

- Permanent Consultative Committee on Radiocommunication (PCC-II)
- Preparations for Upcoming Multilateral Activities
 - ITU Council Working Groups and Experts Group on International Telecommunication Regulations (ITRs)
 - ITU World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC)
 - OECD Committee on Digital Economy Policy—November 20–24, 2017
 - APEC Telecommunications Working Group (APEC TEL 56)—December 11–15, 2017

PP-18 will take place in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from October 29 to November 17, 2018. A Plenipotentiary Conference, which takes place every four years, is the highest policy-making body of the Union. PP-18 is expected to determine the overall policy direction of the ITU; adopt the strategic and financial plans for the next four years; elect the 48 members of Council, 12 members of the Radio Regulations Board, and five elected officials of the ITU; and consider and adopt, if appropriate, modifications to the ITU Constitution and Convention.

Attendance at the ITAC meeting is open to the public as seating capacity allows. The public will have an opportunity to provide comments at this meeting at the invitation of the chair.

Further details on this ITAC meeting will be announced on the Department of State's email list, ITAC@lmlist.state.gov. Use of the ITAC list is limited to meeting announcements and confirmations, distribution of agendas and other relevant meeting documents. The Department of State welcomes any U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident to remain on or join the ITAC listserv by registering by email via ITAC@state.gov and providing his or her name, email address, telephone contact and the company, organization, or community that he or she is representing, if any. Persons wishing to request reasonable accommodation during the meeting should send their requests to ITAC@state.gov no later than August 28, 2017. Requests made after that time will be considered, but might not be able to be satisfied.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Please send all inquiries to ITAC@state.gov.

Douglas C. May,
Acting Coordinator, International Communications and Information Policy,
Department of State.

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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

[Docket No. FD 36123]

The Indiana Rail Road Company and CSX Transportation Inc.—Joint Relocation Project Exemption—Terre Haute, Ind.

On July 21, 2017, the Indiana Rail Road Company (INRD) filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(5) to enter into a joint project with CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT), involving the relocation of a segment of INRD's rail line in Terre Haute, Ind.

The purpose of the joint relocation project is to allow the removal of two crossing diamonds at Belt Junction, to eliminate conflicting INRD and CSXT train movements at both Belt Junction and Spring Hill, and to improve the efficiency of INRD and CSXT operations in the Terre Haute area. The joint relocation project notice covers the following actions:

(1) INRD will acquire overhead trackage rights on CSXT's Baker Siding extending from the connection with INRD's line at approximately CSXT Milepost 0ZA 181.1 at Belt Junction to the connection with INRD's line at approximately CSXT Milepost 0ZA 182.1 at Spring Hill, a distance of approximately 1.0 miles in Terre Haute.

(2) INRD will abandon its Chicago Subdivision line extending from approximately INRD Milepost 181.5 to approximately INRD Milepost 182.03 (the INRD Line), including the northeastern leg of the wye track to the Hulman Lead, a total distance of approximately 0.85 miles in the vicinity of Belt Junction. The diamond crossings of CSXT's CE&D Subdivision at Belt Junction at CSXT Milepost 0ZA 181.1 and the immediately adjacent INRD trackage will be removed. The INRD Line between the end of the track removal at Belt Junction and the connection to the Hulman Lead will remain in place as unregulated trackage pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10906 and used solely to turn equipment.

INRD states that it does not serve any shippers on the INRD Line, and existing service to shippers on INRD's Hulman Lead will be preserved. INRD also states that the proposed relocation will improve the operation of INRD's through trains in the area, which will avoid two crossings of CSXT's CE&D Subdivision and interference from conflicting CSXT train movements. INRD argues that no shippers will be adversely affected by this relocation or lose access to any rail service currently provided by INRD.

