DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice: 104511]

Notice of Meeting: U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy

The U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy will hold a public meeting from 10:30 a.m. until 12:00 p.m., Thursday, September 13, 2018, at the headquarters of the U.S. Mission to the United Nations (799 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017).

The public meeting will focus on Public Diplomacy in the Multilateral Context and feature panelists discussing the role that Public Diplomacy plays in shaping and advancing U.S. foreign policy goals with multilateral organizations, as well as insights into the United Nations' use of Public Diplomacy tools and programs.

This meeting is open to the public, including the media and members of staff of governmental and non-governmental organizations. An RSVP is required for building access. To attend and make any requests for reasonable accommodation, email Michelle Bowen at BowenMGI@state.gov by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 6, 2018. Please arrive for the meeting by 10:15 a.m. to allow for a prompt start.

The U.S. 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.

For more information on the U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy, please visit www.state.gov/pdcommission. For more information on the upcoming public meeting, contact the Commission’s Designated Federal Official, J. Jeff Daigle, at DaigleJ@state.gov.

John J. Daigle,
Designated Federal Official, Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy, Department of State.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice: 10515]

Notification of United States-Chile Environment Affairs Council and Joint Commission on Environmental Cooperation Meetings

ACTION: Request for comments; invitation to public session.

SUMMARY: The Department of State and the Office of the United States Trade Representative are providing notice that the parties to the U.S.-Chile Free Trade Agreement (FTA) intend to hold the eighth meeting of the Environment Affairs Council (Council) established under Chapter 19 of the FTA, as well as the sixth meeting of the U.S.-Chile Joint Commission on Environmental Cooperation (Commission) established under the U.S.-Chile Environmental Cooperation Agreement (ECA), on Tuesday September 4, 2018. The Council will review implementation of Chapter 19 (Environment) of the FTA, and the Commission will review implementation of the ECA.

DATES: The public session of the Council and Commission will be held on September 5, 2018, beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Chilean Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 180 Teatinos St., Santiago, Chile. We request RSVPs and any written comments no later than August 28, 2018, in order to facilitate consideration.

ADDRESSES: RSVPs and any written comments should be submitted to both: (1) Keri Holland, U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, Office of Environmental Quality and Transboundary Issues, by email at HollandKJ@state.gov with the subject line “UNITED STATES-CHILE EAC/JCEC MEETING” or by fax to (202) 647–5947. (2) Tia Potshkherashvili, United States Trade Representative, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative for Environment and Natural Resources, by email at tiapots@ustr.eop.gov with the subject line “UNITED STATES-CHILE EAC/JCEC MEETING” or by fax to (202) 395–9517.

In your RSVP, please include your full name and affiliation.

If you have access to the internet you can view and comment on this notice by going to: http://www.regulations.gov/#/home and searching on docket number DOS–2018–0034.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Keri Holland, telephone (202) 647–6777, HollandKJ@state.gov.
The United States and Chile negotiated the United States-Chile FTA and United States-Chile ECA in concert, signing the FTA on June 6, 2003, in Miami, USA and the ECA on June 17, 2003, in Santiago, Chile. Article 19.3 of the FTA establishes an Environment Affairs Council (Council). The Council discusses implementation of Chapter 19 of the FTA, and its meetings include a public session. The Joint Commission on Environmental Cooperation (Commission) was established in Article II of the ECA. The Commission evaluates cooperative activities under the ECA, recommends options for improving cooperation, and establishes work programs that reflect national priorities and that identify the scope and focus of environmental cooperation activities. Commission meetings also include a public session.

The Council and Commission last met in August 2015 in Washington, DC. The Council reviewed the implementation of the Environment Chapter of the FTA. The Commission approved the 2015–2017 Work Program, which built on previous successes and identified activities to achieve the long-term goals of: (1) Strengthening effective implementation and enforcement of environmental laws and regulations; (2) encouraging development and adoption of sound environmental practices and technologies, particularly in business enterprises; (3) promoting sustainable development and management of environmental resources, including wild fauna and flora, protected wild areas, and other ecologically important ecosystems; and (4) encouraging civil society participation in the environmental decision-making process and environmental education.

During the Council and Commission meetings, Members will discuss the progress made in implementing Chapter 19 obligations and the impacts of environmental cooperation. The Commission will also finalize an updated Environmental Cooperation Work Program for 2018–2020. More information on the Council and Commission is included below under Supplementary Information.

