

promotion of sustainable development. The TPSC also welcomes public views on appropriate methodologies and sources of data for conducting the review. Persons submitting written comments should provide as much detail as possible on the degree to which the subject matter they propose for inclusion in the review may raise significant environmental issues in the context of the negotiation.

DATES: Public comments should be received no later than May 14, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Submissions by electronic mail: FR0421@ustr.gov. Submissions by facsimile: Gloria Blue, Executive Secretary, Trade Policy Staff Committee, at (202) 395-6143.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For procedural questions concerning public comments, contact Gloria Blue, Executive Secretary, TPSC, Office of the USTR, 1724 F Street, NW., Washington, DC 20508, telephone (202) 395-3475. Questions concerning the environmental review should be addressed to David J. Brooks, Office of Environment and Natural Resources, USTR, telephone (202) 395-7320.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. Background Information

On November 18, 2003, in accordance with section 2104(a)(1) of the Trade Act of 2002, the United States Trade Representative, Ambassador Robert B. Zoellick, notified Congress of the President's intent to enter into trade negotiations with Panama. Ambassador Zoellick outlined specific U.S. objectives for these negotiations in the notification letters to Congress. Copies of the letters are available at http://www.ustr.gov/new/fta/Panama/2003-11-18-notification_letter.pdf.

The TPSC invited the public (69 FR 8518) to provide oral testimony at a public hearing that took place on March 23, 2004, or written comments by April 5, 2004, to assist USTR in amplifying and clarifying negotiating objectives for the proposed FTA and to provide advice on how specific goods and services and other matters should be treated under the proposed agreement.

Two-way trade between the United States and Panama totaled \$2.1 billion in 2003, with U.S. exports accounting for \$1.8 billion of that amount. On average, nearly half of Panama's total imports come from the United States. In addition, the stock of U.S. foreign direct investment in Panama is approximately \$20 billion, concentrated in sectors such as finance, maritime and energy. Plans for expansion of the Panama Canal will create many new government procurement opportunities. Panama

serves as an important financial and commercial crossroads in the Western Hemisphere and has one of the most open economies in the region. Panama is also a reliable partner in the region, working closely with us to advance our common values and objectives in the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA).

2. Environmental Review

USTR, through the TPSC, will perform an environmental review of the agreement pursuant to the authority delegated by the President in Executive Orders 13277 (67 FR 70305) and 13141 (64 FR 63169) and its implementing guidelines (65 FR 79442).

Environmental reviews are used to identify potentially significant, reasonably foreseeable environmental impacts (both positive and negative), and information from the review can help facilitate consideration of appropriate responses where impacts are identified. Reviews address potential environmental impacts of the proposed agreement and potential implications for environmental laws and regulations. The focus of the review is on impacts in the United States, although global and transboundary impacts may be considered, where appropriate and prudent.

3. Requirements for Submissions

In order to facilitate prompt processing of submissions, USTR strongly urges and prefers electronic (e-mail) submissions in response to this notice.

Persons making submissions by e-mail should use the following subject line: "United States—Panama FTA Environmental Review" followed by "Written Comments." Documents should be submitted as either WordPerfect, MSWord, or text (.TXT) files. Supporting documentation submitted as spreadsheets are acceptable as Quattro Pro or Excel. For any document containing business confidential information submitted electronically, the file name of the business confidential version should begin with the characters "BC-", and the file name of the public version should begin with the characters "P-". The "P-" or "BC-" should be followed by the name of the submitter. Persons who make submissions by e-mail should not provide separate cover letters; information that might appear in a cover letter should be included in the submission itself. To the extent possible, any attachments to the submission should be included in the

same file as the submission itself, and not as separate files.

Written comments submitted in response to this request will be placed in a file open to public inspection pursuant to 15 CFR 2003.5, except business confidential information exempt from public inspection in accordance with 15 CFR 2003.6. Business confidential information submitted in accordance with 15 CFR 2003.6 must be clearly marked "BUSINESS CONFIDENTIAL" at the top of each page, including any cover letter or cover page, and must be accompanied by a nonconfidential summary of the confidential information. All public documents and nonconfidential summaries shall be available for public inspection in the USTR Reading Room. The USTR Reading Room is open to the public, by appointment only, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. An appointment to review the file must be scheduled at least 48 hours in advance and may be made by calling (202) 395-6186.

USTR also welcomes and will take into account the public comments on Panama FTA environmental issues submitted in response to a previous notice—the **Federal Register** notice dated February 24, 2004 (69 FR 8518)—requesting comments from the public to assist USTR in formulating positions and proposals with respect to all aspects of the negotiations, including environmental issues. These comments will also be made available for public inspection.

General information concerning the Office of the United States Trade Representative may be obtained by accessing its Internet Web site (www.ustr.gov).

