DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Suggestions for Environmental Cooperation Pursuant to the United States-Peru Environmental Cooperation Agreement]


SUMMARY: The Department invites the public, including NGOs, educational institutions, private sector enterprises and other interested persons, to submit written comments or suggestions regarding items for inclusion in a new Work Program for implementing the United States-Peru Environmental Cooperation Agreement (ECA), which entered into force in August 2009. The ECA Work Program will focus in particular on the implementation of the Annex on Forest Sector Governance of the U.S.-Peru Trade Promotion agreement (PTPA). Please review the Annex carefully when preparing your ideas and suggestions. We also encourage submitters to refer to: (1) The Environment Chapter of the PTPA, (2) the U.S.-Peru ECA, (3) the U.S.-Peru 2009–2010 Environmental Cooperation Work Program, and (4) the Environmental Review of the PTPA. (Documents are available at: http://www.state.gov/g/oes/env/trade/peru/index.htm).

DATES: To be assured of timely consideration, all written comments or suggestions are requested no later than May 25, 2010.

ADDRESSES: Written comments or suggestions should be e-mailed (trontjm@state.gov) or faxed to Jacqueline Tront ((202) 647–5947), Office of Environmental Policy, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, U.S. Department of State, with the subject line “U.S.-Peru Environmental Cooperation Work Program.”

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jacqueline Tront, telephone (202) 647–4750, Office of Environmental Policy, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, U.S. Department of State.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In the U.S.-Peru Environmental Cooperation Agreement, the Parties (1) recognize that cooperation is a principal means to contribute to “efforts * * * to ensure that trade and environmental policies are mutually supportive and to promote the optimal use of resources in accordance with the objective of sustainable development” and (2) “establish a framework for enhancing bilateral and/or regional environmental cooperation between the Parties.” In the Environment Chapter of the PTPA (Chapter 18), the Parties likewise “recognize the importance of strengthening their capacity to protect the environment and of promoting sustainable development in concert with strengthening their trade and investment relations.” The Parties commit to “undertaking cooperative environmental activities pursuant to the ECA, including activities related to implementation of the [Environment] Chapter.” In particular, in the Environment Chapter’s Annex on Forest Sector Governance, the Parties commit to work cooperatively to implement certain actions required under the Annex, including through capacity-building and other joint initiatives to promote sustainable management of Peru’s forest resources, in accordance with the ECA.

Article III of the ECA establishes the Environmental Cooperation Commission (ECC) to coordinate and review environmental cooperation activities. The responsibilities of the ECC include developing and periodically reviewing the work program. The work program is a tool to identify and establish goals, objectives and areas for cooperation, including short-, medium- and long-term bilateral and/or regional projects and activities. The Parties also agree to take into account public comments and recommendations regarding cooperative environmental activities.

In August 2009, the Parties agreed to the 2009–2010 U.S.-Peru Environmental Cooperation Work Program. The main areas of cooperation under the 2009–2010 Work Program are: (1) institutional and policy strengthening for effective implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, including natural resource-related laws; (2) biodiversity conservation and improved management of forests, protected areas and other ecologically important ecosystems; (3) transparency and public participation in environmental decision-making and enforcement; (4) community and market-based activities; and (5) improved environmental performance in the productive sector.

The Parties agreed to focus cooperation on the capacity building activities identified in the Annex on Forest Sector Governance to ensure effective and timely implementation of those obligations. The capacity building activities listed in the Annex include: (a) Strengthening the legal, policy, and institutional framework governing the forest estate and the international trade in forest products; (b) building institutional capacity for forest law enforcement and the international trade in forest products; (c) improving the performance of the forest concession system in meeting economic, social, and ecological objectives; and (d) increasing public participation and improving transparency in forest resource planning and management decision-making.

The United States anticipates building upon the cooperative work initiated in the 2009–2010 Work Program with a primary focus on activities related to the Annex on Forest Sector Governance. We are requesting ideas and suggestions that may be considered for inclusion in the next Work Program.

For additional information: http://www.state.gov/g/oes/env/trade/peru/index.htm.

Disclaimer: This Public Notice is a request for comments and suggestions, and is not a request for applications. No granting or money is directly associated with this request for suggestions for the Work Program. There is no expectation of resources or funding associated with any comments or suggestions provided for the work program.


Willem H. Brakel,
Director, Office of Environmental Policy,
Department of State.

[FR Doc. 2010–8556 Filed 4–13–10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710–09–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Reports, Forms and Record Keeping Requirements; Agency Information Collection Activity Under OMB Review

AGENCY: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.), this notice announces that the Information Collection Request (ICR) abstracted below has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The ICR describes the nature of the information collections and their expected burden. The Federal Register Notice with a 60-day comment period will provide an opportunity for public comment.
period was published on November 24, 2009 [74 FR 61405–61406].

