

For Saudi Arabia, a waiver as required in the “important national interest of the United States,” pursuant to sec. 407 of the Act;

For Sudan, the restriction in the annual Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act on making certain appropriated funds available for assistance to the Government of Sudan, currently set forth in sec. 7042(k) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2015 (Div. J, Pub. L. 113–235), and any provision of law that is the same or substantially the same as this provision, pursuant to sec. 402(c)(5) of the Act;

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

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

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

Dated: April 14, 2016.

Dave Morris,

Acting Director, Office of International Religious Freedom, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 2016–09163 Filed 4–19–16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710–18–P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice: 9526]

U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

The U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy will hold a public meeting from 10:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m., Thursday, May 12, 2016 in Room SVC 203–02 of the Capitol Visitors Center, Senate Side on First Street NE., Washington, DC 20002.

The meeting’s topic will be “Presidential Priorities for Public Diplomacy” and will feature officials from the National Security Council, U.S. Department of State and Broadcasting Board of Governors. Other representatives from the State Department will be in attendance.

This meeting is open to the public, members and staff of Congress, the State Department, Defense Department, the media, and other governmental and non-governmental organizations. To attend and make any requests for reasonable accommodation, email

pdcommission@state.gov by 5 p.m. on Monday, May 9, 2016. Please arrive for the meeting by 9:45 a.m. to allow for a prompt meeting start.

The United States Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy appraises U.S. Government activities intended to understand, inform, and influence foreign publics. The Advisory Commission may conduct studies, inquiries, and meetings, as it deems necessary. It may assemble and disseminate information and issue reports and other publications, subject to the approval of the Chairperson, in consultation with the Executive Director. The Advisory Commission may undertake foreign travel in pursuit of its studies and coordinate, sponsor, or oversee projects, studies, events, or other activities that it deems desirable and necessary in fulfilling its functions.

The Commission consists of seven members appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. The members of the Commission represent the public interest and are selected from a cross section of educational, communications, cultural, scientific, technical, public service, labor, business, and professional backgrounds. Not more than four members are from any one political party. The President designates a member to chair the Commission.

The current members of the Commission are: Mr. William Hybl of Colorado, Chairman; Ambassador Lyndon Olson of Texas, Vice Chairman; Mr. Sim Farar of California, Vice Chairman; Ambassador Penne Korth-Peacock of Texas; Ms. Lezlee Westine of Virginia; and Ms. Anne Terman Wedner of Illinois.

Mr. Douglas Wilson of Delaware has been nominated by the President to fill the current vacancy on the Commission and Ms. Georgette Mosbacher of New York has been nominated by the President to replace Ms. Lezlee Westine. They are both currently awaiting Senate confirmation.

To request further information about the meeting or the U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy, you may contact its Executive Director, Katherine Brown, at BrownKA4@state.gov.

Dated: April 12, 2016.

Katherine Brown,

Executive Director, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 2016–09162 Filed 4–19–16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710–45–P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice: 9525]

Culturally Significant Objects Imported for Exhibition Determinations: “Turner’s Whaling Pictures” Exhibition

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the following determinations: Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Act of October 19, 1965 (79 Stat. 985; 22 U.S.C. 2459), E.O. 12047 of March 27, 1978, the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (112 Stat. 2681, *et seq.*; 22 U.S.C. 6501 note, *et seq.*), Delegation of Authority No. 234 of October 1, 1999, Delegation of Authority No. 236–3 of August 28, 2000 (and, as appropriate, Delegation of Authority No. 257–1 of December 11, 2015), I hereby determine that the objects to be included in the exhibition “Turner’s Whaling Pictures,” imported from abroad for temporary exhibition within the United States, are of cultural significance. The objects are imported pursuant to a loan agreement with the foreign owner or custodian. I also determine that the exhibition or display of the exhibit objects at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, New York, from on or about May 10, 2016, until on or about August 7, 2016, and at possible additional exhibitions or venues yet to be determined, is in the national interest. I have ordered that Public Notice of these Determinations be published in the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information, including a list of the imported objects, contact the Office of Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs in the Office of the Legal Adviser, U.S. Department of State (telephone: 202–632–6471; email: section2459@state.gov). The mailing address is U.S. Department of State, L/PP, SA–5, Suite 5H03, Washington, DC 20522–0505.

Dated: April 12, 2016.

Mark Taplin,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 2016–09161 Filed 4–19–16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710–05–P

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

[Docket No. FD 36006]

West Branch Intermediate Holdings, LLC and Continental Rail, LLC—Continuance in Control Exemption—Central Gulf Acquisition Company

West Branch Intermediate Holdings, LLC (West Branch) and Continental Rail, LLC (Continental), both

noncarriers, have filed a verified notice of exemption pursuant to 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(2) to continue in control of Central Gulf Acquisition Company (CGAC) upon CGAC's becoming a Class III rail carrier.¹

This transaction is related to (1) a concurrently filed verified notice of exemption in *Central Gulf Acquisition Co.—Acquisition & Operation Exemption—CG Railway, Inc.*, Docket No. FD 36007, wherein CGAC seeks Board approval to acquire CG Railway, Inc., a Class III rail carrier, from International Shipholding Corporation, and provide an intermodal rail/water service between Mobile, Ala., and Coatzacoalcos, Veracruz, Mexico, utilizing charters of railroad car ferries equipped with tracks.²

The transaction in this proceeding may be consummated on or after May 4, 2016, the effective date of the exemption (30 days after the verified notice of exemption was filed).