Carmen Suro-Bredie,

Chair, Trade Policy Staff Committee.

[FR Doc. 04-8239 Filed 4-9-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3190-W3-P

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES
TRADE REPRESENTATIVE**

**Trade Policy Staff Committee; Initiation
of Environmental Review of Proposed
United States-Thailand Free Trade
Agreement Negotiations; Public
Comments on Scope of Environmental
Review**

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: This publication gives notice that, pursuant to authority delegated by

the President in Executive Order 13277 (67 FR 70305) and consistent with Executive Order 13141 (64 FR 63169) and its implementing guidelines (65 FR 79442), the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR), through the Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC), is initiating an environmental review of the proposed United States-Thailand Free Trade Agreement. The TPSC is requesting written comments from the public on what should be included in the scope of the environmental review, including the potential environmental effects that might flow from the free trade agreement and the potential implications for U.S. environmental laws and regulations, and identification of complementarities between trade and environmental objectives such as the promotion of sustainable development. The TPSC also welcomes public views on appropriate methodologies and sources of data for conducting the review. Persons submitting written comments should provide as much detail as possible on the degree to which the subject matter they propose for inclusion in the review may raise significant environmental issues in the context of the negotiation.

DATE: Public comments should be received no later than June 1, 2004.

ADDRESSES: *Submissions by electronic mail:* FR0423@ustr.gov.

Submissions by facsimile: Gloria Blue, Executive Secretary, Trade Policy Staff Committee, at (202) 395-6143.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For procedural questions concerning public comments, contact Gloria Blue, Executive Secretary, TPSC, Office of the USTR, 1724 F Street, NW., Washington, DC 20508, telephone (202) 395-3475. Questions concerning the environmental review should be addressed to Alice L. Mattice or David J. Brooks, Environment and Natural Resources Section, USTR, telephone (202) 395-7320.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. Background Information

On February 12, 2004, in accordance with section 2104(a)(1) of the Trade Act of 2002, the United States Trade Representative, Ambassador Robert B. Zoellick, notified Congress of the President's intent to enter into trade negotiations with Thailand. Ambassador Zoellick outlined specific U.S. objectives for these negotiations in the notification letters to Congress. Copies of the letters are available at: <http://www.ustr.gov/releases/2004/02/2004-02-12-letter-thailand-senate.pdf> and

<http://www.ustr.gov/releases/2004/02/2004-02-12-letter-thailand-house.pdf>.

The TPSC invited the public (69 FR 9419) to provide written comments and/or oral testimony at a public hearing, which took place on March 30, 2004, to assist USTR in amplifying and clarifying negotiating objectives for the proposed FTA and to provide advice on how specific goods and services and other matters should be treated under the proposed agreement.

Thailand is the United States' 18th largest trading partner with \$19.7 billion in total trade during 2002. The increased access to Thailand's market provided by an FTA would further boost trade in a wider range of both goods and services, enhancing employment opportunities in both countries. An FTA would encourage greater liberalization of foreign investment and build upon the preferential access already afforded U.S. companies under the U.S.-Thailand Treaty of Amity and Economic Relations. In these FTA negotiations, the United States will seek to address market access barriers faced by U.S. companies and service providers. The United States also will seek provisions on transparency, labor and environment.

2. Environmental Review

USTR, through the TPSC, will perform an environmental review of the agreement pursuant to the authority delegated by the President in Executive Orders 13277 (67 FR 70305) and 13141 (64 FR 63169) and its implementing guidelines (65 FR 79442).

Environmental reviews are used to identify potentially significant, reasonably foreseeable environmental impacts (both positive and negative), and information from the review can help facilitate consideration of appropriate responses where impacts are identified. Reviews address potential environmental impacts of the proposed agreement and potential implications for environmental laws and regulations. The focus of the review is on impacts in the United States, although global and transboundary impacts may be considered, where appropriate and prudent.

3. Requirements for Submissions

In order to facilitate prompt processing of submissions, USTR strongly urges and prefers electronic (e-mail) submissions in response to this notice.

Persons making submissions by e-mail should use the following subject line: "United States-Thailand FTA Environmental Review" followed by "Written Comments." Documents

should be submitted as either WordPerfect, MSWord, or text (.TXT) files. Supporting documentation submitted as spreadsheets are acceptable as Quattro Pro or Excel. For any document containing business confidential information submitted electronically, the file name of the business confidential version should begin with the characters "BC-", and the file name of the public version should begin with the characters "P-". The "P-" or "BC-" should be followed by the name of the submitter. Persons who make submissions by e-mail should not provide separate cover letters; information that might appear in a cover letter should be included in the submission itself. To the extent possible, any attachments to the submission should be included in the same file as the submission itself, and not as separate files.

