

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, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Eritrea, Iran, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan. 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 or detection instruments or equipment, under the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1990 and 1991 (Pub. L. 101–246), 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), and 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 Nigeria, a waiver as required in the “important national interest of the United States,” pursuant to section 407 of the Act;

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

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

In addition, the Secretary of State has designated the following countries as “special watch list” countries for engaging in or tolerating severe violations of religious freedom: Comoros, Cuba, Nicaragua, and Russia.

The Secretary of State’s designation of “entities of particular concern” for

religious freedom violations. Pursuant to Section 408(a) of the Act, notice is hereby given that, on December 2, 2020, the Secretary of State, under authority delegated by the President, has designated each of the following as an “entity of particular concern” under section 301 of the Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act of 2016 (Pub. L. 114–281), for having engaged in particularly severe violations of religious freedom: Al-Shabaab, al-Qa’ida, Boko Haram, Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, the Houthis, ISIS, ISIS-Greater Sahara, ISIS-West Africa, Jamaat Nasr al-Islam wal Muslimin, and the Taliban.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Peter Burns, Office of International Religious Freedom, U.S. Department of State, (phone: 202–647–3865 or email: BurnsPI@state.gov).

Zachary A. Parker,

Director, Office of Directives Management, Department of State.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice: 11257]

60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Foreign Diplomatic Services Applications (FDSA)

ACTION: Notice of request for public comment.

SUMMARY: The Department of State is seeking Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval for the information collection described below. In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, we are requesting comments on this collection from all interested individuals and organizations. The purpose of this notice is to allow 60 days for public comment preceding submission of the collection to OMB.

DATES: The Department will accept comments from the public up to March 15, 2021.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- **Web:** Persons with access to the internet may comment on this notice by going to www.Regulations.gov. You can search for the document by entering “Docket Number: DOS–2020–0049” in the Search field. Then click the “Comment Now” button and complete the comment form.

- **Email:** OFMinfo@state.gov.
- **Regular Mail:** Send written comments to 2201 C St. NW, Washington, DC 20520; 3507

International Place NW, Washington, DC 20008.

You must include the DS form number (if applicable), information collection title, and the OMB control number in any correspondence.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Direct requests for additional information regarding the collection listed in this notice, including requests for copies of the proposed collection instrument and supporting documents, to Timothy R. Johnson at 3507 International Place NW, Washington, DC 20008, who may be reached on 202–895–3556 or at JohnsonTR@state.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

- **Title of Information Collection:** Foreign Diplomatic Services Applications (FDSA).
- **OMB Control Number:** 1405–0105.
- **Type of Request:** Revision of a Currently Approved Collection.
- **Originating Office:** M/OFM.
- **Form Number:** DS–98, DS–99, DS–100, DS–101, DS–102, DS–104, DS–1504, DS–1972D, DS–1972T, DS–2003, DS–2004, DS–2005, DS–2006, DS–2008, DS–4139, DS–4140, DS–4284, DS–4285, DS–4298, DS–4299, DS–7675.

- **Respondents:** Foreign Mission Community.
- **Estimated Number of Respondents:** 79,095.
- **Estimated Number of Responses:** 79,095.
- **Average Time per Response:** 13 minutes.
- **Total Estimated Burden Time:** 18,200 hours annually.
- **Frequency:** For each specific event; annually.
- **Obligation to Respond:** Mandatory and/or Required to Obtain or Retain a Benefit.

We are soliciting public comments to permit the Department to:

- Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper functions of the Department.
- Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the time and cost burden for this proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used.
- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected.

- Minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Please note that comments submitted in response to this Notice are public record. Before including any detailed personal information, you should be aware that your comments as submitted,

including your personal information, will be available for public review.

Abstract of Proposed Collection

Collection information instruments dealing with information collection from the foreign mission community, to include the electronic data compilation (e-Gov), have been combined under one information collection request, collectively referred to as the "Foreign Diplomatic Services Applications". These information collection instruments provide the Office of Foreign Missions and the Office of the Chief of Protocol with the information necessary to provide and administer an effective and efficient benefits, privileges, and immunities program by which foreign missions and eligible applicants may apply for benefits from the U.S. Department of State, to which they are entitled pursuant to the Foreign Missions Act.

Methodology

Information may be received via Email or electronic submission through eGov at <https://egov.ofm.state.gov/>.

