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Subpart A—Overview

§ 260.1 Program authority.

Section 502 of the Railroad Revitalization and Regulatory Reform Act of 1976, as amended, 45 U.S.C. 821 *et seq.*, authorizes the Secretary of Transpor-

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tation to provide direct loans and loan guarantees to State and local governments, government sponsored authorities and corporations, railroads, and joint ventures that include at least one railroad. The Secretary's authority has been delegated to the Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration, an agency of the Department of Transportation.

§ 260.3 Definitions.

As used in this part—

(a) *Act* means the Railroad Revitalization and Regulatory Reform Act of 1976, as amended, 45 U.S.C. 821 *et seq.*

(b) *Administrator* means the Federal Railroad Administrator, or his or her representative.

(c) *Applicant* means any State or local government, government sponsored authority or corporation, railroad, or group of two or more entities, at least one of which is a railroad, participating in a joint venture, that submits an application to the Administrator for a direct loan or the guarantee of an existing obligation under which it is an obligor or for a commitment to guarantee a new obligation.

(d) *Borrower* means an Applicant that has been approved for, and has received, financial assistance under this part.

(e) *Credit risk premium* means that portion of the total subsidy cost to the Government of a direct loan or loan guarantee that is not covered by Federal appropriations and which must be paid by Applicant or its non-Federal infrastructure partner before that direct loan can be disbursed or loan guarantee can be issued.

(f) *Direct loan* means a disbursement of funds by the Government to a non-federal borrower under a contract that requires the repayment of such funds.

(g) *FRA* means the Federal Railroad Administration.

(h) *Financial assistance* means a direct loan, or a guarantee of a new loan issued under this part.

(i) *Holder* means the current owner of an obligation or the entity retained by the owner to service and collect an obligation which is guaranteed under the provisions of this part.

(j) *Including* means including but not limited to.

(k) *Infrastructure partner* means any non-Federal source of the Credit Risk Premium which must be paid to the Administrator in lieu of, or in combination with, an appropriation in connection with financial assistance provided under this part.

(l) *Intermodal* means of or relating to the connection between rail service and other modes of transportation, including all parts of facilities at which such connection is made.

(m) *Lender* means the non-Federal entity making a loan to an Applicant for which a loan guarantee under this part is sought.

(n) *Loan guarantee* means any guarantee, insurance, or other pledge with respect to the payment of all or a part of the principal or interest on any debt obligation of a non-Federal borrower to a non-Federal Lender, but does not include the insurance of deposits, shares, or other withdrawable accounts in financial institutions.

(o) *Obligation* means a bond, note, conditional sale agreement, equipment trust certificate, security agreement, or other obligation.

(p) *Obligor* means the debtor under an obligation, including the original obligor and any successor or assignee of such obligor.

(q) *Project* means the purpose for which financial assistance is requested.

(r) *Railroad* means a rail carrier subject to part A of subtitle IV of title 49, United States Code.

(s) *Subsidy cost of a direct loan* means the net present value, at the time when the direct loan is disbursed, of the following estimated cash flows:

- (1) Loan disbursements;
- (2) Repayments of principal; and

(3) Payments of interest and other payments by or to the Government over the life of the loan after adjusting for estimated defaults, prepayments, fees, penalties, and other recoveries; including the effects of changes in loan terms resulting from the exercise by the borrower of an option included in the loan contract.

(t) *Subsidy cost of a loan guarantee* means the net present value, at the time when the guaranteed loan is disbursed, of the following estimated cash flows:

(1) Payments by the Government to cover defaults, delinquencies, interest subsidies, or other payments; and

(2) The payments to the Government including origination and other fees, penalties and recoveries.

§ 260.5 Eligible purposes.

(a) Financial assistance under this part is available solely to:

(1) Acquire, improve, or rehabilitate intermodal or rail freight or passenger equipment or facilities, including track, components of track, bridges, yards, buildings, and shops;

(2) Refinance outstanding debt incurred for purposes described in paragraph (a)(1) of this section; or

(3) Develop or establish new intermodal or railroad facilities.

(b) Financial assistance under this part cannot be used for railroad operating expenses.

§ 260.7 Priority consideration.

When evaluating applications, the Administrator will give priority consideration (but not necessarily in the following order) to projects that:

- (a) Enhance public safety;
- (b) Enhance the environment;
- (c) Promote economic development;
- (d) Enable United States companies to be more competitive in international markets;

(e) Are endorsed by the plans prepared under section 135 of title 23, United States Code, by the State or States in which they are located; or

(f) Preserve or enhance rail or intermodal service to small communities or rural areas.

§ 260.9 Loan terms.

(a) The interest rate on a direct loan will be not less than the rate on United States Treasury securities of a similar maturity of the direct loan on the date of the execution of the loan agreement, except as described in paragraph (b) of this section and in § 260.17(d).

(b) If, on the date of the execution of the loan agreement, the United States Treasury does not post the rate of securities of a similar maturity of the direct loan, the interest rate on any direct loan with both a final maturity date that is more than 35 years after the date of substantial completion of