

354 I.C.C. 605 (1978), as modified in *Mendocino Coast Ry., Inc.—Lease and Operate*, 360 I.C.C. 653 (1980).

Decided: June 6, 1996.

By the Board, David M. Konschnik,
Director, Office of Proceedings.

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-15047 Filed 6-12-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

[STB Finance Docket No. 32972]

K & E Railway Company—Acquisition and Operation Exemption—The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company

K & E Railway Company, a noncarrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.31 to acquire and operate over approximately 57.69 miles of rail lines of The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company as follows: (i) Between milepost 0.6, at or near Kiowa, KS, and milepost 56.98, at or near Blanton, OK; and (ii) between mileposts 299.88 and 301.19 near Cherokee, OK.

The transaction was expected to be consummated on or after May 30, 1996.

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

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 32972, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Branch, 1201 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20423. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on Karl Morell, Ball, Janik & Novack, 1455 F Street, NW., Suite 225, Washington, DC 20005.

Decided: June 6, 1996.

By the Board, David M. Konschnik,
Director, Office of Proceedings.

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-15048 Filed 6-12-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program

ACTION: Notice; request for proposals.

SUMMARY: The Office of Academic Programs of the United States Information Agency's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for an assistance award. Washington-based public and private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in IRS regulation 26 CFR 1.501(c)(3)-1 may apply to assist USIA in the administration of the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program Washington Workshop. The organization will plan and implement a conference up to four days for approximately 117 mid-career professionals from developing countries, Central/Eastern Europe, and the NIS between the dates of May 3 to May 21, 1997 (final dates to be determined).

Overall grant making authority for this program is contained in the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, Public Law 87-256, as amended, also known as the Fulbright-Hays Act. The purpose of the Act is "to enable the Government of the United States to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries * * *; to strengthen the ties which unite us with other nations by demonstrating the educational and cultural interests, developments, and achievements of the people of the United States and other nations * * * and thus to assist in the development of friendly, sympathetic and peaceful relations between the United States and the other countries of the world." Programs and projects must conform with Agency requirements and guidelines outlined in the Solicitation Package. USIA projects and programs are subject to the availability of funds.

ANNOUNCEMENT TITLE AND NUMBER: All communications with USIA concerning this announcement should refer to the above title and reference number *E/ASU-96-05*.

DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS: All copies must be received at the U.S. Information Agency by 5 p.m. Washington, DC time on Thursday, July 11, 1996. Faxed documents will not be accepted, nor will documents postmarked July 11 but received at a later date. It is the responsibility of each applicant to ensure that proposals are received by the above deadline. Grant should begin on or about September 16, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ms. Leigh Rieder, Specialized Programs Unit, E/ASU, Room 349, U.S. Information Agency, 301 4th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20547, telephone: (202) 619-5289, fax: (202) 401-1433, Internet address: lrieder@usia.gov, to request a Solicitation Package containing more detailed award criteria, required application forms, and standard guidelines for preparing proposals, including specific criteria for preparation of the proposal budget.

To Download a Solicitation Package via Internet

The Solicitation Package may be downloaded from USIA's website at <http://www.usia.gov/> or from the Internet Gopher at <gopher.usia.gov>. Under the heading "International Exchange/Training," select "Request for Proposals." Please read "About the Following RFPs" before downloading.

Please specify USIA Program Officer Leigh Rieder on all inquiries and correspondences. Interested applicants should read the complete Federal Register announcement before sending inquiries or submitting proposals. Once the RFP deadline has passed, Agency staff may not discuss this competition in any way with applicants until the Bureau proposal review process has been completed.

Submissions

Applicants must follow all instructions given in the Solicitation Package. The original and six copies of the proposal should be sent to: U.S. Information Agency, Ref.: E/ASU-96-05, Office of Grants Management, E/XE, Room 326, 301 4th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20547.

Diversity Guidelines

Pursuant to the Bureau's authorizing legislation, programs must maintain a non-political character and should be balanced and representative of the diversity of American political, social, and cultural life. "Diversity" should be interpreted in the broadest sense and encompass differences including, but not limited to ethnicity, race, gender, religion, geographic location, socio-economic status, and physical challenges. Applicants are strongly encouraged to adhere to the advancement of this principle both in program administration and in program content. Please refer to the review criteria under the 'Support for Diversity' section for specific suggestions on incorporating diversity into the total proposal.

¹ The ICC Termination Act of 1995, Pub. L. No. 104-88, 109 Stat. 803, which was enacted on December 29, 1995, and took effect on January 1, 1996, abolished the Interstate Commerce Commission and transferred certain functions to the Surface Transportation Board (Board). This notice relates to functions that are subject to Board jurisdiction pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10901.

