

Applicant's Address: 2093 Philadelphia Pike #1426, Claymont, Delaware 19703.

UIC Trust [File No. 811-23455]

Summary: Applicant seeks an order declaring that it has ceased to be an investment company. Applicant has never made a public offering of its securities and does not propose to make a public offering or engage in business of any kind.

Filing Dates: The application was filed on September 1, 2023, and amended on November 2, 2023, and February 27, 2024.

Applicant's Address: 2093 Philadelphia Pike #1426, Claymont, Delaware 19703.

For the Commission, by the Division of Investment Management, pursuant to delegated authority.

J. Matthew DeLesDernier,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2024-07083 Filed 4-2-24; 8:45 am]

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SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Interest Rates

The Small Business Administration publishes an interest rate called the Optional Peg Rate (13 CFR 120.214) on a quarterly basis. This rate is a weighted average cost of money to the government for maturities similar to the average SBA direct loan. This rate may be used as a base rate for guaranteed fluctuating interest rate SBA loans. This rate will be 4.25 percent for the April–June quarter of FY 2024.

Pursuant to 13 CFR 120.921(b), the maximum legal interest rate for any Third Party Lender's commercial loan which funds any portion of the cost of a 504 project (see 13 CFR 120.801) shall be 6% over the New York Prime rate or, if that exceeds the maximum interest rate permitted by the constitution or laws of a given State, the maximum interest rate will be the rate permitted by the constitution or laws of the given State.

David Parrish,

Chief, Secondary Market Division.

[FR Doc. 2024-06981 Filed 4-2-24; 8:45 am]

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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

[Docket No. AB 1233 (Sub-No. 2X)]

**Allegheny Valley Railroad Company—
Abandonment Exemption—in
Allegheny County, Pa.**

Allegheny Valley Railroad Company (AVR), has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR part 1152 subpart F—Exempt Abandonments to abandon an approximately 3.6-mile segment of rail line known generally as the “Brilliant Branch” located in Pittsburgh and Aspinwall, Allegheny County, Pa. (the Line). The Line consists of the following segments: (1) the Brilliant Branch, extending from milepost 0.7 in East Liberty (in the City of Pittsburgh), crossing AVR's Allegheny Branch and the Allegheny River, passing through the Borough of Aspinwall and ending at approximately milepost 3.0, in Pittsburgh; (2) the Brilliant Branch-West Leg Wye, beginning at approximately milepost 0.0 on AVR's Allegheny River Bridge in Aspinwall and ending at approximately milepost 0.5, in the Township of O'Hara, Pa.; and (3) a portion of the Allegheny Branch Connection in Pittsburgh beginning at approximately milepost 1.8, at the connection to the Brilliant Branch, and ending at approximately milepost 2.6, approximately 528 feet westerly of its connection to the Allegheny Branch. The Line traverses U.S. Postal Service Zip Codes 15206, 15208, and 15215.

AVR has certified that: (1) no local traffic has moved over the Line for at least two years; (2) any overhead traffic on the Line 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 on behalf of such user) regarding cessation of service over the Line is pending with either the Surface Transportation Board (Board) or any U.S. District Court or has been decided in favor of a complainant within the two-year period; and (4) the requirements at 49 CFR 1105.7(b) and 1105.8(c) (notice of environmental and historic reports),¹ 49 CFR 1105.12 (newspaper publication), and 49 CFR 1152.50(d)(1) (notice to government agencies) have been met.

¹ In its verified notice, which AVR submitted on February 23, 2024, AVR requested that the Board waive the provision at 49 CFR 1105.11 calling for the carrier to use a form transmittal letter when sending its environmental and/or historic report to appropriate agencies. In a decision served on April 2, 2024, the Board denied the waiver request and deemed the filing date for AVR's verified notice to be March 14, 2024 (20 days after AVR re-served its environmental and historic report with the form cover letter).

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,² this exemption will be effective on May 3, 2024, unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay that do not involve environmental issues must be filed by April 12, 2024.³ Formal expressions of intent to file an OFA under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2), and interim trail use/rail banking requests under 49 CFR 1152.29 must be filed by April 15, 2024.⁴ Petitions to reopen and requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by April 23, 2024.

All pleadings, referring to Docket No. AB 1233 (Sub-No. 2X), must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board either via e-filing on the Board's website or in writing addressed to 395 E Street SW, Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on AVR's representative, Thomas J. Healey, Fletcher & Sippel LLC, 29 N Wacker Drive, Suite 800, Chicago, IL 60606.

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

AVR has filed a combined environmental and historic report that addresses the potential effects, if any, of the abandonment on the environment and historic resources. OEA will issue a Draft Environmental Assessment (Draft EA) by April 8, 2024. The Draft EA will be available to interested persons on the Board's website, by writing to OEA, or by calling OEA at (202) 245-0294. If you require an accommodation under the

² Persons interested in submitting an OFA must first file a formal expression of intent to file an offer, indicating the type of financial assistance they wish to provide (*i.e.*, subsidy or purchase) and demonstrating that they are preliminarily financially responsible. See 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2)(i).

³ 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.

⁴ Filing fees for OFAs and trail use requests can be found at 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25) and (27), respectively.

Americans with Disabilities Act, please call (202) 245-0245. Comments on environmental or historic preservation matters must be filed within 15 days after the Draft EA becomes available to the public.

