

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

## Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 568X)]

**CSX Transportation, Inc.—  
Abandonment Exemption—in Franklin  
County, PA**

On November 16, 1998, CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT), filed with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) a petition under 49 U.S.C. 10502 for exemption from the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 10903 to abandon a portion of its line of railroad known as the Baltimore Service Lane, Lurgan Subdivision, extending between milepost BAV-20.5 at 4th Street and milepost BAV-22.4 at Commerce Street in Chambersburg, a distance of 1.9 miles in Franklin County, PA. The line traverses U.S. Postal Service Zip Code 17201 and includes no stations.

The line does not contain federally granted rights-of-way. Any documentation in CSXT's possession will be made available promptly to those requesting it.

The interest of railroad employees will be protected by the conditions set forth in *Oregon Short Line R. Co.—Abandonment—Goshen*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979).

By issuance of this notice, the Board is instituting an exemption proceeding pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10502(b). A final decision will be issued by March 5, 1999.

Any offer of financial assistance (OFA) under 49 CFR 1152.27(b)(2) will be due no later than 10 days after service of a decision granting the petition for exemption. Each OFA must be accompanied by a \$1,000 filing fee. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

All interested persons should be aware that, following abandonment of rail service and salvage of the line, the line may be suitable for other public use, including interim trail use. Any request for a public use condition under 49 CFR 1152.28 or for trail use/rail banking under 49 CFR 1152.29 will be due no later than December 24, 1998. Each trail use request must be accompanied by a \$150 filing fee. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(27).

All filings in response to this notice must refer to STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 568X) and must be sent to: (1) Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20423-0001; and (2) Charles M. Rosenberger, 500 Water Street—J150, Jacksonville, FL 32202. Replies to the CSXT petition are due on or before December 24, 1998.

Persons seeking further information concerning abandonment procedures may contact the Board's Office of Public Services at (202) 565-1592 or refer to the full abandonment or discontinuance regulations at 49 CFR part 1152. Questions concerning environmental issues may be directed to the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) at (202) 565-1545. [TDD for the hearing impaired is available at (202) 565-1695.]

An environmental assessment (EA) (or environmental impact statement (EIS), if necessary) prepared by SEA will be served upon all parties of record and upon any agencies or other persons who commented during its preparation. Other interested persons may contact SEA to obtain a copy of the EA (or EIS). EAs in these abandonment proceedings normally will be made available within 60 days of the filing of the petition. The deadline for submission of comments on the EA will generally be within 30 days of its service.

Board decisions and notices are available on our website at "WWW.STB.DOT.GOV."

Decided: November 23, 1998.

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

**Vernon A. Williams,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-32105 Filed 12-3-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

**Community Development Financial  
Institutions Fund****Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA)  
Inviting Applications for the CDFI  
Program—Core Component and  
Intermediary Component; Extension of  
Application Deadline**

**AGENCY:** Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, Department of the Treasury.

**ACTION:** Notice of extension of application deadline.

**SUMMARY:** On October 26, 1998, the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (hereafter referred to as the "Fund") published in the **Federal Register** a notice of funds availability ("NOFA") for the Community Development Financial Institutions ("CDFI") Program Core Component (63 FR 57222) and is currently extending the application deadline for the CDFI Program Core Component from January 21, 1999 to February 4, 1999. Also, on October 26, 1998, the Fund published in the **Federal Register** a NOFA for the

CDFI Program Intermediary Component (63 FR 57224) and is now extending the application deadline for the CDFI Intermediary Component from January 19, 1999 to February 2, 1999.

**DATES:** The application deadline for the CDFI Program Core Component is extended from January 21, 1999 to February 4, 1999. The deadline for receipt of a Core Component application is 6 p.m. EST on February 4, 1999.

The application deadline for the CDFI Program Intermediary Component is extended from January 19, 1999 to February 2, 1999. The deadline for receipt of an Intermediary Component application is 6 p.m. EST on February 2, 1999.

Applications for the respective CDFI Program Components that are received in the offices of the Fund after said dates and times will be rejected and returned to the sender. Applications sent electronically or by facsimile will not be accepted.

**ADDRESSES:** Applications shall be sent to: Awards Manager, Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, U.S. Department of the Treasury, 601 13th Street, NW., Suite 200 South, Washington, DC 20005.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Core/Intermediary Program Manager, Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, U.S. Department of the Treasury, 601 13th Street, NW., Suite 200 South, Washington, DC 20005, (202) 622-8662. (This is not a toll free number.) Applications and other information regarding the Fund and its programs may be downloaded from the Fund's website at <http://www.treas.gov/cdfi>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On October 26, 1998, in the **Federal Register**, the Fund published a NOFA for the CDFI Program Core Component (63 FR 57222) and a NOFA for the CDFI Program Intermediary Component (63 FR 57224). The CDFI Program Core Component NOFA announced the availability of up to \$50 million for program awards and specified an application deadline of January 21, 1999. The CDFI Program Intermediary Component NOFA announced the availability of up to \$7.5 million for program awards and specified an application deadline of January 19, 1999.

This Notice extends the application deadline for the CDFI Program Core Component from January 21, 1999 to February 4, 1999. This Notice also extends the application deadline for the CDFI Program Intermediary Component from January 19, 1999 to February 2, 1999. All applications must be received

in the offices of the Fund by 6 p.m. EST on the respective application due dates.