Overview

The Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program provides a year of non-degree, graduate level study and related professional experiences to mid-level professionals from developing countries, Central/Eastern Europe, and the NIS. Fellowships are granted competitively to public and private sector candidates with a commitment to public service in the fields of natural resources/environmental management, public policy analysis/administration, economic development, agricultural development/economics, finance/banking, human resource management/personnel, urban and regional planning, public health policy/management, technology policy/management, educational planning, and communications/journalism. Fellows are placed by professional field in groups of seven to 13 at one of 11 participating host universities around the country. The Agency is assisted in the administration of the program by the Institute of International Education (IIE) under a cooperative agreement with the Agency. Fellows are nominated for the program by USIA overseas posts or Fulbright commissions based on their potential for national leadership, commitment to public service, and professional and academic qualifications. By providing these future leaders with exposure to U.S. society, and to current U.S. approaches to the fields in which they work, the program provides a basis for establishing lasting ties among U.S. citizens and their professional counterparts in other countries.

The objectives of the workshop are to:

- Enhance fellows' understanding of U.S. social, cultural, and political processes and institutions, including the unique political environment of Washington, D.C.
- Emphasize opportunities for regional and professional networking among fellows.
- Highlight fellows' contributions to U.S. communities with U.S. decision makers.

Guidelines

Non-profit organizations with key program staff based in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area and available for frequent meetings with USIA staff are invited to submit proposals.

Organizations also must have experience in conference management, professional exchanges, and international exchanges. Only organizations with at least four years of experience in international exchange activities are eligible to apply for this award.

The Agency encourages proposals from organizations whose staffs reflect a broad variety of ethnic backgrounds, whose programs encompass a range of diversity interests, and/or whose mission includes furthering the interest of traditionally under-represented groups.

The recipient organization will be responsible for most arrangements associated with this workshop. These include organizing a coherent schedule of activities, making lodging and transportation arrangements for participants, preparing all necessary support materials, working with Humphrey Coordinators from host universities and IIE staff to achieve maximum workshop effectiveness, conducting a final evaluation, and other details which are outlined in the solicitation package. Drafts of all printed materials developed for the workshop should be submitted to the Agency for review and approval. All official documents should highlight the U.S. Government's role as program director and funding source. Please refer to program guidelines in the solicitation package for further details.

Proposed Budget

The award for this project may not exceed \$158,000, and cost sharing is strongly encouraged. Applicants must submit a comprehensive, line-item budget for the entire workshop. There must be a summary budget as well as separate break downs of administrative and program costs. Please refer to the solicitation package for complete budget guidelines and formatting instructions.

Review Process

USIA will acknowledge receipt of all proposals and will review them for technical eligibility. Proposals will be deemed ineligible if they do not fully adhere to the guidelines stated herein and in the solicitation package. All eligible proposals will be reviewed by the program office and forwarded to a panel of USIA officers for advisory review. Proposals may be reviewed by the Office of the General Counsel or by other Agency elements. Funding decisions are at the discretion of the USIA Associate Director for Educational and Cultural Affairs. Final technical authority for assistance awards (grants or cooperative agreements) resides with the USIA grants officer.

Review Criteria

Technically eligible applications will be competitively reviewed according to the criteria stated below. These criteria are not rank ordered, and all carry equal weight in the proposal evaluation:

1. *Quality/responsiveness of the program idea.* Proposals should exhibit originality, substance, precision, cultural sensitivity and responsiveness to the material set forth herein and in the solicitation package. Proposals should clearly demonstrate how the institution will meet the workshop's objectives.

2. *Multiplier effect/impact.* Proposed program should strengthen long-term mutual understanding and encourage collaboration among fellows after the fellowship year.

3. *Support of diversity.* Proposals should demonstrate the recipient's commitment to promoting the awareness and understanding of diversity.

4. *Institutional Capacity.* Proposed personnel and institutional resources should be adequate and appropriate to achieve the workshop's goals.

5. *Institution's Record/Ability.* Proposals should demonstrate past success in administering workshops for international professional participants. The Agency will consider the past performance of prior recipients and the demonstrated potential of new applicants.

6. *Project Evaluation.* Proposals should include a plan to evaluate the workshop's success, both as the activities unfold and at the end of the program. A draft survey questionnaire or other technique plus description of a methodology to link outcomes to original workshop objectives is recommended.

7. *Cost-effectiveness.* Staff salaries, levels of staff support, and overhead should be kept as low as possible. The proposal will be judged on its responsiveness to achieving effective administration at reduced funding levels.

8. *Cost-sharing.* Proposals should maximize cost-sharing through other private sector support and institutional direct funding contributions.

Notice

The terms and conditions published in this RFP are binding and may not be modified by any USIA representative. Explanatory information provided by the Agency that contradicts published language will not be binding. Issuance of the RFP does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the Government. The Agency reserves the right to reduce, revise, or increase proposal budgets in accordance with the needs of the program and the availability of funds. Awards made will be subject to periodic reporting and evaluation requirements.