The Board will exercise jurisdiction over the abandonment, construction, or

sale components of a joint relocation project, and require separate approval or exemption, only where the removal of track affects service to shippers or the construction of new track or transfer of existing track involves expansion into new territory, or a change in existing competitive situations. *See City of Detroit v. Canadian Nat'l Ry.*, 9 I.C.C.2d 1208 (1993), *aff'd sub nom. Detroit/ Wayne Cty. Port Auth. v. ICC*, 59 F.3d 1314 (D.C. Cir. 1995); *Flats Indus. R.R. & Norfolk S. Ry.—Joint Relocation Project Exemption—in Cleveland, Ohio*, FD 34108 (STB served Nov. 15, 2001). Line relocation projects may embrace trackage rights transactions such as the one involved here. *See Detroit, Toledo & Ironton R.R.—Trackage Rights—Between Wash. Court House & Greggs, Ohio—Exemption*, 363 I.C.C. 878 (1981).

Under these standards, the incidental abandonment and trackage rights components require no separate approval or exemption when the relocation project, as here, will not disrupt service to shippers and thus qualifies for the class exemption at 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(5).

As a condition to this exemption, any employees affected by the trackage rights will be protected by the conditions imposed in *Norfolk & Western Railway—Trackage Rights—Burlington Northern, Inc.*, 354 I.C.C. 605 (1978), as modified in *Mendocino Coast Railway—Lease & Operate—California Western Railroad*, 360 I.C.C. 653 (1980).

The transaction may be consummated on or after August 20, 2017, the effective date of the exemption (30 days after the verified notice was filed).

If the notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void ab initio. Petitions 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. Petitions to stay must be filed by August 11, 2017 (at least seven days before the exemption becomes effective).

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to Docket No. FD 36123, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street SW., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on Thomas J. Litwiler, Fletcher & Sippel LLC, 29 North Wacker Drive, Suite 920, Chicago, IL 60606-2832.

Board decisions and notices are available on our Web site at WWW.STB.GOV.

Decided: August 1, 2017.

By the Board, Rachel D. Campbell,
Director, Office of Proceedings.

Rena Laws-Byrum,
Clearance Clerk.

[FR Doc. 2017-16433 Filed 8-3-17; 8:45 am]

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

[Docket Number USTR-2017-0012]

Request for Comments and Notice of Public Hearing Concerning Russia's Implementation of Its WTO Commitments

AGENCY: Office of the United States
Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice and request for
comments.

SUMMARY: The interagency Trade Policy
Staff Committee (TPSC) will convene a
public hearing and seeks comments to
assist the Office of the United States
Trade Representative (USTR) in the
preparation of its annual report to
Congress on Russia's implementation of
its obligations as a member of the World
Trade Organization (WTO).

DATES:

September 22, 2017: Deadline for
filing a summary of testimony and
requests to appear at the September 28,
2017 public hearing, and for submitting
public comments.

September 28, 2017: The TPSC will
convene a public hearing on Russia's
implementation of its obligations as a
member of the WTO at 9:30 a.m. in
Rooms 1 & 2, 1724 F Street NW.,
Washington, DC 20508.

ADDRESSES: USTR strongly prefers
electronic submissions made through
the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the
instructions for submitting comments in
section 3 below. The docket number is
USTR-2017-0012. For alternatives to
on-line submissions, please contact
Yvonne Jamison, Trade Policy Staff
Committee, at (202) 395-3475.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For
procedural questions concerning written
comments or participating in the public
hearing, contact Yvonne Jamison at
(202) 395-3475. Direct all other
questions regarding this notice to Betsy
Hafner, Deputy Assistant United States
Trade Representative for Russia and
Eurasia, at (202) 395-9124.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. Background

