

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Complete copies of each request for collection of information may be obtained at no charge from Mr. Michael Robinson, NHTSA Information Collection Clearance Officer, NHTSA, 400 Seventh Street, Southwest, Room 5110, NAD-52, Washington, D.C. 20590. Mr. Robinson's telephone number is (202) 366-9456. Please identify the relevant collection of information by referring to its OMB Control Number.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, before an agency submits a proposed collection of information to OMB for approval, it must first publish a document in the **Federal Register** providing a 60-day comment period and otherwise consult with members of the public and affected agencies concerning each proposed collection of information. The OMB has promulgated regulations describing what must be included in such a document. Under OMB's regulation (at 5 CFR 1320.8(d)), an agency must ask for public comment on the following:

- (i) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- (ii) The accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- (iii) How to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- (iv) How to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g. permitting electronic submission of responses.

In compliance with these requirements, NHTSA asks for public comments on the following proposed collection of information:

Title 49, United States Code, Chapter 329

Background

A manufacturer of a dual fueled electric passenger automobile may enjoy a favorable calculation of its corporate average fuel economy (CAFE), provided it can meet certain minimum driving range requirements that are established by NHTSA and shall be based on the Environmental Protection Agency's urban and highway fuel economies as determined for average fuel economy purposes for those vehicles. The

minimum driving range that is established, must be accomplished when operating on the alternative fuel only (49 U.S.C. 32901(c)).

49 U.S.C. 32901 (c)(2)(A) states that "The Secretary may prescribe a lower minimum driving range for a specific model than that prescribed under paragraph (1) of this subsection." It further states that "A manufacturer may petition for a lower range than prescribed under paragraph (1) for a specific model."

In order to ascertain whether an exemption should be granted and a lower minimum driving range should be established for a specific model, the Secretary shall consider such items as consumer acceptability, economic practicability, available technology, environmental impact, safety, drivability, performance, and any other factors the Secretary considers relevant. Ref. (49 U.S.C. 32901 (c)(3)).

Type of Request: Reinstatement of clearance.

OMB Clearance Number: 2127-0554.

Form Number: This collection of information uses no standard form, however, it allows for a manufacturer to petition the agency for an exemption from the established minimum driving range for dual fueled electric passenger automobiles when operating on electricity only. Certain prescribed information is requested to be included that will enable the agency to make a determination whether to grant an exemption or not and aid in the assigning a lower minimum driving range.

Requested Expiration Date of Approval: March 1, 2001.

Description of the Need for and Proposed Use of the Information: This information will be used by NHTSA to determine whether manufacturers are complying with certain provisions of the applicable statutes (Alternative Motor Fuels Act of 1988, and Average Fuel Economy Standards). It will also allow the agency to evaluate the overall vehicle design in terms of environmental impact, safety, performance, and other factors that might justify the granting of an exemption.

Description of Likely Respondents: Based on responses from other notices such as the Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) and the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM), it is anticipated that there would be fewer than 10 passenger car manufacturers that would seek such an exemption over a three year period. There is a possibility that some of these manufacturers would be small businesses (i.e., ones that employ less

than 500 persons) and may not have access to some of the latest technology needed to meet the minimum driving range on electricity only. These small businesses that might be adversely affected could also be eligible for an exemption under the low volume criteria. The frequency of the petitioning burden would then be market driven. The others would be large volume manufacturers seeking to improve their CAFE.

Estimate of Total Annual Reporting and Record Keeping Burden Resulting From the Collection of Information: NHTSA estimates from previous information collection that the vehicle manufacturers will incur a total annual reporting and recordkeeping burden of less than two hundred sixty six hours (266 hr.). This is based on an estimate of no more than 80 hr. to prepare the petition, spread between ten (10) manufacturers, over a three year period.

Issued on: March 4, 1998.

L. Robert Shelton,

Associate Administrator for Safety Performance Standards.

[FR Doc. 98-6299 Filed 3-11-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-59-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-167 (Sub-No. 1182X)]

**Consolidated Rail Corporation—
Abandonment Exemption—in Indiana
County, PA**

Consolidated Rail Corporation (Conrail) has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F—*Exempt Abandonments* to abandon a 11.80 mile portion of the Blairsville Secondary Track between milepost 5.70± and milepost 17.50±, in Indiana County, PA. The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Codes 15716, 15717, 15750 and 15748.

Conrail has certified that: (1) No local traffic has moved over the line for at least 2 years; (2) there is no overhead traffic moving over the line; (3) no formal complaint filed by a user of rail service on the line (or by a state or local government entity acting on behalf of such user) regarding cessation of service over the line either is pending with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) or with any U.S. District Court or has been decided in favor of complainant within the 2-year period; and (4) the requirements at 49 CFR 1105.7 (environmental reports), 49 CFR 1105.8 (historic reports), 49 CFR 1105.11 (transmittal letter), 49 CFR 1105.12

(newspaper publication), and 49 CFR 1152.50(d)(1) (notice to governmental agencies) have been met.