Written comments submitted in response to this request will be placed in a file open to public inspection pursuant to 15 CFR 2003.5, except business confidential information exempt from public inspection in accordance with 15 CFR 2003.6. Business confidential information submitted in accordance with 15 CFR 2003.6 must be clearly marked "BUSINESS CONFIDENTIAL" at the top of each page, including any cover letter or cover page, and must be accompanied by a nonconfidential summary of the confidential information. All public documents and nonconfidential summaries shall be available for public inspection in the USTR Reading Room. The USTR Reading Room is open to the public, by appointment only, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. An appointment to review the file must be scheduled at least 48 hours in advance and may be made by calling (202) 395-6186.

USTR also welcomes and will take into account the public comments on Thailand FTA environmental issues submitted in response to a previous notice—the **Federal Register** notice dated February 27, 2004 (69 FR 9419), requesting comments from the public to assist USTR in formulating positions and proposals with respect to all aspects of the negotiations, including environmental issues. These comments will also be made available for public inspection.

General information concerning the Office of the United States Trade Representative may be obtained by

accessing its Internet Web site
(www.ustr.gov).

Carmen Suro-Bredie,

Chair, Trade Policy Staff Committee.

[FR Doc. 04-8240 Filed 4-9-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3190-W3-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 34485]

Carrizo Gorge Railway, Inc.—Operation Exemption—San Diego and Arizona Eastern Railway Company

Carrizo Gorge Railway, Inc. (CZRY), a Class III rail carrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.41 to operate approximately 70.01 miles of a line of railroad extending between milepost 59.60 at Division, CA, and milepost 129.61 near Plaster City, CA. The line is owned by the San Diego and Arizona Eastern Railway Company. CZRY certifies that its projected revenues as a result of this transaction will not result in the creation of a Class I or Class II rail carrier.

The transaction was scheduled to be consummated on or after March 25, 2004, the effective date of the exemption (7 days after the exemption was filed).

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*. Petitions to revoke the exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) may be filed at any time. The filing of a petition to revoke will not automatically stay the transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 34485, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on Thomas F. McFarland, 208 South LaSalle Street, Suite 1890, Chicago, IL 60604-1112.

Board decisions and notices are available on our website at <http://www.stb.dot.gov>.

Decided: April 2, 2004.

By the Board, David M. Konschnik,
Director, Office of Proceedings.

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 04-8205 Filed 4-9-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[Docket No. AB-167 (Sub-No. 1095X)]

Consolidated Rail Corporation—Abandonment Exemption—Lancaster and Chester Counties, PA

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board, DOT.

ACTION: Notice to the parties.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the Surface Transportation Board's Section of Environmental Analysis announces the availability of the notice to the parties, which summarizes and responds to all comments received in response to the October 2003 notice and draft Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), including those that favor converting this railroad right-of-way to a trail, and presents the Final MOA to the parties and the public.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Christa Dean, (202) 565-1606. (Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f), Federal agencies are required to consider the adverse effects of their decisions on historic properties. In this proceeding, the entire line proposed for abandonment exemption was determined to be historic by the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places. As part of its effort to determine appropriate mitigation measures, the Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) issued a notice to the parties and a proposed draft Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for public review and comment, on October 20, 2003, and held two public meetings in Quarryville, PA, on November 19, 2003. After careful consideration of all comments received, SEA announces the availability of the notice to the parties, which: (1) Summarizes and responds to all oral and written comments received in response to the October 2003 notice and draft MOA, including those that favor converting this railroad right-of-way to interim trail use/railbanking pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 1247(d) (Trails Act), or a privately negotiated trail use agreement entered into after the abandonment is consummated, and (2) includes the Final MOA, which sets forth measures for mitigating adverse effects of the proposed abandonment on historic properties. SEA has circulated the Final

MOA to the signatory and concurring parties for signature.

The complete notice to the parties is available on the Board's Web site at: www.stb.dot.gov.

Decided: April 12, 2004.

By the Board, Chairman Nober.

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 04-8206 Filed 4-9-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Treasury and its Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, as part of their continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invite the public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed and continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*). Currently, we are seeking comments on TTB Forms 5130.9 and 5130.26, titled "Brewer's Report of Operations" and "Brewpub Report of Operations."

DATES: We must receive your written comments on or before June 11, 2004.

ADDRESSES: You may send comments to Sandra Turner, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, at any of these addresses:

- P.O. Box 14412, Washington, DC 20044-4412;
- 202-927-8525 (facsimile); or
- formcomments@ttb.gov (e-mail).

Please reference the information collection's title, form or recordkeeping requirement number, and OMB number (if any) in your comment. If you submit your comment via facsimile, send no more than five 8.5 x 11 inch pages in order to ensure electronic access to our equipment.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To obtain additional information, copies of the information collection and its instructions, or copies of any comments received, contact Sandra Turner, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, P.O. Box 14412, Washington, DC 20044-4412; or telephone 202-927-8210.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: