

of Huntington as this area is located outside the existing electrified territory. New electric substations will also be required to accommodate the extension of third-rail power to the new yard. Minor track and grade crossing improvements in the newly electrified area may also be warranted. These project elements will also be analyzed.

#### IV. Probable Effects

The FTA and LIRR will evaluate the environmental, social, and economic impacts of each alternative, including air quality; noise and vibration; traffic, parking and pedestrians; energy and potential for conservation; safety and security; water quality; wetlands; flooding; navigable waterways and coastal zones; ecologically sensitive areas; endangered species; hazardous materials; land acquisition and displacements; land use, zoning, and economic development; consistency with local plans; historic properties; parkland; aesthetics; community disruption; environmental justice; construction impacts; and cumulative impacts. Measures to mitigate significant adverse impacts will be identified and alternatives for mitigation will be analyzed.

#### V. FTA Procedures

Upon completion of the scoping process, the Draft EIS will be made available for public and agency review and comment for 45 days. Public hearing(s) on the Draft EIS will be held within the study area. On the basis of the Draft EIS as well as comments received from the public participation process, a Final EIS will be prepared.

Issued on: October 8, 2003.

**Letitia Thompson,**

*FTA Regional Administrator.*

[FR Doc. 03-26029 Filed 10-14-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-57-P

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Maritime Administration

[DOCKET NO. MARAD 2003 16301]

#### Information Collection Available for Public Comments and Recommendations

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Maritime Administration's (MARAD's) intentions to request extension of approval for three years of a currently approved information collection.

**DATES:** Comments should be submitted on or before December 15, 2003.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Celia Luck, Maritime Administration, MAR-810, 400 Seventh St., SW., Washington, DC 20590. Telephone: (202) 366-3581, FAX: (202) 366-6988; or E-MAIL: [celia.luck@marad.dot.gov](mailto:celia.luck@marad.dot.gov). Copies of this collection also can be obtained from that office.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title of Collection:* Intermodal Access to U.S. Ports, and Intermodal Access to U.S. Marine Terminals Surveys.

*Type of Request:* Extension of currently approved information collection.

*OMB Control Number:* 2133-0533.

*Form Numbers:* MA-1024 and MA-1024A.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* Three years from date of approval by the Office of Management and Budget.

*Summary of Collection of Information:* The Intermodal Access to U.S. Ports, and Intermodal Access to U.S. Marine Terminals Surveys will provide MARAD with key road, rail, and waterside access data and highlight the issues that affect the flow of cargo through U.S. ports and terminals.

*Need and Use of the Information:* These annual surveys will provide an overall indicator for cargo flow, and capacity trends and requirements. The survey instruments will allow MARAD to assess the magnitude and nature of impediments to efficient intermodal connections to ports and marine terminals and will provide information on correcting any deficiencies.

*Description of Respondents:* U.S. Ports and Terminals (including the top U.S. deepwater ports, the top container ports and the strategic ports).

*Annual Responses:* 162.

*Annual Burden:* 81 hours.

*Comments:* Comments should refer to the docket number that appears at the top of this document. Written comments may be submitted to the Docket Clerk, U.S. DOT Dockets, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Comments may also be submitted by electronic means via the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov/submit>. Specifically address whether this information collection is necessary for proper performance of the functions of the agency and will have practical utility, accuracy of the burden estimates, ways to minimize this burden, and ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected. All comments received will be available for examination at the above address between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. EDT (or

EST), Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays. An electronic version of this document is available on the World Wide Web at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

By Order of the Maritime Administrator,  
Dated: October 9, 2003.

**Joel C. Richard,**

*Secretary, Maritime Administration.*

[FR Doc. 03-26054 Filed 10-14-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-81-P

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-842X]

#### Almono LP—Abandonment Exemption—in Allegheny County, PA

On September 25, 2003, Almono LP (Almono) filed with the Board a petition under 49 U.S.C. 10502 for exemption from the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 10903 to abandon its entire line of railroad extending between the plant of shipper MetalTech on the north side of the Monongahela River and an interchange point with CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT) north of CSXT's Glenwood Yard in Hazelwood, Allegheny County, PA, a distance of approximately 2 miles.<sup>1</sup> Almono states that the line does not have milepost designations. The line traverses U.S. Postal Service Zip Codes 15207 and 15213 and includes no stations.

In addition to an exemption from 49 U.S.C. 10903, petitioner seeks exemption from 49 U.S.C. 10904 [offer of financial assistance (OFA) procedures] and 49 U.S.C. 10905 [public use conditions].<sup>2</sup> In support, Almono

<sup>1</sup> Almono acquired the line from Monongahela Connecting Railroad Company (Mon Con) in *Almono LP—Acquisition and Operation Exemption—Line of Monongahela Connecting Railroad Company*, STB Finance Docket No. 34250 (STB served Oct. 2, 2002). In that proceeding, Almono stated that Mon Con is a wholly owned subsidiary of LTV Steel Corporation (LTV), which is in bankruptcy and is liquidating its assets, and that it acquired Mon Con's assets as well as adjoining LTV property with court approval. Also, Almono informed the Board that it intended to seek abandonment of the acquired line shortly after consummation of the transaction. In the decision in that proceeding, Almono was told that it must submit evidence showing that the interest of the involved shipper, MetalTech, will be protected.

<sup>2</sup> Almono also seeks a waiver or exemption from various profiling requirements, particularly detailed revenue and cost data [49 CFR 1152.22(d)] and detailed information on possible diversions to motor carriage [49 CFR 1105.7(e)(4)]. However, detailed revenue and cost data are not specifically required when petitioning for an abandonment exemption; such information is required to be filed only in abandonment applications. Almono has included the information pertaining to possible diversion to motor carriage in its environmental report. Accordingly, Almono does not appear to require the waiver sought.

contends that the exemption from these provisions is necessary to allow the two shippers on the line to operate it as a private spur following abandonment without incurring the regulatory overhead costs associated with common carrier operations. Also, Almono will be able to proceed with plans to redevelop the adjoining property and the right-of-way. These requests will be addressed in the final decision.

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

In this proceeding, Almono is proposing to abandon a line that constitutes its entire rail system. Almono seeks to extinguish its common carrier obligation and, following abandonment of the line, to operate it as a private carrier. When issuing abandonment authority for a railroad line that constitutes the carrier's entire system, the Board does not impose labor protection, except in specifically enumerated circumstances. *See Northampton and Bath R. Co.—Abandonment*, 354 I.C.C. 784, 785–86 (1978) (*Northampton*). Therefore, if the Board grants the petition for exemption, in the absence of a showing that one or more of the exceptions articulated in *Northampton* are present, no labor protective conditions will be imposed.

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 January 13, 2004.

Any 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, unless the Board grants the requested exemption from the OFA process. Each OFA must be accompanied by a \$1,100 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. Unless the Board grants the requested exemption from the public use provisions, 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 November 4, 2003. 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–842X and must be sent to: (1) Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20423–0001; and (2) Robert D. Rosenberg, 1224

Seventeenth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036. Replies to the Almono petition are due on or before November 4, 2003.

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) 565–1539. [Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339.]

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 <http://www.stb.dot.gov>.

Decided: October 8, 2003.

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

**Vernon A. Williams,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03–26037 Filed 10–14–03; 8:45 am]  
**BILLING CODE 4915–00–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Office of the Secretary

#### List of Countries Requiring Cooperation With an International Boycott

In order to comply with the mandate of section 999(a)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, the Department of the Treasury is publishing a current list of countries which may require participation in, or cooperation with, an international boycott (within the meaning of section 999(b)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986).

On the basis of the best information currently available to the Department of the Treasury, the following countries may require participation in, or cooperation with, an international boycott (within the meaning of section 999(b)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986).

Bahrain

Kuwait

Lebanon

Libya

Oman

Qatar

Saudi Arabia

Syria

United Arab Emirates

Yemen, Republic of

Dated: October 3, 2003.

**Barbara Angus,**

*International Tax Counsel (Tax Policy).*

[FR Doc. 03–26046 Filed 10–14–03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4810–25–M**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Internal Revenue Service

#### Open Meeting of the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel, E-Filing Issue Committee

**AGENCY:** Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** An open meeting of the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel, E-Filing Issue Committee will be conducted (via teleconference).

**DATES:** The meeting will be held Thursday, November 13, 2003, at 3 p.m., Central daylight time.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mary Ann Delzer at 1–888–912–1227, or (414) 297–1604.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. (1988) that an open meeting of the Area 4 Taxpayer Advocacy Panel will be held Thursday, November 13, 2003, at 3 p.m., Central daylight time via a telephone conference call. You can submit written comments to the panel by faxing to (414) 297–1623, or by mail to Taxpayer Advocacy Panel, Stop 1006MIL, 310 West Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53203–2221. Public comments will also be welcome during the meeting. Please contact Mary Ann Delzer at 1–888–912–1227 or (414) 297–1604 for dial-in information.

The agenda will include the following: Various IRS issues.

Dated: October 9, 2003.

**Tersheia Carter,**

*Acting Director, Taxpayer Advocacy Panel.*

[FR Doc. 03–26082 Filed 10–14–03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4830–01–P**