

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**