The Fund is extending the application deadlines for the CDFI Program Core and Intermediary Components because of unforeseeable delays in the printing of application forms and packets. The Fund has determined that potential applicants need more time between attending the various outreach workshops, receiving official versions of the CDFI Program application materials, and the due dates for those materials. So that potential applicants have sufficient time to complete their CDFI Program applications, the Fund is extending the application deadlines to ensure a minimum of eight weeks application preparation time from the date of availability of the application forms and packets.

**Authority:** 12 U.S.C. 4703, 4703 note, 4704, 4706, 4707, 4718; 12 CFR part 1805.

Dated: November 30, 1998.

**Maurice A. Jones,**

*Deputy Director for Policy and Programs,  
Community Development Financial  
Institutions Fund.*

[FR Doc. 98-32205 Filed 12-3-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4810-70-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Customs Service

#### Renewal of the Generalized System of Preferences

**AGENCY:** Customs Service, Treasury.

**ACTION:** General notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) is a renewable preferential trade program that allows the eligible products of designated developing countries to directly enter the United States free of duty. The GSP program expired on June 30, 1998, but has been renewed, effective October 21, 1998, with retroactive effect to July 1, 1998, by a provision in the Omnibus Consolidated and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1999, Pub. L. 105-277. This document provides notice to importers that Customs will begin processing refunds on all duties paid, with interest from the date the duties were deposited, on GSP-eligible merchandise that was entered on July 1, 1998, through October 20, 1998, and that Customs will accept claims for GSP duty-free treatment for merchandise entered, or withdrawn from a warehouse, for consumption on or after October 21, 1998, through June 30, 1999, the provision's current sunset date.

**DATES:** Customs began the processing of refunds on duties paid—with interest as set forth in this document—on October 27, 1998.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For general operational questions:

Formal entries—John Pierce, 202-927-1249

Informal entries—William Kotlowy, 202-927-1364

Mail entries—Robert Woods, 202-927-1236

Passenger Claims—Michael Perron, 202-927-1325

For specific questions relating to ABI processing: James Halpin, Office of Information and Technology, 202-927-7128.

Questions from filers regarding ABI transmissions should be directed to their ABI client representatives. Persons with other questions regarding this notice may contact John Pierce, Trade Agreements, 202-927-1249.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

Section 501 of the Trade Act of 1974 (the 1974 Act), as amended (19 U.S.C. 2461), authorizes the President to establish a Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) to provide duty-free treatment for eligible articles imported directly from designated beneficiary countries. Pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 2465, as amended by section 981(a) of Pub. L. 105-34, 111 Stat. 902, duty-free treatment under the GSP program expired on June 30, 1998.

On October 21, 1998, the President signed into law the Omnibus Consolidated and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1999, Pub. L. 105-277. Section 1011 of the "Tax and Trade Relief Extension Act of 1998" (within Division J of that Appropriations Act) provides for the extension of GSP duty-free treatment to eligible articles from designated beneficiary countries that are entered, or withdrawn from a warehouse, for consumption on or after October 21, 1998, through June 30, 1999. Section 1011 also provides for the refund of any duty paid with respect to entries made after June 30, 1998, through October 20, 1998, to which duty-free treatment would have applied, provided that a request for liquidation or reliquidation is filed with Customs by April 19, 1999, (i.e., within 180 days after the date of enactment of the Appropriations Act) and contains sufficient information to enable Customs to locate the entry or to reconstruct the entry if it cannot be located.

Recognizing the impact that retroactive renewal and consequent

numerous reliquidations will have on both importers and Customs, Customs developed a mechanism to facilitate refunds (see, **Federal Register** Notice of June 16, 1998, 63 FR 32911) that began the processing of refunds on October 27, 1998. Customs expects the processing of refunds to take from four to eight weeks for certain formal Automated Broker Interface (ABI) entries. If refunds are not received within the specified time, importers are advised to direct inquiries regarding the status of their refunds to the appropriate Customs port of entry.

#### Duty-Free Entries

Effective October 21, 1998, filers again will be entitled to file GSP-eligible entries without the payment of estimated duties.

#### Refunds With Interest

##### A. Formal Entries

Customs will liquidate or reliquidate all affected entries and refund any duties deposited for items qualifying for GSP. Field locations shall not issue GSP refunds except as instructed to do so by Customs Headquarters.

If an ABI entry was filed with payment of estimated duties using the Special Program Indicator (SPI) for the GSP (the letter "A") as a prefix to the tariff number, no further action by the filer is required; filings with the SPI "A" will be treated as conforming requests for refunds.

Non-ABI filers who either did or did not request a refund by using the SPI "A" must request a refund in writing from the Port Director at the port of entry by April 19, 1999. The letter may cover either single entries or all entries filed by an individual filer at a single port. To expedite refunds, Customs recommends the following information be included in each letter:

1. A statement requesting a refund, as provided by section 1011 of the "Tax and Trade Relief Extension Act of 1998;"

2. The entry numbers and line items for which refunds are requested; and

3. The amount requested to be refunded for each line item and the total amount owed for all entries.

Interest on duties deposited will be paid, pursuant to section 505 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1505), based on the quarterly Internal Revenue Service interest rates used to calculate interest on refunds of Customs duties as follows:

July 1, 1998—July 31, 1998—7%

August 1, 1998—August 31, 1998—7%

September 1, 1998—September 30,

1998—7%

October 1, 1998—October 20, 1998—7%