

In November 2013, the District submitted an application to the Department for a Presidential Permit authorizing the construction, connection, operation, and maintenance of a cross-border water pipeline facility for the proposed project, which would convey desalinated seawater from Mexico to the District's Roll Reservoir in San Diego County, which is approximately four miles northeast of the border.

The proposed Mexican desalination plant (not a part of the proposed project) is envisioned to produce 100 million gallons per day (MGD) of desalinated sea water. The District intends to initially purchase approximately 20–25 MGD of desalinated sea water, and ultimately increase the amount to 50 MGD. Due to seasonal variation in demand, the District anticipates that 10 MGD would be conveyed in the winter months, and up to 50 MGD would be conveyed during peak demand periods in the summer months. Numerous alignment routes for the pipeline were considered; however, after initial consideration of environmental and engineering opportunities and constraints, the District, together with the Department, determined three alternative alignments, and addressed those alignments in the Draft EIR/EIS. The District's preferred alternative is approximately 21,810 linear feet and extends from the border in a northwesterly direction within established right-of-ways and terminates on the east side of the Roll Reservoir.

The District will be responsible for approving the expenditure of public funds for the proposed project and the Department will be responsible for determining whether the proposed project serves the national interest pursuant to Executive Order 11423, and if so, issuing a Presidential Permit authorizing the construction, connection, operation, and maintenance of the cross-border pipeline facility.

*Availability of the Draft EIS/EIR:* Copies of the Draft EIS/EIR have been distributed to state and governmental agencies, tribal governments, and other interested parties. Printed copies of the document may be obtained by visiting the Otay Mesa-Nestor Library in San Diego, California or by contacting the Otay Project Manager at the above address. The Draft EIS/EIR is available on these project Web sites at <http://www.state.gov/p/wha/rt/permit/app/>

[otaypermit/index.htm](http://otaypermit/index.htm) and <http://www.owd-desalconveyance.com/>.

**Deborah Klepp,**

*Director, Office of Environmental Quality and Transboundary Issues, Department of State.*

[FR Doc. 2016–11282 Filed 5–11–16; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4710–09–P**

**DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

**[Delegation of Authority No. 394]**

**Designation of the Department of State Representative to the Administrative Conference of the United States**

By virtue of the authority vested in the Secretary of State, including Section 1 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act, as amended (22 U.S.C. 2651a), and 5 U.S.C. 593, and delegated pursuant to Delegation of Authority 198, dated September 16, 1992, and to the extent authorized by law, I hereby designate the Department of State Legal Adviser as the Department of State government representative to the Administrative Conference of the United States.

This delegation of authority may be re-delegated, to the extent authorized by law.

Notwithstanding this delegation of authority, the Secretary, the Deputy Secretary, the Deputy Secretary for Management and Resources, and the Under Secretary for Management may exercise any function or authority delegated by this delegation of authority.

This Delegation of Authority will be published in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: April 29, 2016.

**Patrick F. Kennedy,**

*Under Secretary of State for Management, Department of State.*

[FR Doc. 2016–11274 Filed 5–11–16; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4710–08–P**

**DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

**[Delegation of Authority No. 236–7]**

**Re-Delegation by the Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Evaluation of Authority Under Section 102 of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, as Amended**

By virtue of the authority vested in me as the Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs, including by Delegation of Authority No. 236–3, dated August 28, 2000, and Section 2(e)(2) of Delegation of Authority No. 293–2, dated October 23,

2011, and to the extent permitted by law, I hereby re-delegate to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Evaluation, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, the functions in section 102 of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, as amended (22 U.S.C. 2452) relating to the provision by grant, contract or otherwise for a wide variety of educational and cultural exchanges.

This Delegation of Authority does not supersede or otherwise affect any other delegation of authority currently in effect. The functions and authorities re-delegated herein may not be further delegated without my approval.

Any reference in this Delegation of Authority to any statute or delegation of authority shall be deemed to be a reference to such statute or delegation of authority as amended from time to time.

This Delegation of Authority shall be published in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: March 31, 2016.

**Evan Ryan,**

*Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State.*

[FR Doc. 2016–11279 Filed 5–11–16; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4710–05–P**

**DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

**[Delegation of Authority No. 395]**

**Delegation of Authority Under 5 U.S.C. 5376 to the Inspector General for the U.S. Department of State**

By virtue of the authority vested in me as Secretary of State, including Section 1 of the Department of State Basic Authorities Act, as amended (22 U.S.C. 2651a), I hereby delegate to the Inspector General for the U.S. Department of State, to the extent authorized by law, the authority under 5 U.S.C. 5376 to determine and adjust pay for Senior Professional positions.

This delegation of authority is not intended to revoke, amend, or otherwise affect the validity of any other delegation of authority.

Any act, executive order, regulation, or procedure subject to, or affected by, this delegation shall be deemed to be such act, executive order, regulation, or procedure as amended from time to time.

