

Corporation, Form 33 Instructions for the Authorization to Disburse Proceeds, Form 34 Bank Identification, Form 1065 Applicant Licensee's Assurance of Compliance for the Public Interest.

Description of Respondents: Eligible SBICs.

Form Number: SBA Forms 25 LLGP, 25 PCGP, 25 PC, 33, 34, 1065.

Total Estimated Annual Responses: 60.

Total Estimated Annual Hour Burden: 41 hours.

Curtis Rich,

Agency Clearance Officer.

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BILLING CODE 8026-09-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice: 12295]

30-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: I2U2 Project Proposal Submission Template

ACTION: Notice of request for public comment and submission to OMB of proposed collection of information.

SUMMARY: The Department of State has submitted the information collection described below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for approval. In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, we are requesting comments on this collection from all interested individuals and organizations. The purpose of this Notice is to allow 30 days for public comment.

DATES: The Department will accept comments from the public up to January 29, 2024.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Find this particular information collection by selecting "Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments" or by using the search function.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

- *Title of Information Collection:* I2U2 Project Proposal Submission Template.
- *OMB Control Number:* 1405-0261.
- *Type of Request:* Extension of a currently approved collection.
- *Originating Office:* Office of the Under Secretary for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment.
- *Respondents:* Individuals.
- *Estimated Number of Respondents:* 10.

- *Estimated Number of Responses:* 10.
 - *Average Time per Response:* 1 hour.
 - *Total Estimated Burden Time:* 10 hours.
 - *Frequency:* Once.
 - *Obligation to Respond:* Voluntary.
- We are soliciting public comments to permit the Department to:
- Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper functions of the Department.
 - Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the time and cost burden for this proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used.
 - Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected.
 - Minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Please note that comments submitted in response to this Notice are public record. Before including any detailed personal information, you should be aware that your comments as submitted, including your personal information, will be available for public review.

Abstract of Proposed Collection

I2U2 is a partnership between the heads of government of India, Israel, the United Arab Emirates, and the United States. This grouping of countries identifies bankable projects and initiatives, with a particular focus on joint investments and new initiatives in water, energy, transportation, space, health, food security, and technology. The I2U2 initiative aims to mobilize private sector capital and expertise to achieve a variety of economic goals.

The purpose of this collection is to gather the required details necessary to determine if applicants' projects qualify to participate in the I2U2 initiative. This information is necessary to select participants and share information with I2U2 partners. The window to receive project proposals will remain open as long as the I2U2 initiative exists.

I2U2 will consider projects and initiatives on an individual basis that meet the following criteria:

1. Fall into at least one of these seven sectors: water, climate/energy, transportation, space, health, food security, or technology.
2. Preferably operate in the Middle East, India, the United States, or Africa. However, the I2U2 Group will consider opportunities anywhere in the world.
3. Allow each of the four partner countries to benefit from and/or contribute to the project. Priority will be

given to projects based on cooperation and/or involvement of participants from all four I2U2 partner countries.

Respondents will access to the form at www.state.gov/I2U2. Following these criteria, the form asks individuals to select the applicable sectors and explain the proposed role of/benefits to each partner country. The form also requests details about the project submitter, any monetary and nonmonetary requests, and a description of the project and timeline. I2U2 will utilize this form for vetting, review, and selection of project submissions. Submitters may also optionally provide additional supporting documentation, such as a detailed budget, marketing brochure, or other relevant materials.

Methodology

The collection will be completed 100 percent electronically. The respondent will complete the form online and submit the form by email to I2U2@state.gov.

Kevin E. Bryant,

Deputy Director, Office of Directives Management, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 2023-28601 Filed 12-27-23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-10-P

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

[Docket No. FD 36729]

Macquarie Infrastructure Partners V GP, LLC—Control Exemption—Northern Indiana Railroad Company, LLC

By petition filed on September 28, 2023, Macquarie Infrastructure Partners V GP, LLC (MIP GP), on behalf of itself; Macquarie Infrastructure Partners V fund vehicle (MIP V); MIP V Rail, LLC (MIP Rail); and Gulf & Atlantic Railways, LLC (G&A) (collectively, Petitioners), seeks an exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502 from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 11323 to acquire and control the Northern Indiana Railroad Company (NIRC), a Class III carrier. As discussed below, the Board will grant the exemption.

Background

G&A is a noncarrier that directly controls¹ the following rail common carriers: Camp Chase Rail, LLC; Chesapeake and Indiana Railroad LLC (CKIN); Vermilion Valley Railroad LLC;

¹ G&A is wholly owned by MIP Rail, which is indirectly controlled by MIP GP. (Pet. 5-6.) MIP V is controlled by MIP GP and (indirectly) wholly owns MIP Rail. (*Id.* at 6.) Therefore, MIP GP, MIP V, and MIP Rail indirectly control the above rail common carriers. (*Id.* at 6.)

Grenada Railroad, LLC; and Florida, Gulf & Atlantic Railroad, LLC. *See Macquarie Infrastructure Partners V GP, LLC—Control Exemption—Camp Chase Rail, LLC*, FD 36685 (STB served Apr. 7, 2023). G&A has also been authorized to directly control (and MIP GP, MIP V, and MIP Rail authorized to indirectly control) the Pioneer Valley Railroad Company. *See Macquarie Infrastructure Partners V GP, LLC—Control Exemption—Pioneer Valley R.R.*, FD 36720 (STB served Sept. 13, 2023).