Kevin E. Bryant,

Deputy Director, Office of Directives Management, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 2021-00474 Filed 1-12-21; 8:45 am]

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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

[Docket No. EP 526 (Sub-No. 14)]

Notice of Railroad-Shipper Transportation Advisory Council Vacancies; Solicitation of Nominations

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board (Board).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Board hereby gives notice of vacancies on RSTAC for two small railroad representatives. The Board seeks suggestions for candidates to fill these vacancies.

DATES: Nominations are due on February 12, 2021.

ADDRESSES: Suggestions may be submitted via e-filing on the Board's website at <http://www.stb.gov>. Submissions will be posted to the Board's website under Docket No. EP 526 (Sub-No. 14).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Coral Torres at (202) 245-0286. Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Board, created in 1996 to take over

many of the functions previously performed by the Interstate Commerce Commission, exercises broad authority over transportation by rail carriers, including regulation of railroad rates and service (49 U.S.C. 10701-47, 11101-24), the construction, acquisition, operation, and abandonment of rail lines (49 U.S.C. 10901-07), as well as railroad line sales, consolidations, mergers, and common control arrangements (49 U.S.C. 10902, 11323-27).

The ICC Termination Act of 1995 (ICCTA), enacted on December 29, 1995, established RSTAC to advise the Board's Chairman, the Secretary of Transportation, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives with respect to rail transportation policy issues RSTAC considers significant. RSTAC focuses on issues of importance to small shippers and small railroads, including car supply, rates, competition, and procedures for addressing claims. ICCTA instructs RSTAC to endeavor to develop private-sector mechanisms to prevent, or identify and address, obstacles to the most effective and efficient transportation system practicable. The members of RSTAC also prepare an annual report concerning RSTAC's activities. RSTAC is not subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

RSTAC's 15 appointed members consist of representatives of small and large shippers, and small and large railroads. In addition, members of the Board and the Secretary of Transportation serve as ex officio members. Of the 15 appointed members, nine are voting members and are appointed from senior executive officers of organizations engaged in the railroad and rail shipping industries. At least four of the voting members must be representatives of small shippers as determined by the Chairman, and at least four of the voting members must be representatives of Class II or III railroads. The remaining six members to be appointed—three representing Class I railroads and three representing large shipper organizations—serve in a nonvoting, advisory capacity, but may participate in RSTAC deliberations.

Meetings of RSTAC are required by statute to be held at least semi-annually. RSTAC typically holds meetings quarterly at the Board's headquarters in Washington, DC, although some meetings are held in other locations. During the coronavirus pandemic, RSTAC has been holding virtual meetings weekly and now bi-weekly

with the Board Members and the Federal Railroad Administration Administrator to report on the status of rail service and operations.

The members of RSTAC receive no compensation for their services and are required to provide for the expenses incidental to their service, including travel expenses. Currently, RSTAC members have elected to submit annual dues to pay for RSTAC expenses.

RSTAC members must be citizens of the United States and represent as broadly as practicable the various segments of the railroad and rail shipper industries. They may not be full-time employees of the United States. According to revised guidance issued by the Office of Management and Budget, it is permissible for federally registered lobbyists to serve on advisory committees, such as RSTAC, as long as they do so in a representative capacity, rather than an individual capacity. See *Revised Guidance on Appointment of Lobbyists to Fed. Advisory Comms., Bds., & Comm'ns*, 79 FR 47,482 (Aug. 13, 2014). Members of RSTAC are appointed to serve in a representative capacity.

Each RSTAC member is appointed for a term of three years. A member may serve after the expiration of his or her term until a successor has taken office. No member will be eligible to serve in excess of two consecutive terms.

Due to the expiration of two small railroad representatives' second terms, the Board is seeking to fill those RSTAC positions. Suggestions for candidates to fill the vacancies should be submitted in letter form, identifying the name of the candidate, providing a summary of why the candidate is qualified to serve on RSTAC, and containing a representation that the candidate is willing to serve as an RSTAC member effective immediately upon appointment. RSTAC candidate suggestions should be filed with the Board by February 12, 2021. Members selected to serve on RSTAC are chosen at the discretion of the Board Chairman. Please note that submissions will be posted on the Board's website under Docket No. EP 526 (Sub-No. 14) and can also be obtained by contacting the Office of Public Assistance, Governmental Affairs, and Compliance at RCPA@stb.gov or (202) 245-0238.

(Authority: 49 U.S.C. 1325)

Decided: January 8, 2021.

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

Regena Smith-Bernard,
Clearance Clerk.

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