All interested persons are invited to attend the Council and Commission joint public session beginning at 10:00 a.m. on September 5, 2018, at the Chilean Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 180 Teatinos St., Santiago, Chile. Attendees will have an opportunity to ask questions and discuss implementation of Chapter 19 and the ECA with Council and Commission members and environmental cooperation implementers. At the public session, the Council will receive input from the public on current environmental issues and ideas for future cooperation. The Department of State and Office of the United States Trade Representative invite written comments or suggestions regarding topics to be discussed at the meeting. In preparing comments, we encourage submitters to refer to Chapter 19 of the FTA and the ECA (available at http://www.state.gov/e/oess/eqt/trade/chile/index.htm).

If you would like to attend the public session, please notify Keri Holland and Tia Potskherasvily at the email addresses listed above under the heading ADDRESSES. Please include your full name and identify any organization or group you represent. In preparing comments, we encourage submitters to refer to:

- Chapter 19 of the FTA, and
- The ECA.


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

[FR Doc. 2018–18242 Filed 8–23–18; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4710–09–P

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Docket No. FD 36209

Watco Holdings, Inc.—Continuance in Control Exemption—Decatur & Eastern Illinois Railroad, L.L.C.

Watco Holdings, Inc. (Watco), a noncarrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption pursuant to 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(2) to continue in control of Decatur & Eastern Illinois Railroad, L.L.C. (DEIR), upon DEIR’s becoming a Class III rail carrier. Watco owns, indirectly, 100% of the issued and outstanding stock of DEIR, a limited liability company.

This transaction is related to a concurrently filed verified notice of exemption in Decatur & Eastern Illinois Railroad—Acquisition Exemption Containing Interchange Commitment—CSX Transportation, Inc., Docket No. FD 36206, by which DEIR seeks Board approval to acquire and operate approximately 126.7 miles of track owned by CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT), consisting of: (1) CSXT’s Decatur Subdivision starting near Montezuma, Ill., at milepost BD 192.4 and ending in Decatur, Ill., at milepost BD 277.2; (2) CSXT’s Danville Secondary Subdivision from near Terre Haute, Ind., at milepost QSD 72.2 to near Olivet, Ill., at milepost QSD 113.6; and (3) CSXT’s Paris Industrial Track located in Paris, Ill.¹

The transaction may be consummated on or after September 8, 2018, the effective date of the exemption (30 days after the verified notice of exemption was filed).

According to the verified notice of exemption, Watco currently controls, indirectly, 37 Class III rail carriers and one Class II rail carrier, collectively operating in 27 states. For a complete list of these rail carriers and the states in which they operate, see the August 9, 2018 verified notice of exemption at pages 5–9 for a list of carriers and pages 9–11 for a list of states.² The verified notice is available on the Board’s website at www.stb.gov.

Watco represents that: (1) The rail line to be operated by DEIR does not connect with any of the rail lines operated by railroads in the Watco corporate family; (2) the transaction is not part of a series of anticipated transactions that would result in such a connection; and (3) the transaction does not involve a Class I rail carrier. The proposed transaction is therefore exempt from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 11323 pursuant to 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(2).

Watco states that the purpose of the transaction is to reduce overhead expenses and coordinate billing, maintenance, mechanical and personnel policies and procedures of its rail carrier subsidiaries, and thereby improve the overall efficiency of rail service provided by the railroads in the Watco corporate family.

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. Because the transaction involves the control of one Class II and one or more Class III rail carriers, the transaction is subject to the labor protection requirements of 49 U.S.C. 11326(b) and Wisconsin Central Ltd.—Acquisition Exemption—Lines of Union Pacific Railroad, 2 S.T.B. 218 (1997).

¹ The proposed transaction also includes an ancillary assignment of CSXT’s trackage rights over Illinois Central Railroad Company (IC) between the Decatur Street road crossing at near milepost 77.7 and milepost 76.7 on IC’s Peoria Subdivision, including IC’s connection with CSXT between milepost 30.5 and milepost 28.6 on IC’s Peoria Subdivision, and between IC’s lead track from its connection to the Green Switch Spur to IC’s connection with the ADM Run-Around-Yard at Decatur, Ill., on IC’s Peoria Subdivision, a total distance of approximately 3.6 miles.

² The sentence on page 3 of the notice stating that Watco controls 38 Class III railroads and operates in 26 states is inconsistent with the list of carriers and states listed on pages 5–11.