

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Surface Transportation Board**

[STB Ex Parte No. 677 (Sub-No. 1)]

Common Carrier Obligation of Railroads—Transportation of Hazardous Materials**AGENCY:** Surface Transportation Board, DOT.**ACTION:** Notice of Public Hearing.

SUMMARY: The Surface Transportation Board will hold a public hearing beginning at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, July 16, 2008, at its headquarters in Washington, DC. The purpose of the public hearing will be to examine issues related to the common carrier obligation of railroads with respect to the transportation of hazardous materials. Persons wishing to speak at the hearing should notify the Board in writing.

DATES: The public hearing will take place on Wednesday, July 16, 2008. Any person wishing to speak at the hearing should file with the Board a written notice of intent to participate, and should identify the party, the proposed speaker, and the time requested, as soon as possible but no later than July 2, 2008. Each speaker should also file with the Board his/her written testimony in that same document. Written submissions by interested persons who do not wish to appear at the hearing will also be due by July 2, 2008.

ADDRESSES: All notices of intent to participate and testimony may be submitted either via the Board's e-filing format or in the traditional paper format. Any person using e-filing should attach a document and otherwise comply with the Board's <http://www.stb.dot.gov> Web site, at the "E-FILING" link. Any person submitting a filing in the traditional paper format should send an original and 10 copies of the filing to: Surface Transportation Board, Attn: STB Ex Parte No. 677 (Sub-No. 1), 395 E Street, SW., Washington, DC 20423-0001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Joseph Dettmar, (202) 245-0395. [Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at: (800) 877-8339.]

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The common carrier obligation refers to the statutory duty of railroads to provide "transportation or service on reasonable request." 49 U.S.C. 11101(a). A railroad may not refuse to provide service merely because to do so would be inconvenient or unprofitable. *G.S. Roofing Prods. Co. v. Surface Transp.*

Bd., 143 F.3d 387, 391 (8th Cir. 1998). The common carrier obligation, however, is not absolute, and service requests must be reasonable. *Id.* In recent years, the Board has seen an increasing number of questions arising, both formally and informally, regarding the extent of a railroad's common carrier obligation. As a result, the Board held a hearing on April 24-25, 2008, to hear comments from interested parties on the common carrier obligation and to provide a forum for discussion of that obligation.

That hearing raised many issues involving the obligation of railroads to haul hazardous materials, including toxic by inhalation hazards (TIH). For many hazardous materials, including TIH, rail is the safest and most efficient mode of transportation. But, according to the railroads, the transportation of these materials subjects them to ruinous liability in the event of an accident. To allow a more detailed discussion, the Board is holding a hearing to explore the issues surrounding the transportation of hazardous materials by rail.

The Board is interested in specific potential policy solutions to the liability issue, including solutions modeled on the Price-Anderson Act of 1957. The Price-Anderson Act was designed to ensure that adequate funds would be available to satisfy liability claims of members of the public for personal injury and property damage in the event of a catastrophic nuclear accident. Parties may also comment on the appropriate role of the Board in developing such a policy solution. The Board is also interested in the wide range of views from all stakeholders, including any diversity of views from similarly situated companies or groups.

Parties are also invited to comment on what constitutes a reasonable request for service involving the movement of TIH, as well as whether there are unique costs associated with the transportation of hazardous materials, and if so, how railroads recover those costs. Also, the Board would benefit from a discussion of efforts by various federal agencies, including the Federal Railway Administration and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, to address the transportation of hazardous materials.

Date of Hearing. The hearing will begin at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, July 16, 2008, in the 1st floor hearing room at the Board's headquarters at 395 E Street, SW., in Washington, DC, and will continue, with short breaks if necessary, until every person scheduled to speak has been heard.

Notice of Intent To Participate. Any person wishing to speak at the hearing should file with the Board a written notice of intent to participate, and should identify the party, the proposed speaker, and the time requested, as soon as possible, but no later than July 2, 2008.

Testimony. Each speaker should file with the Board his/her written testimony with his/her notice of intent to participate (by July 2, 2008). Also, any interested person who wishes to submit a written statement without appearing at the July 16 hearing should file that statement by July 2, 2008.

Board Releases and Live Video Streaming Available Via the Internet. Decisions and notices of the Board, including this notice, are available on the Board's Web site at <http://www.stb.dot.gov>. This hearing will be available on the Board's Web site by live video streaming. To access the hearing, click on the "Live Video" link under "Information Center" at the left side of the home page beginning at 9 a.m. on July 16, 2008.

This action will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

Dated: June 4, 2008.

Anne K. Quinlan,
Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. E8-12944 Filed 6-9-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Surface Transportation Board**

[STB Ex Parte No. 519 (Sub-No. 4)]

Notice of National Grain Car Council Meeting**AGENCY:** Surface Transportation Board, DOT.**ACTION:** Notice of National Grain Car Council meeting.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of a meeting of the National Grain Car Council (NGCC), pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Pub. L. No. 92-463, as amended (5 U.S.C., App. 2).