Pursuant to a purchase agreement dated March 17, 2023, G&A has agreed to acquire 100% of the equity interests in NIRC. Upon consummation of this transaction, G&A would directly control NIRC, while MIP GP, MIP V, and MIP Rail would indirectly control NIRC. (Pet. 5.) According to the petition, NIRC owns 32.97 miles of rail line in Indiana, but has never conducted freight rail operations over the line. (*Id.* at 4.) CKIN (which is controlled by G&A) has leased and operated the NIRC line since 2004. (*Id.*) Currently, CKIN leases and operates 27.52 miles of line from NIRC because CKIN discontinued service over the remaining 5.45-mile segment in 2017. (*Id.*) Petitioners state that the 5.45-mile segment remains part of the national rail network, but there have not been any freight operations over that segment since at least 2015.²

In support of the petition, Petitioners assert that the transaction will bring G&A's financial strength and management expertise to NIRC, unite ownership and operation of the line in the same corporate family, and enhance NIRC's access to capital, thereby "facilitating future strategic investment decisions with respect to the line." (*Id.* at 7.) Petitioners state that the transaction will not affect operations or service to customers because CKIN already serves those customers under its lease agreement with NIRC.³ (*Id.* at 11–12.)

² Petitioners note that pursuant to an agreement with the Town of North Judson, the Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum operates excursion trains on the 5.45-mile segment over which freight rail service has been discontinued. (*Id.* at 4 n.10.) Petitioners further state that the Museum will continue to have the right to provide excursion passenger service on that segment. (*Id.* at 12 n.15.)

³ Petitioners explain that the proposed transaction does not qualify for the class exemption under 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(2) because the class exemption is unavailable when one or more railroads in an existing corporate family would connect with the railroad being acquired. (*Id.* at 4.) Here, because CKIN's leasehold interest does not overlap entirely with the line owned by NIRC, Petitioners have concluded that there is a point of connection. (*Id.* at 4–5.)

Discussion and Conclusions

The acquisition of control of a rail carrier by a person that is not a rail carrier but that controls any number of rail carriers requires prior approval from the Board under 49 U.S.C. 11323(a)(5). Under 49 U.S.C. 10502(a), however, the Board shall, to the maximum extent possible, exempt a transaction or service from regulation upon finding that (1) the regulation is not necessary to carry out the rail transportation policy (RTP) under 49 U.S.C. 10101 and (2) either the transaction or service is of limited scope, or regulation is not needed to protect shippers from the abuse of market power.

In this case, an exemption from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 11323–25 is consistent with the standards of 49 U.S.C. 10502. Detailed scrutiny of the proposed transaction through an application for review and approval under sections 11323–25 is not necessary to carry out the RTP. An exemption would promote the RTP by minimizing the need for federal regulatory control over the transaction, 49 U.S.C. 10101(2), and providing for the expeditious resolution of this proceeding, 49 U.S.C. 10101(15). Further, Petitioners assert that consolidated ownership and operation of the line within the same corporate family will improve operating economies and the financial viability of the line. (Pet. 7.) Therefore, an exemption would promote the RTP by promoting a safe and efficient rail transportation system, 49 U.S.C. 10101(3); ensuring the development and continuation of a sound rail transportation system that would continue to meet the needs of the public, 49 U.S.C. 10101(4); and fostering sound economic conditions in transportation, 49 U.S.C. 10101(5). Other aspects of the RTP would not be adversely affected.

Regulation of the transaction is not needed to protect shippers from abuse of market power.⁴ The record indicates that NIRC does not conduct freight rail operations, and most of its line is currently operated by CKIN pursuant to a lease. (Pet. 4.) Petitioners state that "th[e] leasehold operations will continue without change." (*Id.* at 13.) Thus, the proposed transaction will not result in any material changes to the rates and services available to shippers along NIRC's line. Moreover, no shipper or other entity has objected to the proposed transaction.

⁴ Given this finding, the Board need not determine whether the transaction is limited in scope. *See* 49 U.S.C. 10502(a).

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 sections 11324 and 11325 that involve only Class III carriers. Therefore, because all of the carriers involved in the transaction are Class III carriers, the Board may not impose labor protective conditions.

Under 49 CFR 1105.6(c)(1), this action, which will not result in significant changes in carrier operations, is categorically excluded from environmental review. Similarly, under 49 CFR 1105.8(b)(1), no historic report is required because the subject transaction is for continued rail service; Petitioners have indicated no plans to alter railroad properties 50 years old or older; and any future abandonment of the Line would be subject to Board jurisdiction.

It is ordered:

1. Under 49 U.S.C. 10502, the Board exempts the above transaction from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 11323–25.

2. Notice of this exemption will be published in the **Federal Register**.

3. This decision will be effective on January 21, 2024. Petitions for stay must be filed by January 2, 2024. Petitions to reopen must be filed by January 11, 2024.

Decided: December 21, 2023.

By the Board, Board Members Fuchs, Hedlund, Oberman, Primus, and Schultz.

Jeffrey Herzig,
Clearance Clerk.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

[Docket No. MARAD–2023–0229]

Coastwise Endorsement Eligibility Determination for a Foreign-Built Vessel: White Lightning (Motor); Invitation for Public Comments

AGENCY: Maritime Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of Transportation, as represented by the Maritime Administration (MARAD), is authorized to issue coastwise endorsement eligibility determinations for foreign-built vessels which will carry no more than twelve passengers for hire. A request for such a determination has been received by MARAD. By this