West Branch and Continental certify that: (1) The rail lines to be operated by CGAC do not connect with any other railroads in the corporate family; (2) the transaction is not part of a series of anticipated transactions that would connect these rail lines with each other or any railroad in their corporate family; and (3) the transaction does not involve a Class I rail carrier. Therefore, the transaction is exempt from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 11323. See 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(2).

Under 49 U.S.C. 10502(g), the Board may not use its exemption authority to relieve a rail carrier of its statutory obligation to protect the interests of its employees. Section 11326(c), however, does not provide for labor protection for transactions under §§ 11324 and 11325 that involve only Class III rail carriers. Accordingly, the Board may not impose labor protective conditions here because all of the carriers involved are Class III carriers.

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

¹ The parties state that: (1) West Branch is a limited liability company, formed for the purpose of acquiring shortline railroads; (2) Continental is a limited liability company, formed for the purpose of managing and operating shortline railroads; and (3) West Branch's wholly owned subsidiary, Delta Southern Railroad, Inc. (DSR), is an existing Class III rail carrier. West Branch states that it acquired the stock of DSR from its former owners in a transaction outside of the Board's jurisdiction.

² In Docket No. FD 36007, CGAC also filed a petition to waive the 60-day labor notice requirements of 49 CFR 1150.32(e) in order for the acquisition and operation transaction to be consummated on or before the scheduled consummation date. The notice and petition for waiver in FD 36007 will be addressed in a separate decision.

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 effectiveness of the exemption. Stay petitions must be filed no later than April 27, 2016 (at least seven days before the exemption becomes effective).

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to Docket No. FD 36006, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street SW., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, one copy of each pleading must be served on John D. Heffner, Strasburger & Price, LLP, 1025 Connecticut Ave. NW., Suite 717, Washington, DC 20036.

Board decisions and notices are available on our Web site at "WWW.STB.DOT.GOV."

Decided: April 15, 2016.

By the Board, Rachel D. Campbell, Director, Office of Proceedings.

Kenyatta Clay,
Clearance Clerk.

[FR Doc. 2016-09106 Filed 4-19-16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-01-P

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

[Docket No. AB 55 (Sub-No. 758X)]

CSX Transportation, Inc.— Discontinuance of Service Exemption—in Dickenson County, Va.

CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT), filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR part 1152 subpart F—*Exempt Abandonments and Discontinuances of Service* to discontinue service over an approximately 2.2-mile rail line on CSXT's Southern Region, Huntington Division, Kingsport Subdivision, Engineering Appalachian Division, also known as the Nora Branch, between milepost ZN 0.0 and milepost ZN 2.2 in Nora, Dickenson County, Va. (the Line). The Line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Code 24272 and is served by the station at Nora at milepost Z 26 (FSAC 50026/OPSL 24600).¹

CSXT has certified that: (1) No local traffic has moved over the Line for at least two years; (2) because the Line is not a through route, no overhead traffic has operated, and, therefore, none needs to 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 entity acting on behalf of such user) regarding cessation of service over the Line is pending either with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) or

¹ CSXT states that the station is located on the main line at milepost Z 26 where the Nora Branch connects to the main line at milepost ZN 0.0.

with any U.S. District Court or has been decided in favor of complainant within the two-year period; and (4) the requirements at 49 CFR 1105.12 (newspaper publication) and 49 CFR 1152.50(d)(1) (notice to governmental agencies) have been met.

As a condition to this exemption, any employee adversely affected by the discontinuance of service 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) to subsidize continued rail service has been received, this exemption will be effective on May 20, 2016, unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay that do not involve environmental issues and formal expressions of intent to file an OFA to subsidize continued rail service under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2)² must be filed by April 29, 2016.³ Petitions to reopen must be filed by May 10, 2016, with the Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street SW., Washington, DC 20423-0001.

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to CSXT's representative: Louis E. Gitomer, Law Offices of Louis E. Gitomer, LLC, 600 Baltimore Avenue, Suite 301, Towson, MD 21204.

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

Board decisions and notices are available on our Web site at "WWW.STB.DOT.GOV."

Decided: April 15, 2016.

By the Board, Rachel D. Campbell, Director, Office of Proceedings.

Kenyatta Clay,
Clearance Clerk.

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² Each OFA must be accompanied by the filing fee, which is currently set at \$1,600. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

³ Because this is a discontinue proceeding and not an abandonment, interim trail use/rail banking and public use conditions are not appropriate. Because there will be an environmental review during abandonment, this discontinuance does not require an environmental review.