

included the following aids in the iAppeals screen path to assist them:

- Terms of Service (TOS) Screen—The TOS provides information about the types of appeals that claimants can file in iAppeals, information needed to complete an electronic appeal, and the alternative option to file an appeal request by mail or in-person at the local Social Security Office. The Acknowledgement portion of the TOS requires the claimant or a third party on the claimant's behalf to acknowledge that he or she understands certain information, including:

- The electronic appeal must be completed and filed within the 60-day appeal period.

- The "Submit" button within the "Submit" Tab must be selected to file the appeal request with the Social Security Administration.

- How to submit evidence, both before and after the appeal is filed.

- When he or she can and cannot re-enter the iAppeals application.

- How to ensure that the electronic appeal is properly submitted.

- How to add additional information or change information that has already been submitted.

- Re-entry Number Screen—Claimants who choose not to complete their electronic appeals in one session can use the re-entry number we provide to return to iAppeals to complete and submit their appeals in subsequent sessions. The re-entry number screen explains that the appeal has not been completed or submitted and that claimants who choose to exit iAppeals before completion must return to iAppeals in order to complete and submit their appeals electronically.

- Submit Tab: Claimants will see the Submit Tab throughout the electronic appeal application path. The Submit Tab remains available to select until claimants complete and submit their electronic appeal. The Submit Tab will not be available once the electronic appeal is submitted.

## Conclusion

iAppeals is an efficient and convenient self-service option that allows claimants who are dissatisfied with our determination to electronically complete and submit a request for reconsideration or a hearing. The paper-based administrative appeals process remains available for claimants who wish to use it. While the use of iAppeals promotes our ability to process cases faster, it is the claimant's choice whether to use the paper or electronic administrative appeals process. Claimants can obtain more information about iAppeals and our paper appeal

process by visiting our website [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov). Claimants can find information about the iAppeals user experience in our Program Operations Manual System at <https://secure.ssa.gov/apps10/poms.nsf/lrx/0203101125>.

[FR Doc. 2019-17359 Filed 8-13-19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4191-02-P

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Delegation of Authority No. 475]

### Delegation of Section 108A MECEA Approval Authority to the Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs

By virtue of the authority vested in the Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs pursuant to Delegation of Authority No. 234 (October 1, 1999) and delegated to me pursuant to Delegation of Authority No. 461-1 (February 5, 2019), and to the extent permitted by law, I hereby delegate to the Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs the authority in Section 108A of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 (MECEA) (22 U.S.C. 2458a) relating to the approval of foreign government-funded cultural exchange programs.

The Secretary, the Deputy Secretary, or I (pursuant to Delegation of Authority 461-1) may at any time exercise the authority delegated herein.

This Delegation of Authority does not revoke or otherwise affect any other delegation of authority currently in effect.

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: August 1, 2019.

**Michelle Giuda,**

*Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs, U.S. Department of State.*

[FR Doc. 2019-17470 Filed 8-13-19; 8:45 am]

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## SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

[Docket No. AB 303 (Sub-No. 51X)]

### Wisconsin Central Ltd.— Discontinuance of Service Exemption—in Trempealeau and Buffalo Counties, Wis.

Wisconsin Central Ltd. (WCL) has filed a verified notice of exemption

under 49 CFR pt. 1152 subpart F—*Exempt Abandonments and Discontinuances of Service* to discontinue common carrier service over approximately 16.9 miles of rail line between milepost 195.0 near Arcadia in Trempealeau County, Wis., and milepost 211.9 at East Winona in Buffalo County, Wis. (the Line). The Line traverses U.S. Postal Service Zip Codes 54612, 54630, 54661, and 54629.

WCL has certified that: (1) No local traffic has moved over the Line for at least two years; (2) overhead traffic (to the extent any exists) can be rerouted over other lines; (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 1105.12 (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 discontinuance of service 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) <sup>1</sup> to subsidize continued rail service has been received, this exemption will be effective on September 13, 2019, unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay that do not involve environmental issues must be filed by August 23, 2019, and formal expressions of intent to file an OFA to subsidize continued rail service under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2) <sup>2</sup> must be filed by August 26, 2019. <sup>3</sup> Petitions for reconsideration

<sup>1</sup> Persons interested in submitting an OFA to subsidize continued rail service must first file a formal expression of intent to file an offer, indicating the intent to file an OFA for subsidy and demonstrating that they are preliminarily financially responsible. See 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2)(i).

<sup>2</sup> The filing fee for OFAs can be found at 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

<sup>3</sup> Because this is a discontinuance proceeding and not an abandonment, trail use/rail banking and public use conditions are not appropriate. Because there will be an environmental review during abandonment, this discontinuance does not require environmental review.

must be filed by September 3, 2019, 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 WCL's representative, Bradon J. Smith, Fletcher & Sippel LLC, 29 North Wacker Drive, Suite 800, Chicago, IL 60606.

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void ab initio.