Russia became a member of the WTO
on August 22, 2012, and on December
21, 2012, following the termination of

the application of the Jackson-Vanik
amendment to Russia and the extension
of permanent normal trade relations to
the products of Russia, the United States
and Russia both filed letters with the
WTO withdrawing their notices of non-
application and consenting to have the
WTO Agreement apply between them.
In accordance with section 201(a) of the
Russia and Moldova Jackson-Vanik
Repeal and Sergei Magnitsky Rule of
Law Accountability Act of 2012 (Pub. L.
112-208), USTR is required to submit,
by December 21st of each year, a report
to Congress on the extent to which
Russia is implementing the WTO
Agreement, including the Agreement on
the Application of Sanitary and
Phytosanitary Measures and the
Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of
Intellectual Property Rights. The report
also must assess Russia's progress on
acceding to the Government
Procurement Agreement (GPA) and the
Information Technology Agreement, the
latter of which Russia implemented
fully in 2016. In addition, to the extent
that USTR finds that Russia is not
implementing fully the WTO Agreement
or is not making adequate progress in
acceding to the GPA, USTR must
describe in the report the actions it
plans to take to encourage Russia to
improve its implementation and/or
increase its accession efforts. In
accordance with section 201(a), and to
assist it in preparing this year's report,
the TPSC is soliciting comments on
these issues.

The terms of Russia's accession to the
WTO are contained in the Marrakesh
Agreement Establishing the World
Trade Organization and the Protocol on
the Accession of the Russian Federation
to the WTO (including its annexes)
(Protocol). The Report of the Working
Party on the Accession of the Russian
Federation (Working Party Report)
provides detail and context to the
commitments listed in the Protocol. You
can find the Protocol and Working Party
Report on USTR's Web site at <https://ustr.gov/node/5887> or on the WTO Web
site at <http://docsonline.wto.org>
(document symbols: WT/ACC/RUS/70,
WT/MIN(11)/2, WT/MIN(11)/24, WT/L/
839, and WT/ACC/RUS/70/Add.1, WT/
ACC/RUS/70/Add.2).

2. Public Comments and Hearing

USTR must receive written comments
no later than 11:59 p.m. on Friday,
September 22, 2017. USTR invites
written comments and/or oral testimony
on Russia's implementation of the
commitments made in connection with
its accession to the WTO, including, but
not limited to, commitments in the
following areas:

- a. Import regulation (e.g., tariffs, tariff-
rate quotas, quotas, import licenses).
- b. Export regulation.
- c. Subsidies.
- d. Standards and technical
regulations.
- e. Sanitary and phytosanitary
measures.
- f. Trade-related investment measures.
- g. Taxes and charges levied on
imports and exports.
- h. Other internal policies affecting
trade.
- i. Intellectual property rights
(including intellectual property rights
enforcement).
- j. Services.
- k. Rule of law issues (e.g.,
transparency, judicial review, uniform
administration of laws and regulations).
- l. Trade-related investment measures.
- m. Other WTO commitments.

The TPSC will convene a public
hearing on Thursday, September 28,
2017, in Rooms 1 & 2, 1724 F Street
NW., Washington, DC 20508. We must
receive your written requests to present
oral testimony at the hearing and a
summary of that testimony by noon on
by 11:59 p.m. on Friday, September 22,
2017. You must make the intent to
testify notification in the "Type
Comment" field under docket number
USTR-2017-0012 on the
www.regulations.gov Web site and you
should include the name, address,
telephone number and email address, if
available, of the person presenting the
testimony. You should attach a
summary of the testimony by using the
"Upload File" field. The name of the
file also should include who will be
presenting the testimony. Remarks at
the hearing should be limited to no
more than five minutes to allow for
possible questions from the TPSC.

You should submit all documents in
accordance with the instructions in
section 3 below.

3. Requirements for Submissions

In order to be assured of
consideration, we must receive your
written comments in English by 11:59
p.m. on Friday, September 22, 2017.
USTR strongly encourages commenters
to make on-line submissions, using the
www.regulations.gov Web site. On the
first page of the submission, please
identify it as "Russia's Implementation
of its WTO Commitments."

To submit comments via
www.regulations.gov, enter docket
number USTR-2017-0012 on the home
page and click "search." The site will
provide a search-results page listing all
documents associated with this docket.
Find a reference to this notice and click
on the link entitled "Comment Now!"