premium or premiums for sureties as it deems reasonable and necessary,” and to administer the SBG Program “on a prudent and economically justifiable basis.” 15 U.S.C. 694(b)(h), SBA assesses a guarantee fee against both the small business concern (the Principal) and the Surety and deposits these fees into a revolving fund to cover the program’s liabilities and certain program expenses.

SBA last changed the fees over 12 years ago when the fee charged to the Sureties was increased from 20% to 26% of the bond premium and the fee charged to Principals increased from $6.00 per thousand dollars of the contract amount to $7.29 per thousand dollars of the contract amount. Those fees have been in effect since April 3, 2006. At that time, SBA determined that the program’s revolving fund was insufficient to cover projected, unfunded liabilities. See 71 FR 9632 (February 24, 2006). SBA increased the guarantee fees to address the projected deficiency. Over the past 12 years, with the increased fee amounts, the revolving fund has accumulated sufficient funds to support the program.

SBA’s rules provide that the amount of the fees to be paid by the Surety and the Principal “will be determined by SBA and published in Notices in the Federal Register from time to time.” See 13 CFR 115.32(b) and (c) and 115.66. The purpose of this document is to announce that, for the one year period beginning October 1, 2018, the Surety fee will decrease from 26% of the bond premium to 20% of the bond premium and the Principal fee will decrease from $7.29 per thousand dollars of the contract amount to $6 per thousand dollars of the contract amount.

As indicated above, the decreases in the fees are temporary and will be in effect for guaranteed bonds approved during the one year period beginning October 1, 2018, and ending September 30, 2019. During the year, SBA will evaluate whether the lower fees will result in an increase in the bond activity level of the SBG Program and, if so, whether any such increased level of activity will generate sufficient revenues to offset the reduced fee amounts. After carefully reviewing program performance during the year, SBA will determine whether the guarantee fees should remain at these new amounts or if they should revert to the higher amounts or otherwise be changed.

SBA invites public comments on the above stated fee decreases. Please clearly identify paper and electronic comments as “Public Comments on Fee Decreases under the SBG Program: Docket No. SBA–2018–0007” and submit them by one of the methods identified in the ADDRESSES section of this document. SBA will consider the comments and determine whether any revisions are necessary.

Authority: 13 CFR 115.32(b) and (c) and 115.66.


William Manger,
Associate Administrator, Office of Capital Access.

[FR Doc. 2018–16202 Filed 7–27–18; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 8025–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice: 10479]

Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Keystone XL Pipeline Mainline Alternative Route in Nebraska

ACTION: Notice of availability; solicitation of comments.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of State (Department) announces the availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment (Draft EA) for the Proposed Keystone XL Pipeline Mainline Alternative Route in Nebraska for public review and comment. The Draft EA evaluates the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Keystone XL Mainline Alternative Route —consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969— in support of the Bureau of Land Management’s (BLM) review of TransCanada Keystone Pipeline, L.P.’s (TransCanada) application for a right-of-way.

DATES: The public comment period ends on August 29, 2018.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted at https://www.regulations.gov by entering the title of this Notice or Docket Number: DOS–2018–0031 into the search field, and then following the prompts.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The Draft EA, along with detailed records on the proposed project and general information about the Presidential permit process, are available at: https://keystonepipeline-xl.state.gov.

Marko Velikonja, Office of Environmental Quality and Transboundary Issues, (202) 647–4828, VelikonjaMC@state.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On January 26, 2017, TransCanada resubmitted its Presidential permit application for the proposed Keystone XL pipeline. On March 23, 2017, the Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs determined that issuance of a Presidential permit to TransCanada to construct, connect, operate, and maintain at the border of the United States pipeline facilities to transport crude oil from Canada to the United States would serve the national interest.
Accordingly, the Under Secretary issued a Presidential permit to TransCanada for the Keystone XL pipeline. Later, on November 20, 2017, the Nebraska Public Service Commission approved the Mainline Alternative Route for that pipeline in the State of Nebraska. TransCanada’s application to BLM for a right-of-way remains pending with that agency.

The Department invites members of the public, government agencies, tribal governments, and all other interested parties to comment on the Draft EA for the proposed Keystone XL Mainline Alternative Route during the 30-day public comment period. Comments provided by agencies and organizations should list a designated contact person. All comments received during the public comment period may be publicized. Comments will be neither private nor edited to remove either identifying or contact information. Commenters should omit information that they do not want disclosed. Any party who will either solicit or aggregate other people’s comments should convey this cautionary message.

Robert D. Wing,
Acting Director, Office of Environmental Quality and Transboundary Issues.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

Petition for Exemption; Summary of Petition Received; Yamaha Motor Corporation, USA

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice contains a summary of a petition seeking relief from specified requirements of Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations. The purpose of this notice is to improve the public’s awareness of, and participation in, the FAA’s exemption process. Neither publication of this notice nor the inclusion or omission of information in the summary is intended to affect the legal status of the petition or its final disposition.

DATES: Comments on this petition must identify the petition docket number and must be received on or before August 20, 2018.

ADDRESSES: Send comments identified by docket number FAA–2018–0182 using any of the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to http://www.regulations.gov and follow the online instructions for sending your comments electronically.
- Mail: Send comments to Docket Operations, M–30; U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Room W12–140, West Building Ground Floor, Washington, DC 20590–0001.
- Hand Delivery or Courier: Take comments to Docket Operations in Room W12–140 of the West Building Ground Floor at 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.
- Fax: Fax comments to Docket Operations at 202–493–2251.

Privacy: In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 553(c), DOT solicits comments from the public to better inform its rulemaking process. DOT posts these comments, without edit, including any personal information the commenter provides, to http://www.regulations.gov, as described in the system of records notice (DOT/ALL–14 FDMS), which can be reviewed at http://www.dot.gov/privacy.

Docket: Background documents or comments received may be read at http://www.regulations.gov at any time. Follow the online instructions for accessing the docket or go to the Docket Operations in Room W12–140 of the West Building Ground Floor at 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.


This notice is published pursuant to 14 CFR 11.85. Issued in Washington, DC.

Lirio Liu,
Executive Director, Office of Rulemaking.

Petition for Exemption


Petitioner: Yamaha Motor Corporation, USA.

Section(s) of 14 CFR Affected:
§§ 61.23(a) & (c); 61.101(e)(4) & (5); 61.113(a) & (b); 91.105; 91.107; 91.121; 91.151; 137.19(b), (c) & (d)(2)(ii), (iii), & (iv); 137.31(b); 137.41(c); and 137.42.

Description of Relief Sought: The petitioner is requesting relief to operate their FAZER R unmannned aircraft system, in concert with type certification, in order to provide commercial agricultural-related services in the United States. The FAZER R is a rotorcraft, spanning 9 feet, 1 inch long, and 3 feet, 6 inches tall, with an empty weight of 138.5 pounds and a maximum payload capacity of 105.5 pounds. A trained pilot in command and visual observer, maintaining visual line-of-sight, would conduct the proposed operation.

[FR DoC. 2018–16258 Filed 7–27–18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–13–P