Board decisions and notices are available at [www.stb.gov](http://www.stb.gov).

Decided: August 8, 2019.

By the Board, Allison C. Davis, Director, Office of Proceedings.

**Jeffrey Herzig,**

*Clearance Clerk.*

[FR Doc. 2019-17437 Filed 8-13-19; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4915-01-P**

## OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

[Docket Number USTR-2019-0011]

### Request for Comments and Notice of Public Hearing Concerning Russia's Implementation of Its WTO Commitments

**AGENCY:** Office of the United States Trade Representative.

**ACTION:** Request for comments and notice of public hearing.

**SUMMARY:** The interagency Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) will convene a public hearing and seek public comment to assist the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) in the preparation of its annual report to Congress on Russia's implementation of its obligations as a Member of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

**DATES:** September 27, 2019 at midnight EST: Deadline for submission of written comments and for filing requests to appear and a summary of expected testimony at the public hearing. October 8, 2019: The TPSC will convene a public hearing in Rooms 1 & 2, 1724 F Street NW, Washington DC 20508 beginning at 9:30 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:** USTR strongly prefers electronic submissions made through the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments in section III below. The docket number is USTR-2019-0011. For alternatives to online submissions, please contact Yvonne Jamison at (202) 395-3475 before transmitting a comment and in advance of the relevant deadline.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For procedural questions concerning written comments, contact Yvonne Jamison at (202) 395-3475. Direct all other questions to Betsy Hafner, Deputy Assistant United States Trade Representative for Russia and Eurasia, at (202) 395-9124.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Background

Russia became a Member of the WTO on August 22, 2012, and on December 21, 2012, following the termination of the application of the Jackson-Vanik amendment to Russia and the extension of permanent normal trade relations to the products of Russia, the United States and Russia both filed letters with the WTO withdrawing their notices of non-application and consenting to have the WTO Agreement apply between them. In accordance with Section 201(a) of the Russia and Moldova Jackson-Vanik Repeal and Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act of 2012 (Pub. L. 112-208), USTR is required to submit annually a report to Congress on the extent to which Russia is implementing the WTO Agreement, including the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights. The report also must assess Russia's progress on acceding to and implementing the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) and the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA). In addition, to the extent that USTR finds that Russia is not implementing fully any WTO agreement or is not making adequate progress in acceding to the ITA or the GPA, USTR must describe in the report the actions it plans to take to encourage Russia to improve its implementation and/or increase its accession efforts. In accordance with Section 201(a), and to assist it in preparing this year's report, the TPSC is soliciting public comment.

The terms of Russia's accession to the WTO are contained in the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization and the Protocol on the Accession of the Russian Federation to the WTO (including its annexes) (Protocol). The Report of the Working Party on the Accession of the Russian Federation (Working Party Report) provides detail and context to the commitments listed in the Protocol. You can find the Protocol and Working Party Report on USTR's website at <https://ustr.gov/node/5887> or on the WTO website at <http://docsonline.wto.org> (document symbols: WT/ACC/RUS/70, WT/MIN(11)/2, WT/MIN(11)/24, WT/L/

839, WT/ACC/RUS/70/Add.1, WT/MIN(11)/2/Add.1, WT/ACC/RUS/70/Add.2, and WT/MIN(11)/2/Add.1.)

##### II. Public Comment and Hearing

USTR invites written comments and/or oral testimony of interested persons on Russia's implementation of the commitments made in connection with its accession to the WTO, including, but not limited to, commitments in the following areas:

- a. Import regulation (*e.g.*, tariffs, tariff-rate quotas, quotas, import licenses).
- b. Export regulation.
- c. Subsidies.
- d. Standards and technical regulations.
- e. Sanitary and phytosanitary measures.
- f. Trade-related investment measures (including local content requirements).
- g. Taxes and charges levied on imports and exports.
- h. Other internal policies affecting trade.
- i. Intellectual property rights (including intellectual property rights enforcement).
- j. Services.
- k. Government procurement.
- l. Rule of law issues (*e.g.*, transparency, judicial review, uniform administration of laws and regulations).
- m. Other WTO commitments.

USTR must receive your written comments no later than Friday, September 27, 2019 at midnight EST.

The TPSC will convene a public hearing on Tuesday, October 8, 2019, in Rooms 1 & 2, 1724 F Street NW, Washington DC 20508. Persons wishing to testify at the hearing must provide written notification of their intention no later than September 27, 2019 at midnight EST. The intent to testify notification must be made in the "Type Comment" field under docket number USTR-2019-0011 on the [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) website and should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person presenting the testimony. You should attach a summary of the testimony by using the "Upload File" field. The name of the file also should include who will be presenting the testimony. Remarks at the hearing will be limited to no more than five minutes to allow for possible questions from the TPSC.

##### III. Requirements for Submissions

Persons submitting a notification of intent to testify and/or written comments must do so in English and must identify (on the first page of the submission) "Russia's WTO Implementation of its WTO Commitments." The deadline for