Notwithstanding this delegation of authority, the Secretary may at any time exercise any authority or function delegated by this delegation of authority.

This delegation of authority shall be published in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: April 18, 2016.

**John F. Kerry,**

*Secretary of State.*

[FR Doc. 2016-11281 Filed 5-11-16; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4710-42-P**

## **SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

**[Docket No. AB 290 (Sub-No. 381X)]**

### **Norfolk Southern Railway Company— Abandonment Exemption—in Hamilton County, Ohio**

On April 22, 2016, Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSR) filed with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) a petition under 49 U.S.C. 10502 for exemption from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 10903 to abandon approximately 4.10 miles of rail line extending from milepost CT 3.7 to milepost CT 7.8 in Hamilton County, Ohio (the Line). The Line traverses U.S. Postal Zip Codes 45207, 45212, 45208, 45209, 45226, and 45227.

According to NSR, no traffic has moved over the Line in more than five years. NSR further states that there is no potential for new traffic. NSR seeks to abandon the Line and sell the property to the City of Cincinnati (City) for a public redevelopment project. NSR states that the City is undertaking a plan that would reduce/reroute vehicular traffic, create greenways, and provide alternative modal access to five major development sites, including sites at Xavier University and near Uptown. NSR asserts that the City would take ownership of, and assume responsibility for, the safety and maintenance of the 10 bridges on the Line.

In addition to an exemption from the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 10903, NSR also seeks an exemption from the offer of financial assistance (OFA) procedures of 49 U.S.C. 10904. In support, NSR states that the Line is needed for a public purpose, as it is of critical significance to the City's redevelopment plans. NSR further asserts that there is no overriding public need for continued freight rail service. NSR's request for exemption from § 10904 will be addressed in the final decision.

According to NSR, the Line does not contain federally granted rights-of-way. Any documentation in NSR'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 Railroad—Abandonment Portion Goshen Branch Between Firth & Ammon, in Bingham & Bonneville Counties, Idaho*, 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 August 10, 2016.

Any OFA under 49 CFR 1152.27(b)(2) to subsidize continued rail service will be due by August 19, 2016, or 10 days after service of a decision granting the petition for exemption, whichever occurs first. Each OFA must be accompanied by a \$1,600 filing fee. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

All interested persons should be aware that, following abandonment, 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 interim trail use/rail banking under 49 CFR 1152.29 will be due no later than June 1, 2016. Each interim trail use request must be accompanied by a \$300 filing fee. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(27). However, NSR states that, because it seeks abandonment to allow the City to purchase the land for a public use, NSR is unwilling to negotiate interim trail use/rail banking.

All filings in response to this notice must refer to Docket No. AB 290 (Sub-No. 381X) and must be sent to: (1) Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street SW., Washington, DC 20423-0001; and (2) William A Mullins, Baker & Miller PLLC, 2401 Pennsylvania Ave. NW., Suite 300, Washington, DC 20037. Replies to the petition are due on or before June 1, 2016.

Persons seeking further information concerning abandonment procedures may contact the Board's Office of Public Assistance, Governmental Affairs, and Compliance at (202) 245-0238 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 Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) at (202) 245-0305. 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 OEA 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 OEA to obtain a copy of the EA (or EIS). EAs in 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 generally will be within 30 days of its service.

Board decisions and notices are available on our Web site at "[WWW.STB.DOT.GOV](http://WWW.STB.DOT.GOV)."

Decided: May 9, 2016.

By the Board, Rachel D. Campbell,  
Director, Office of Proceedings.

**Jeffrey Herzig,**

*Clearance Clerk.*

[FR Doc. 2016-11189 Filed 5-11-16; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4915-01-P**

## **DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

### **Federal Aviation Administration**

#### **Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee—New Task**

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of a new task assignment for the Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee (ARAC).

**SUMMARY:** The FAA has assigned the Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee (ARAC) a new task to provide recommendations regarding the certification of persons engaged in operations involving the loading of special cargo. Assignment of this task is in response to National Transportation Safety Board Recommendation A-15-014 which recommended that the FAA create a certification for personnel responsible for the loading, restraint, and documentation of special cargo loads on transport-category airplanes. This notice informs the public of the new ARAC activity and solicits membership for the new Loadmaster Certification Working Group.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Stephen Grota Cargo Focus Team, AFS-340 Federal Aviation Administration, 950 L'Enfant Plaza SW., 5th Floor, Washington, DC 20024, [stephen.grota@faa.gov](mailto:stephen.grota@faa.gov), phone number (781) 238-7528.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **ARAC Acceptance of Task**

As a result of its March 23, 2016, ARAC meeting, the ARAC accepted this tasking to establish the Loadmaster Certification Working Group. The Loadmaster Certification Working Group will serve as staff to the ARAC and provide advice and recommendations on the assigned task. The ARAC will review and accept the recommendation report and will submit it to the FAA.

##### **Background**

The FAA established the ARAC to provide information, advice, and recommendations on aviation related