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before May 14, 2010.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Title: Air Bag Deactivation.

OMB Number: 2127–0588.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: If a private individual or lessee wants to install an air bag on-off switch to turn-off either or both frontal air bags, they must complete Form OMB 2127–0588 to certify certain statements regarding use of the switch. The dealer or business must, in turn, submit the completed forms to NHTSA within seven days. The submission of the completed forms by the dealers and repair business to NHTSA, as required, will serve the agency several purposes. They will aid the agency in monitoring the number of authorization requests submitted and the pattern in claims of risk groups membership. The completed forms will enable the agency to determine whether the dealers and repair business are complying with the terms of the exemption, which include a requirement that the dealers and repair businesses accept only fully completed forms. Finally, submission of the completed forms to the agency will promote honesty and accuracy in the filling out of the forms by vehicle owners. The air bag on-off switches are installed only in vehicles in which the risk of harm needs to be minimized on a case-by-case basis.

Affected Public: Private individuals, fleet owners and lessees, motor vehicle dealers, repair business.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: 3,750 hours.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 7,500.

ADDRESSES: Send comments, within 30 days, to: Chandana Achanta, Desk Officer, Office of Management and Budget, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: by fax at (202) 395–6974; by mail at Room 10235, 725–17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503; or at OIRA_SUBMISSION@OMB.EOP.GOV. Comments are invited on: Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; the accuracy of the Department’s estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. A Comment to OMB is most effective if OMB receives it within 30 days of publication.

Issued in Washington, DC, on April 6, 2010.

Kevin Mahoney,

Director, Corporate Customer Services.

[FR Doc. 2010–8488 Filed 4–13–10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–59–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB–1043 (Sub-No. 1)]

Montreal, Maine & Atlantic Railway, Ltd.—Discontinuance of Service and Abandonment—in Aroostook and Penobscot Counties, ME

April 9, 2010.

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board.

ACTION: Notice of Public Hearing.

SUMMARY: The Surface Transportation Board will hold a public hearing concerning the abandonment application filed in this docket. The purpose of the hearing will be to allow interested persons to comment on the application.

DATE/LOCATION: The public hearing will take place on May 10, 2010, beginning at 9 a.m., at the District Court House, 27 Riverside Drive, Presque Isle, ME 04769. Any person wishing to speak at the hearing must file with the Board a written notice of intent to participate, identifying (1) the party represented, (2) the proposed speaker, and (3) the number of minutes requested. Notices of intent to participate should be filed as soon as possible, but not later than April 19, 2010. Following receipt of notices of intent, the Board will release a schedule of speakers for the hearing. The courthouse is open Monday through Friday from 8 in the morning. All visitors must present a valid form of government-issued photo identification and pass screening before being granted access into the building. Cameras are not permitted in the building. Visitors will have access to public areas only.

ADDRESSES: Notices of intent to participate in the hearing 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 website, at the “E-FILING” link. Any person submitting a filing in the traditional paper format should send the filing to: Surface Transportation Board, Attn: STB Docket No. AB–1043 (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: On February 25, 2010, Montreal, Maine & Atlantic Railway, Ltd. (MMA) filed an application under 49 U.S.C. 10903 for authority to abandon and discontinue service over approximately 233 miles of line in Aroostook and Penobscot Counties, ME.1 In a decision served on March 12, 2010, the Board granted requests to hold a public hearing. At the hearing, the Board will hear testimony on the abandonment application. Speakers at the hearing may, but are not required to, bring written copies of their testimony to the hearing and offer those statements for the record in the proceeding. Speakers who wish to enhance their presentation by using projector-adaptable visual displays and/or handouts may do so. Any projector-adaptable visual displays must be submitted to the Board in electronic form by May 3, 2010. Interested persons should remember that they also can submit written comments on the application by April 21, 2010. Live audio/video streaming of the hearing will not be available.

This action will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment.

1 MMA seeks authority to abandon and discontinue service over: (1) The Madawaska Subdivision, consisting of approximately 151 miles of line between milepost 109 near Millinocket and milepost 260 near Madawaska in Penobscot and Aroostook Counties; (2) The Presque Isle Subdivision, consisting of approximately 25.3 miles of line between milepost 0.0 near Squa Pan and milepost 25.3 near Presque Isle in Aroostook County; (3) The Fort Fairfield Subdivision, consisting of approximately 10 miles of line between milepost 0.0 near Presque Isle and milepost 10.0 near Easton in Aroostook County; (4) The Limestone Subdivision, consisting of approximately 29.85 miles of line between milepost 0.0 near Presque Isle and milepost 29.85 near Limestone in Aroostook County; and (5) the Houlton Subdivision, consisting of approximately 16.9 miles of line between milepost 0.0 near Oakfield and milepost 16.9 near Houlton in Aroostook County.