As a condition to this exemption, any employee adversely affected by the abandonment shall be protected under *Oregon Short Line R. Co.—Abandonment—Goshen*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979). To address whether this condition adequately protects affected employees, a petition for partial revocation under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) must be filed. Provided no formal expression of intent to file an offer of financial assistance (OFA) has been received, this exemption will be effective on April 11, 1998, unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay that do not involve environmental issues,¹ formal expressions of intent to file an OFA under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2),² and trail use/rail banking requests under 49 CFR 1152.29 must be filed by March 23, 1998. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by April 1, 1998, with: Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20423.

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to applicant's representative: John J. Paylor, Association General Counsel, Consolidated Rail Corporation, 2001 Market Street—16A, Philadelphia, PA 19101-1416.

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*.

Conrail has filed an environmental report which addresses the abandonment's effects, if any, on the environment and historic resources. The Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) will issue an environmental assessment (EA) by March 17, 1998. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA by writing to SEA (Room 500, Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423) or by calling SEA, at (202) 565-1545. Comments on environmental and historic preservation matters must be filed within 15 days

¹ The Board will grant a stay if an informed decision on environmental issues (whether raised by a party or by the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis in its independent investigation) cannot be made before the exemption's effective date. See *Exemption of Out-of-Service Rail Lines*, 5 I.C.C.2d 377 (1989). Any request for a stay should be filed as soon as possible so that the Board may take appropriate action before the exemption's effective date.

² Each offer of financial assistance must be accompanied by the filing fee, which currently is set at \$900. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25). This fee is scheduled to increase to \$1000, effective March 20, 1998.

after the EA becomes available to the public.

Environmental, historic preservation, public use, or trail use/rail banking conditions will be imposed, where appropriate, in a subsequent decision.

Pursuant to the provisions of 49 CFR 1152.29(e)(2), Conrail shall file a notice of consummation with the Board to signify that it has exercised the authority granted and fully abandoned the line. If consummation has not been effected by Conrail's filing of a notice of consummation by March 12, 1999, and there are no legal or regulatory barriers to consummation, the authority to abandon will automatically expire.

Decided: March 4, 1998.

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

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-6232 Filed 3-11-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Community Development Financial Institutions Fund; Notice of Open Meeting of the Community Development Advisory Board

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

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the third meeting of the Community Development Advisory Board (the "Advisory Board"), which provides advice to the Director of the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (the "Fund").

DATES: The third meeting of the Community Development Advisory Board will be held on Friday, March 27, 1998 at 10:00 a.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, U.S. Department of the Treasury, 601 13th Street, N.W., Suite 200 South, Washington, D.C. 20005, (202) 622-8662 (this is not a toll-free number).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 104(d) of the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4703(d)) established the Community Development Advisory Board. The charter for the Advisory Board has been filed in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App.), and with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury.

The function of the Advisory Board is to advise the Director of the Fund (who has been delegated the authority to administer the Fund) on the policies regarding the activities of the Fund. The Fund is a wholly owned corporation within the Department of the Treasury. The Advisory Board shall not advise the Fund on the granting or denial of any particular application. The Advisory Board shall meet at least annually.

It has been determined that this document is not a major rule as defined in Executive Order 12291 and that regulatory impact analysis therefore is not required. In addition, this document does not constitute a rule subject to the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. Chapter 6).

The third meeting of the Advisory Board, all of which will be open to the public, will be held in the Boardroom of the American Institute of Architects, 1735 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C., on Friday, March 27, 1998 at 10:00 a.m. The room will accommodate 75 persons. Seats are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Participation in the discussions of the meeting will be limited to Advisory Board members and Department of the Treasury staff. Anyone who would like to have the Advisory Board consider a written statement must submit it to the Fund, at the address of the Fund specified above in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section, by 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 24, 1998.

At the meeting, the new management of the Fund will be introduced, information will be presented on the past rounds of the Community Development Financial Institutions Program and the Bank Enterprise Award Program, and the Director of the Fund will seek advice from members of the Community Development Advisory Board regarding future rounds under these programs, new initiatives of the Fund and the utilization of the Advisory Board.

Authority: 12 U.S.C. 4703; Chapter X, Pub. L. 104-19, 109 Stat. 237.

Dated: March 9, 1998.

Ellen Lazar,

Director, Community Development Financial Institutions Fund.

[FR Doc. 98-6412 Filed 3-11-98; 8:45 am]

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UNITED STATES INSTITUTE OF PEACE

Sunshine Act Meeting

DATE/TIME: Thursday, March 19, 1998, 9:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.