

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>11</sup>

**Eduardo A. Aleman,**  
Assistant Secretary.

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## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 9810]

### Secretary of State's Determination Under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998

*Summary:* The Secretary of State's designation of "countries of particular concern" for religious freedom violations. Pursuant to Section 408(a) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (Pub. L. 105–292), as amended (the Act), notice is hereby given that, on October 31, 2016, the Secretary of State, under authority delegated by the President, has designated each of the following as a "country of particular concern" (CPC) under section 402(b) of the Act, for having engaged in or tolerated particularly severe violations of religious freedom: Burma, China, Eritrea, Iran, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. The Secretary simultaneously designated the following Presidential Actions for these CPCs:

For Burma, the existing ongoing restrictions referenced in 22 CFR 126.1, pursuant to section 402(c)(5) of the Act;

For China, the existing ongoing restriction on exports to China of crime control and detection instruments and equipment, under the Foreign Relations Authorization Act of 1990 and 1991 (Pub. L. 101–246), pursuant to section 402(c)(5) of the Act;

For Eritrea, the existing ongoing restrictions referenced in 22 CFR 126.1, pursuant to section 402(c)(5) of the Act;

For Iran, the existing ongoing travel restrictions in section 221(c) of the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (TRA) for individuals identified under section 221(a)(1)(C) of the TRA in connection with the commission of serious human rights abuses, pursuant to section 402(c)(5) of the Act;

For the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the existing ongoing restrictions to which the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is subject, pursuant to sections 402 and 409 of the Trade Act of 1974 (the Jackson-Vanik Amendment), pursuant to section 402(c)(5) of the Act;

For Saudi Arabia, a waiver as required in the "important national interest of the United States," pursuant to section 407 of the Act;

For Sudan, the restriction in the annual Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act on making certain appropriated funds available for assistance to the Government of Sudan, currently set forth in section 7042(j) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2015 (Div. K, Pub. L. 114–113), and any provision of law that is the same or substantially the same as this provision, pursuant to section 402(c)(5) of the Act;

For Tajikistan, a waiver as required in the "important national interest of the United States," pursuant to section 407 of the Act;

For Turkmenistan, a waiver as required in the "important national interest of the United States," pursuant to section 407 of the Act;

For Uzbekistan, a waiver as required in the "important national interest of the United States," pursuant to section 407 of the Act.

*For Further Information Contact:* Benjamin W. Medina, Office of International Religious Freedom, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, U.S. Department of State, (Phone: (202) 647 3865 or Email: [MedinaBW@state.gov](mailto:MedinaBW@state.gov)).

Dated: November 30, 2016.

**Daniel L. Nadel,**

Director, Office of International Religious Freedom, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 2016–29171 Filed 12–5–16; 8:45 am]

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## SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

[Docket No. AB 1240X]

### Southwest Pennsylvania Railroad Company—Abandonment Exemption—in Fayette County, Pa.

Southwest Pennsylvania Railroad Company (SWP) has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR part 1152 subpart F—*Exempt Abandonments* to abandon .3 miles of rail line between milepost 7 in Uniontown to the end of the line in South Union Township (SUT), in Fayette County, Pa. (the Line). The Line traverses U.S. Postal Service Zip Code 15401.

SWP states it plans to abandon the Line and convert the property to trail use.<sup>1</sup> The proposed transaction may not be consummated until January 5, 2017.

<sup>1</sup> SWP states it has agreed to lease the line to SUT pursuant to the National Trails System Act, 16

SWP has certified that: (1) No local traffic has moved over the Line for at least two years; (2) there is no overhead traffic on the Line; (3) no formal complaint filed by a user of rail service on the Line (or by a state or local government entity acting on behalf of such user) regarding cessation of service over the Line either is pending with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) or with any U.S. District Court or has been decided in favor of complainant within the two-year period; and (4) the requirements at 49 CFR 1105.7(c) and 1105.8(c) (environmental and historic report), 49 CFR 1105.11 (transmittal letter), 49 CFR 1105.12 (newspaper publication), and 49 CFR 1152.50(d)(1) (notice to governmental agencies) have been met.

As a condition to this exemption, any employee adversely affected by the abandonment shall be protected under *Oregon Short Line Railroad—Abandonment Portion Goshen Branch Between Firth & Ammon, in Bingham & Bonneville Counties, Idaho*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979). To address whether this condition adequately protects affected employees, a petition for partial revocation under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) must be filed.

Provided no formal expression of intent to file an offer of financial assistance (OFA) has been received, this exemption will become effective on January 5, 2017, unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay that do not involve environmental issues,<sup>2</sup> formal expressions of intent to file an OFA under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2),<sup>3</sup> and interim trail use/rail banking requests under 49 CFR 1152.29 must be filed by December 16, 2016. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by December 27, 2016, with the Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street SW., Washington, DC 20423–0001.

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to SWP's representative: Richard R. Wilson, P.C.,

U.S.C. 1247(d), upon the Board imposing a decision and notice of interim trail use or abandonment.

<sup>2</sup> The Board will grant a stay if an informed decision on environmental issues (whether raised by a party or by the Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) in its independent investigation) cannot be made before the exemption's effective date. See *Exemption of Out-of-Serv. Rail Lines*, 5 I.C.C.2d 377 (1989). Any request for a stay should be filed as soon as possible so that the Board may take appropriate action before the exemption's effective date.

<sup>3</sup> Each OFA must be accompanied by the filing fee, which is currently set at \$1,700. See *Regulations Governing Fees for Servs. Performed in Connection with Licensing & Related Servs.—2016 Update*, EP 542 (Sub-No. 24) (STB served Aug. 2, 2016).

<sup>11</sup> 17 CFR 200.30–3(a)(12).