Notification

Final awards cannot be made until funds have been allocated and committed through internal USIA procedures.

Dated: June 5, 1996.

Dell Pendergrast,

Deputy Associate Director for Educational and Cultural Affairs.

[FR Doc. 96-14728 Filed 6-12-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8230-01-M

UTAH RECLAMATION MITIGATION AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Provo River Restoration Project

AGENCIES: The Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission (Commission) and the Department of the Interior (Department).

ACTION: Notice of availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, the Commission and the Department have issued a joint Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Provo River Restoration Project (PRRP). The DEIS analyzes alternatives and impacts associated with measures to restore and improve the fish habitat, riparian habitat, and natural functioning of the Provo River between Jordanelle Dam and Deer Creek Reservoir, Wasatch County, Utah. These measures are required by the 1988 Aquatic Mitigation Plan for the Strawberry Aqueduct and Collection System (SACS) of the Bonneville Unit of CUP as partial mitigation for past impacts of the CUP to this and other reaches of the Provo River and to other streams within the Bonneville Unit area. The Central Utah Project Completion Act (CUPCA) also authorizes additional fish habitat improvements, riparian habitat rehabilitation, and recreational facilities on the Provo River. The Provo River Restoration Project plan presents three action alternatives which meet, to a greater or lesser degree depending on the alternative selected, the Commission's habitat restoration and improvement mitigation and conservation responsibilities associated with the Provo River corridor in Heber Valley.

Public participation has occurred throughout the EIS process. A Notice of Intent was filed in the Federal Register

in December 1992. Since that time, open houses, public meetings, and mail-outs have been conducted to solicit comments and ideas. Any comments received throughout the process have been considered.

DATES: Written comments on the DEIS must be submitted or postmarked no later than August 13, 1996. Comments on the DEIS may also be presented verbally or submitted in writing at the public hearings to be held at the following times and locations:

- 6:00 p.m., July 16, 1996; Wasatch County Middle School, 800 South 200 East, Heber City, Utah
- 6:30 p.m., July 17, 1996; Salt Lake County Commission Chambers, 2001 South State, Salt Lake City, Utah

The public hearings are being held to address two separate actions: (1) The Wasatch County Water Efficiency Project and Daniel Replacement Project, and (2) the Provo River Restoration Project. Each action should be addressed separately. Testimony may be given on each of the two actions but should be made and identified as two separate presentations. In order to be included as part of the hearing record, written testimony must be submitted at the time of the hearing. Verbal testimony will be limited to 5 minutes for each DEIS. Those wishing to give testimony at a hearing should submit a registration form, included at the end of the DEIS, to the address listed below by July 15, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the DEIS should be addressed to: Michael C. Weland, Executive Director, Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission, 355 West 1300 South, Orem, Utah 84058.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Additional copies of the DEIS, copies of the resources technical reports, or information on matters related to this notice can be obtained on request from: Ms. Nancy Hardman, Central Utah Water Conservancy District, 355 West 1300 South, Orem, Utah 84058, Telephone: (801) 226-7187, Fax: (801) 226-7150.

Copies are also available for inspection at:

Central Utah Water Conservancy District, 355 West 1300 South, Orem, Utah 84058.

Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission, 111 East Broadway, Suite 310, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111.

Department of the Interior, Natural Resource Library, Serials Branch, 18th

and C Streets, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Department of the Interior, Central Utah Project Completion Act Office, 302 East 1860 South, Provo, Utah 84606.

Dated: June 10, 1996.

Michael C. Weland,

Executive Director, Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission.

[FR Doc. 96-15007 Filed 6-12-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

A Child Development Center at the VAMC, Reno, NV

AGENCY: Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice of designation.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs is designating the Reno, NV, Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) for Enhanced-Use development. The Department intends to enter into a long-term lease of real property with the developer whose proposal will provide the best quality child development and care at the greatest economic advantage for children of VAMC employees. The developer will be responsible for all aspects of construction, ownership, maintenance, and operation of the Child Development Center.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brian A. McDaniel, Office of Asset and Enterprise Development (189), Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420, (202) 565-4307.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: 38 U.S.C. 8161 *et seq.*, specifically provides that the Secretary may enter into an Enhanced-Use lease, if the Secretary determines that at least part of the use of the property under the lease will be to provide appropriate space for an activity contributing to the mission of the Department; the lease will not be inconsistent with and will not adversely affect the mission of the Department; and the lease will enhance the property. This project meets these requirements.

Approved: May 10, 1996.

Jesse Brown,

Secretary, Veterans Affairs.

[FR Doc. 96-14983 Filed 6-12-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8310-01-M