aware of interest represented by floor brokers, which is not publicly disseminated.\(^{44}\) When offsetting an imbalance during the closing auction, DMM interest trades at parity with limit orders on the Exchange order book, and DMM interest takes priority over limit-on-close orders with a price equal to the closing price and over closing-offset orders.\(^{45}\) In approving the entire set of advantages given to DMMs in 2008 through the New Market Model, the Commission specifically assessed “whether the rewards granted to DMMs . . . are commensurate with their obligations” and found that the proposed New Market Model pilot reflected “an appropriate balance of DMM obligations against the benefits provided to DMMs.”\(^{46}\)

In proposing to remove the Prohibited Transactions Rule, however, NYSE and NYSE MKT have failed to adequately explain or justify how the proposed alteration to the balance of benefits and obligations of a DMM previously approved by the Commission is consistent with Section 6(b)(5) of the Exchange Act, or how allowing DMMs to aggressively take liquidity in the last ten minutes of trading is both consistent with a DMM’s obligation to maintain a fair and orderly market in its assigned securities and designed to prevent fraudulent or manipulative acts and practices regarding the closing auction, for which a DMM has crucial responsibilities.

The Exchanges and Citadel in their comment letters argue that changes in market structure such as the inability of DMMs, compared to specialists, to “set prices” in their assigned securities, and the movement of trading volume in NYSE-listed securities away from the NYSE, support the elimination of the Prohibited Transactions Rule. But, as noted above, the Prohibited Transactions Rule was included in the New Market Model rule filing that established the role of DMMs, and the market-share statistics offered by Citadel—which purportedly establish the relatively weak pricing power of a DMM—fail to acknowledge that the Exchanges have a dominant market share in the closing auction,\(^{48}\) and that a DMM has discretion and informational advantages that place the DMM in a unique position to choose its own level of participation in the auction and to influence the closing price.\(^{49}\)

Additionally, the argument by Citadel that the current prohibition creates an uneven playing field, and that it limits DMMs’ “ability to provide competitive quotations,”\(^{50}\) fails to address that DMMs have unique privileges on NYSE and NYSE MKT and that the proposed rule change is not limited to circumstances in which DMMs would be allowed to quote competitively and provide liquidity, but would also allow them to aggressively take liquidity.

Additionally, while NYSE and NYSE MKT have argued that the proposal is consistent with the Exchange Act because remaining exchange rules address the possibility of disruptive or improper DMM trading during the last ten minutes of the day, the Commission does not believe that NYSE and NYSE MKT have met their burden to demonstrate that these other rules—which require the exercise of judgment as to what is “reasonable,” “excessive,” “appropriate,” or “commensurate”\(^{51}\)—are adequate substitutes for a clear, meaningful, and enforceable bright-line rule that limits aggressive DMM trading at a particularly sensitive and important time of the trading day and that addresses the risk of destabilizing or even manipulative activity.

Additionally, the Commission believes that NYSE and NYSE MKT have merely asserted that, but not explained how, existing surveillances can act as an adequate substitute for this bright-line rule. Thus, because the Exchanges’ arguments in favor of the proposed rule changes do not adequately address significant issues raised by the proposals, the Commission does not find that the proposed rule changes are consistent with the requirements of the Exchange Act and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to a national securities exchange and, in particular, with Section 6(b)(5) of the Exchange Act.

V. Conclusion

It is therefore ordered that, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Exchange Act,\(^{52}\) the proposed rule changes (SR–NYSE–2016–71 and SR–NYSEMKT–2016–99) be, and hereby are, disapproved.

\(^{44}\) See Exchange Rule 104(j); see also NYSE Rule 123C and NYSE MKT Rule 123C—Equities.

\(^{45}\) See NYSE Rule 123C(7)(b); NYSE MKT Rule 123C(7)(b)—Equities.


\(^{47}\) See Citadeli Letter, supra note 7, at 2.

\(^{48}\) See supra note 39 and accompanying text.

\(^{49}\) See supra notes 44–44 and accompanying text.

\(^{50}\) Citadel Letter, supra note 7, at 2–3.

\(^{51}\) See supra notes 25 & 40 and accompanying text.


For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.\(^{53}\)

Jill M. Peterson,
Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2017–15215 Filed 7–19–17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Delegation of Authority: 437]

Delegation of Authority to the Director of the Office of U.S. Foreign Assistance Resources To Concur in Assistance Programs

By virtue of the authority vested in the Secretary of State, including section 1 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act (22 U.S.C. 2651a) and 10 U.S.C. 333, I hereby delegate to the Director of the Office of U.S. Foreign Assistance Resources, to the extent authorized by law, the authority to concur in programs authorized by section 333 of title 10 of the U.S. Code. Notwithstanding this delegation of authority, any function or authority delegated herein may be exercised by the Secretary or a Deputy Secretary. Any reference in this delegation of authority to any statute or delegation of authority shall be deemed to be a reference to such statute or delegation of authority as amended from time to time.

This delegation of authority shall be published in the Federal Register.

Dated: May 1, 2017.
Rex W. Tillerson,
Secretary of State.

[FR Doc. 2017–15226 Filed 7–19–17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710–10–P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice: 10062]


Union Pacific Railroad Company—Discontinuance Exemption—in Grundy County, IL

Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR pt. 1152 subpart F—Exempt Abandonments and Discontinuances of Service to discontinue service over a 2.85-mile portion of the Pequot Subdivision from milepost 56.85, along BNSF’s Transcon Line, to Reed Road at milepost 59.70 (the Line). The Line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Codes 60416 and 60407.

UP has certified that: (1) No local or overhead traffic has moved over the Line for at least two years; (2) there is no need to reroute any traffic 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 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 & Amnon, 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 August 19, 2017, 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) must be filed by July 28, 2017. Petitions for reconsideration must be filed by August 9, 2017, 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 Mack H. Shumate, Jr., Union Pacific Railroad Company, 101 North Wacker Drive, Room 1920, Chicago, IL 60606.

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.GOV.

Decided: July 14, 2017.
By the Board, Scott M. Zimmerman, Acting Director, Office of Proceedings.

Rena Laws-Byrum,
Clearance Clerk.

BILLING CODE 4910–01–P

Each OFA must be accompanied by the filing fee, which is currently set at $1,700. See 49 CFR 1002.20[25].

Because this is a discontinuance 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.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Federal Highway Administration
[Docket No. FHWA–2017–0027]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Request for Comments for a New Information Collection

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: FHWA invites public comments about our intention to request the Office of Management and Budget’s (OMB) approval for a new information collection, which is summarized below under SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION. We published a Federal Register Notice with a 60-day public comment period on this information collection on June 19, 2017. We are required to publish this notice in the Federal Register by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Please submit comments by August 21, 2017.

ADDRESSES: You may send comments within 30 days to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street NW., Washington, DC 20503, Attention DOT Desk Officer. All comments should include the Docket number FHWA–2017–0027.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bruce Bradley, 202–493–0564, Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Office of Real Estate Services, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590. Office hours are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: You are asked to comment on any aspect of this information collection, including: (1) Whether the proposed collection is necessary for the FHWA’s performance; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (3) ways for the FHWA to enhance the quality, usefulness, and clarity of the collected information; and (4) ways that the burden could be minimized, including the use of electronic technology, without reducing the quality of the collected information.

Title: FHWA Excellence in Right–of–Way Awards and Utility Relocation and Accommodation Awards.

Background: In 1995, the Federal Highway Administration established the biennial Excellence in Right–of–Way Awards Program to recognize partners, projects, and processes that use FHWA funding sources to go beyond regulatory compliance and achieve right-of–way