

**SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

[Disaster Declaration #16111 and #16112; Louisiana Disaster Number LA-00093]

**Administrative Declaration of a Disaster for the State of Louisiana**

**AGENCY:** U.S. Small Business Administration.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This is a notice of an Administrative declaration of a disaster for the State of Louisiana dated 09/11/2019.

*Incident:* Hurricane Barry.

*Incident Period:* 07/10/2019 through 07/15/2019.

**DATES:** Issued on 09/11/2019.

*Physical Loan Application Deadline Date:* 11/12/2019.

*Economic Injury (EIDL) Loan Application Deadline Date:* 06/11/2020.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit completed loan applications to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** A. Escobar, Office of Disaster Assistance, U.S. Small Business Administration, 409 3rd Street SW, Suite 6050, Washington, DC 20416, (202) 205-6734.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Notice is hereby given that as a result of the Administrator's disaster declaration, applications for disaster loans may be filed at the address listed above or other locally announced locations.

The following areas have been determined to be adversely affected by the disaster:

*Primary Parishes:* Allen, Avoyelles, Saint Mary.

*Contiguous Parishes:*

Louisiana: Assumption, Beauregard, Catahoula, Concordia, Evangeline, Iberia, Jefferson Davis, La Salle, Pointe Coupee, Rapides, Saint Landry, Saint Martin, Terrebonne, Vernon, West Feliciana.

The Interest Rates are:

	Percent
<i>For Physical Damage:</i>	
Homeowners with Credit Available Elsewhere .....	3.875
Homeowners without Credit Available Elsewhere .....	1.938
Businesses with Credit Available Elsewhere .....	8.000
Businesses without Credit Available Elsewhere .....	4.000
Non-Profit Organizations with Credit Available Elsewhere ...	2.750
Non-Profit Organizations without Credit Available Elsewhere .....	2.750

	Percent
<i>For Economic Injury:</i>	
Businesses & Small Agricultural Cooperatives without Credit Available Elsewhere .....	4.000
Non-Profit Organizations without Credit Available Elsewhere .....	2.750

The number assigned to this disaster for physical damage is 16111 8 and for economic injury is 16112 0.

The State which received an EIDL Declaration # is Louisiana.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 59008)

**Christopher Pilkerton,**

*Acting Administrator.*

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**BILLING CODE 8026-03-P**

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

[Docket No. EP 761; Docket No. EP 722]

**Hearing on Revenue Adequacy; Railroad Revenue Adequacy**

**AGENCY:** Surface Transportation Board.

**ACTION:** Notice of Public Hearing.

**SUMMARY:** The Surface Transportation Board (Board) will hold a public hearing on December 12, 2019, on revenue adequacy issues raised in the report issued by the Board's Rate Reform Task Force (RRTF). The hearing will be held in the James E. Webb Memorial Auditorium of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), located at 300 E Street SW, Washington, DC. All interested persons are invited to appear.<sup>1</sup>

**DATES:** The hearing will be held on December 12, 2019, beginning at 9:30 a.m., in NASA's James E. Webb Memorial Auditorium and will be open for public observation. Any person wishing to speak at the hearing should file with the Board a notice of intent to participate (identifying the party, proposed speaker, and amount of time requested) no later than October 31, 2019. All hearing participants are required to submit written testimony by November 26, 2019. Written submissions by interested persons who will not appear at the hearing should also be filed by November 26, 2019.

**ADDRESSES:** All filings, referring to Docket No. EP 761 et al., must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board either via e-filing or in writing

<sup>1</sup> These proceedings are not consolidated. A single decision is being issued for administrative purposes.

addressed to 395 E Street SW, Washington, DC 20423-0001.

Filings will be posted to the Board's website and need not be served on the other hearing participants or written commenters. Copies of the filings will also be available (for a fee) by contacting the Board's Chief Records Officer at (202) 245-0238 or 395 E Street SW, Washington, DC 20423-0001.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Amy Ziehm at (202) 245-0391.

Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In April 2014, the Board instituted a proceeding in Docket No. EP 722 and invited interested persons to comment on the Board's methodology for determining revenue adequacy, the revenue adequacy component for judging the reasonableness of rail freight rates, and what, if any, changes the Board should consider. *See R.R. Revenue Adequacy*, EP 722 et al., slip op. at 4 (STB served Apr. 2, 2014). The Board held a public hearing on those issues in 2015.<sup>2</sup>

In January 2018, the Board established its RRTF with the objectives of developing recommendations to reform and streamline the Board's rate review process for large cases, and determining how to best provide a rate review process for smaller cases. After holding informal meetings throughout 2018, the RRTF issued a report on April 25, 2019 (RRTF Report).<sup>3</sup> The RRTF Report recommended, among other things, that the Board consider policy changes regarding revenue adequacy. RRTF Report 12-13, 32-42.

The Board will hold a public hearing on December 12, 2019, and invites interested persons to provide input on the RRTF's recommendations regarding revenue adequacy.<sup>4</sup> All hearing participants are required to submit written testimony by November 26,

<sup>2</sup> The Board subsequently clarified that informal discussions between the agency and stakeholders are permitted in the proceeding. *See R.R. Revenue Adequacy*, EP 722, slip op. at 1-2 (STB served Mar. 28, 2018).

<sup>3</sup> The RRTF Report was posted on the Board's website on April 29, 2019, and can be accessed at [https://www.stb.gov/stb/rail/Rate\\_Reform\\_Task\\_Force\\_Report.pdf](https://www.stb.gov/stb/rail/Rate_Reform_Task_Force_Report.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> Under 49 U.S.C. 10701(d)(2), when determining whether a rate is reasonable, the Board is directed to give due consideration to three factors, recognizing the policy that "rail carriers shall earn adequate revenues." The Board is required to "annually determine which rail carriers are earning adequate revenues." 49 U.S.C. 10704(a)(3); *see, e.g., R.R. Revenue Adequacy—2017 Determination*, EP 552 (Sub-No. 22) (STB served Dec. 21, 2018). This annual determination is distinct from long-term revenue adequacy, which "calls for a company, over time, to average return on investment equal to its cost of capital." *Coal Rate Guidelines, Nationwide*, 1 I.C.C.2d 520, 536 (1985).