DATES: The meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 25, 2008, beginning at 10:30 a.m. and is expected to conclude at 3:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the headquarters of the Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street, SW., in Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mel Clemens at (202) 245-0241 or Tom

Brugman at (202) 245-0281. [Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at: (800) 877-8339].

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The NGCC arose from a proceeding instituted by the Surface Transportation Board's (Board) predecessor agency, the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC), in National Grain Car Supply—Conference of Interested Parties, Ex Parte No. 519. The NGCC was formed as a working group to facilitate private-sector solutions and recommendations to the ICC (and now the Board) on matters affecting grain transportation.

The general purpose of this meeting is to discuss rail carrier preparedness to transport the 2008 Fall grain harvest. Agenda items include the following: Remarks by Board Chairman Charles D. Nottingham, Vice Chairman Francis P. Mulvey (who serves as Co-Chairman of the NGCC), and Commissioner W. Douglas Buttrey; a presentation and discussion regarding the new centralized database (OT-5 TAG), developed by carriers to facilitate shipper requests to load and store private rail cars on carrier track; reports by rail carriers and shippers on grain-service related issues; a report by rail car manufacturers and lessors on current and future availability of various grain-car types; and an open forum on the impact of current Federal regulation on grain car supply.

The meeting, which is open to the public, will be conducted pursuant to the NGCC's charter and Board procedures. Further communications about this meeting may be announced through the Board's Web site at <http://www.stb.dot.gov>.

This action will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

Dated: June 10, 2008.

Anne K. Quinlan,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. E8-12943 Filed 6-9-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Community Development Financial Institutions Fund

Open Meeting of the Community Development Advisory Board

AGENCY: Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, Department of the Treasury.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the next meeting of the Community Development Advisory Board (the Advisory Board), which provides advice to the Director of the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (the Fund).

DATES: The next meeting of the Advisory Board will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on June 25, 2008.

ADDRESSES: The Advisory Board meeting will be held in the John Adams Salons A & B at The Madison Hotel located at 1177 Fifteenth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20005.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The Office of Public and Legislative Affairs of the Fund, 601 Thirteenth Street, NW., Suite 200 South, Washington, DC 20005, (202) 622-8042 (this is not a toll free number). Other information regarding the Fund and its programs may be obtained through the Fund's Web site at <http://www.cdfifund.gov>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 104(d) of the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4703(d)) established the Advisory Board. The charter for the Advisory Board has been filed in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App.), and with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury.

The function of the Advisory Board is to advise the Director of the Fund (who has been delegated the authority to administer the Fund) on the policies regarding the activities of the Fund. The Advisory Board shall not advise the Fund on the granting or denial of any particular application for monetary or non-monetary awards. The Advisory Board shall meet at least annually.

The next meeting of the Advisory Board, all of which will be open to the public, will be held in the John Adams Salons A & B at The Madison Hotel located at 1177 Fifteenth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20005, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on June 25, 2008. The room will accommodate up to 20 members of the public. Seats are available to members of the public on a first-come, first-served basis.

Participation in the discussions at the meeting will be limited to Advisory Board members, Department of the Treasury staff, and certain invited guests. Anyone who would like to have the Advisory Board consider a written statement must submit it to the Fund's Office of Public and Legislative Affairs of the Fund, 601 Thirteenth Street, NW., Suite 200 South, Washington, DC 20005, by 5 p.m. EDT on Friday, June 20, 2008.

The Advisory Board meeting will include a report from the Director on the

activities of the Fund since the last Advisory Board meeting, as well as policy, programmatic, fiscal and legislative initiatives for the years 2008 and 2009.

Authority: 12 U.S.C. 4703; Chapter X, Pub. L. 104-19, 109 Stat. 237.

Dated: June 5, 2008.

Donna J. Gambrell,

Director, Community Development Financial Institutions Fund.

[FR Doc. 08-1342 Filed 6-6-08; 1:17 pm]

BILLING CODE 4810-70-P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0171]

Agency Information Collection (Application and Enrollment Certification for Individualized Tutorial Assistance) Activities Under OMB Review

AGENCY: Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501-3521), this notice announces that the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Department of Veterans Affairs, will submit the collection of information abstracted below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The PRA submission describes the nature of the information collection and its expected cost and burden; it includes the actual data collection instrument.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before July 10, 2008.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the collection of information through <http://www.Regulations.gov> or to VA's OMB Desk Officer, OMB Human Resources and Housing Branch, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503 (202) 395-7316. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0171" in any correspondence.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Denise McLamb, Records Management Service (005R1B), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420, (202) 461-7485, FAX (202) 273-0443 or e-mail denise.mclamb@mail.va.gov. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0171."

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Application and Enrollment Certification for Individualized Tutorial Assistance (38 U.S.C. Chapters 30, 32, 35; 10 U.S.C. Chapter 1606; Section 903