22, 2004 in Santiago. The primary objective of the Commission meeting will be to prepare a formal work plan. Public comment is invited on possible areas for bilateral environmental cooperation under the work plan, including: (1) Capacity building and exchange of information on strategies and experiences regarding the control, supervision and the compliance of environmental laws, norms and regulations; (2) Capacity building and exchange of information regarding eco-tourism; (3) Participation of civil society in decision-making related to environmental matters; (4) Joint research and collaboration on preventing the introduction of alien invasive species, with special emphasis on highly-trafficked maritime ports and other pathways of introduction; (5) Impact mitigation of longline fishing on non-target species such as turtles and seabirds; and (6) Capacity building and exchange of information on forest management and protection.

A special introductory public session will take place in Santiago prior to the Council and Commission meetings, at a time and place to be announced, in order to explain the provisions in Chapter 19 of the FTA and the role of the Council, as well as discuss the cooperative projects identified in the annex of Chapter 19. This session will also provide the opportunity for the public to learn about, and provide input towards, the cooperative activities envisioned by the ECA. The public is advised to refer to the State Department Web site at www.state.gov/g/oes/env/ for further information related to this meeting.

Dated: July 7, 2004.

Michael Glover,

*Director, Office of Environmental Policy,
Department of State.*

[FR Doc. 04-15754 Filed 7-9-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-09-P

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Trade Policy Staff Committee; Notice of Availability and Request for Public Comment on Interim Environmental Review of United States-Panama Free Trade Agreement

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice of availability and request for public comment.

SUMMARY: The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), on behalf of the Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC), seeks comment on the interim environmental review of the proposed U.S.-Panama Free Trade Agreement (FTA). The interim environmental review is available at <http://www.ustr.gov/environment/environmental.shtml>. Copies of the review will also be sent to interested members of the public by mail upon request.

DATES: Comments on the interim environmental review are requested by no later than July 30, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For procedural questions concerning public comments, contact Gloria Blue, Executive Secretary, TPSC, Office of the USTR, 1724 F Street, NW., Washington, DC 20508, telephone (202) 395-3475. Questions concerning the environmental review, or requests for copies, should be addressed to Nina Fite or David Brooks, Environment and Natural Resources Section, Office of the USTR, telephone 202-395-7320.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Trade Act of 2002, signed by the President on August 6, 2002, provides that the President shall conduct environmental reviews of [certain] trade agreements consistent with Executive Order 13121—Environmental Review of Trade Agreements (64 FR 63,169, Nov. 18, 1999) and its implementing guidelines (65 FR 79,442, Dec. 19, 2000) and report on such reviews to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate. The Order and guidelines are available at <http://www.ustr.gov/environment/environmental.shtml>.

The purpose of environmental reviews is to ensure that policymakers and the public are informed about reasonably foreseeable environmental impacts of trade agreements (both positive and negative), to identify complementarities between trade and environmental objectives, and to help shape appropriate responses if environmental impacts are identified. Reviews are intended to be one tool, among others, for integrating environmental information and analysis into the fluid, dynamic process of trade negotiations. USTR and the Council on Environmental Quality jointly oversee implementation of the Order and Guidelines. USTR, through the Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC), is responsible for conducting the individual reviews.

Written Comments

In order to facilitate prompt processing of submissions of comments, the Office of the United States Trade Representative strongly urges and prefers e-mail submissions in response to this notice. Persons submitting comments by e-mail should use the following e-mail address: FR04034@ustr.gov with the subject line: "Panama Interim Environmental Review." Documents should be submitted as either Word Perfect, MSWord, or text (.TXT) files. Persons who make submissions by e-mail should not provide separate cover letters; information that might appear in a cover letter should be included in the submission itself. To the extent possible, any attachments to the submission should be included in the same file as the submission itself, and not as separate files. If submission by e-mail is impossible, comments should be made by facsimile to (202) 395-6143, attention: Gloria Blue.

Written comments will be placed in a file open to public inspection in the USTR Reading Room at 1724 F Street, NW., Washington DC. An appointment to review the file may be made by calling (202) 395-6186. The Reading Room is open to the public from 10-12 a.m. and from 1-4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

General information concerning the Office of the United States Trade Representative may be obtained by accessing its Internet Web site (www.ustr.gov).

Carmen Suro-Bredie,

Chair, Trade Policy Staff Committee.

[FR Doc. 04-15705 Filed 7-9-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3190-W3-U

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 34514]

Raritan Central Railway, L.L.C.— Operation Exemption—Heller Industrial Parks, Inc.

Raritan Central Railway, L.L.C. (Raritan), a Class III rail carrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.41 to operate approximately 1.0 route mile and approximately 2.0 track miles of railroad trackage and right-of-way inside Heller Industrial Park, Edison Township, Middlesex County, NJ. Raritan indicates that it has executed a license agreement effective August 15, 2004, with Heller Industrial Parks, Inc., granting Raritan the exclusive right to use all railroad trackage on Heller's property for the purpose of providing railroad service to all railroad customers within Heller Industrial Park. Raritan advises that, although the subject trackage is currently served by Consolidated Rail Corporation (Conrail), Raritan will replace Conrail as the exclusive provider of rail service on the subject trackage. Raritan has further advised, in a separate pleading filed June 24, 2004, that it will not operate on track owned by Conrail.

Raritan certifies that its projected annual revenues as a result of this transaction will not exceed \$5 million, and thus the transaction will not result in the creation of a Class I or Class II rail carrier.

The transaction is scheduled to be consummated on or about August 15, 2004.

If the notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*. Petitions 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. 34514, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, one copy of each pleading must be served on John D. Heffner, Esq., John D. Heffner, PLLC, 1920 N Street, NW., Suite 800, Washington, DC 20036.

Board decisions and notices are available on our Web site at "www.stb.dot.gov."

Decided: July 2, 2004.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 04-15609 Filed 7-9-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Form 8877

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, Pub. L. 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the IRS is soliciting comments concerning Form 8877, Request for Waiver of Annual Income Recertification Requirement for the Low-Income Housing Credit.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before September 10, 2004 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Glenn P. Kirkland, Internal Revenue Service, room 6411, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the form and instructions should be directed to Carol Savage at Internal Revenue Service, room 6407, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224, or at (202) 622-3945, or through the Internet at CAROLA.SAVAGE@irs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Request for Waiver of Annual Income Recertification Requirement for the Low-Income Housing Credit.

OMB Number: 1545-1882.

Form Number: 8877.

Abstract: Owners of low-income housing buildings that are 100% occupied by low-income tenants may request a waiver from the annual recertification of income requirements, as provided by Code section 42(g)(8)(B).

Current Actions: There are no changes being made to the form at this time.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations, and individuals.