Environmental, historic preservation, public use, or trail use/rail banking conditions will be imposed, where appropriate, in a subsequent decision.

Pursuant to the provisions of 49 CFR 1152.29(e)(2), AVR shall file a notice of consummation with the Board to signify that it has exercised the authority granted and fully abandoned the Line. If consummation has not been effected by AVR's filing of a notice of consummation by April 3, 2025, and there are no legal or regulatory barriers to consummation, the authority to abandon will automatically expire.

Board decisions and notices are available at www.stb.gov.

Dated: March 29, 2024.

By the Board, Mai T. Dinh, Director, Office of Proceedings.

Stefan Rice,
Clearance Clerk.

[FR Doc. 2024-07020 Filed 4-2-24; 8:45 am]

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

[Docket Number USTR-2024-0002]

Additional Hearings and Extension of Post-Hearing Comment Period: Request for Comments on Promoting Supply Chain Resilience

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice of additional public hearings and extension of post-hearing comment period.

SUMMARY: The Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) will hold additional public hearings to inform objectives and strategies that advance U.S. supply chain resilience in trade negotiations, enforcement, and other initiatives, and is extending the period for submission of post-hearing comments.

DATES: You must submit comments and responses in accordance with the following schedule:

April 24, 2024: Due date for filing requests to appear and a summary of expected testimony at the additional public hearings.

May 14, 2024: USTR will convene a public hearing at the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, Great Northern

Building, Jerome Hill Auditorium, 180 East Fifth Street, St. Paul, MN 55101, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

May 23, 2024: USTR will convene a virtual public hearing beginning at 10:00 a.m.

May 28, 2024: USTR will convene a public hearing in the Ted Weiss Federal Office Building, 30th Floor Conference Center, Conference Room 2, 290 Broadway, New York, NY 10007, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

June 4, 2024: Extended due date for submission of post-hearing written comments in response to testimony provided at any of the four public hearings in this proceeding.

ADDRESSES: USTR strongly prefers electronic submissions made through the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <https://www.regulations.gov> (*Regulations.gov*). The instructions for submitting comments are in sections IV and V below. The docket number is USTR-2024-0002. For alternatives to on-line submissions, please contact Sandy McKinzy at (202) 395-9483 in advance of the deadline.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Special Counsel Victor Ban at (202) 395-5962 or supplychain@ustr.eop.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

On March 7, 2024, USTR requested comments to inform objectives and strategies that advance U.S. supply chain resilience in trade negotiations, enforcement, and other initiatives. In outlining a new trade policy vision promoting resilience, the notice explained that resilient supply chains provide a range of sourcing options; adapt, rebound, and recover with agility following shocks; uphold labor rights and environmental protections; and strengthen the U.S. manufacturing base and workforce. To help achieve these objectives, the notice sought information on developing sector-specific policy tools, strengthening domestic manufacturing and services, collaborating with like-minded trading partners and allies, and measuring resilience, among other topics. The notice also stated that "USTR may arrange regional hearings or meetings subsequent to the public hearing" scheduled to begin on May 2, 2024, at the U.S. International Trade Commission. *See* 89 FR 16608.

II. Additional Hearing Participation

USTR invites participation at these additional public hearings:

- *May 14, 2024:* USTR will convene a public hearing at the Minnesota Department of Employment and

Economic Development, Great Northern Building, Jerome Hill Auditorium, 180 East Fifth Street, St. Paul, MN 55101, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

- *May 23, 2024:* USTR will convene a virtual public hearing beginning at 10:00 a.m.

- *May 28, 2024:* USTR will convene a public hearing in the Ted Weiss Federal Office Building, 30th Floor Conference Center, Conference Room 2, 290 Broadway, New York, NY 10007, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Any person wishing to testify at one of the additional hearings must submit requests to appear by April 24, 2024. The request to appear at the additional hearings must specify the starting date of the relevant hearing and include a summary of testimony, and may be accompanied by a pre-hearing submission. To allow for possible questions from USTR staff, remarks at the additional hearings may be subject to time limits, to be communicated by USTR to witnesses in advance of the hearings. No witness may offer testimony at more than one public hearing.

Additionally, USTR will permit members of the public to observe remotely both the hearing to be convened by USTR at the U.S. International Trade Commission beginning on May 2, 2024, and the virtual hearing to be convened by USTR beginning on May 23, 2024. Audio and video access to both hearings will be provided at www.ustr.gov/live. Testimony at the hearing to be held at the U.S. International Trade Commission must be delivered in-person, in accordance with the procedures outlined in the initial notice. *See* 89 FR 16608.

III. Post-Hearing Comments

In light of the additional public hearings, USTR will extend the due date for submission of post-hearing written comments from May 16, 2024, to June 4, 2024.¹ Additionally, although the March 7, 2024 notice (89 FR 16608), specified that only "persons who testified at the public hearing" beginning on May 2, 2024, could submit post-hearing written comments, USTR will permit any person to submit post-hearing comments, so long as the comments respond to testimony provided at any of the four public hearings in this proceeding.

IV. Requirements for Submissions

To be assured of consideration, submit any request to appear at the

¹ Except for this extension, this notice does not modify any of the deadlines established in the initial notice of March 7, 2024. *See* 89 FR 16608.