

DATES: The Department will accept comments from the public up to 60 days from February 23, 2005.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- E-mail:

studentinternprogram@state.gov—You must include the DS form number, information collection title, and OMB control number in the subject line of your message.

- Mail (paper, disk, or CD-ROM submissions): U.S. Department of State—SA-1, HR/REE/REC Room 518H, Attention: Kevin Bennecoff, 2401 E Street, NW., Washington, DC 20522.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Direct requests for additional information regarding the collection listed in this notice, including requests for copies of the proposed information collection and supporting documents, to Kevin M. Bennecoff, Bureau of Human Resources, Recruitment Division, Student Programs, U.S. Department of State, Washington, DC 20520, who may be reached on 202-261-8869 or by e-mail at *BennecoffKM@state.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: We are soliciting public comments to permit the Department to:

- Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper performance of our functions.
- Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the burden of the proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used.
- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected.
- Minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of technology.

Abstract of proposed collection: The DS-1950 has been the primary form used by individuals to apply for certain excepted jobs at the Department of State such as Foreign Service and student intern positions. We wish to continue to use this form to clarify interpretation of applicant responses and how applicants become aware of our program opportunities. We're also seeking approval of an electronic version that will be submitted online.

Methodology: The computer-readable form will be used by applicants for certain excepted service jobs at the Department of State, such as Student Programs and Foreign Service jobs. These programs generate approximately 20,000 applications per year. Data, which are automatically extracted from the form, are necessary to determine qualifications, and selections, in

accordance with Federal policies. The online version will be filled out and submitted through *careers.state.gov*.

Dated: January 31, 2005.

Ruben Torres,

*Director, Bureau of Human Resources,
Department of State.*

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Ex Parte No. 657]

Rail Rate Challenges Under the Stand-Alone Cost Methodology

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board.

ACTION: Notice of public hearing.

SUMMARY: The Surface Transportation Board (Board) will hold a public hearing beginning at 10 a.m. on Thursday, March 24, 2005, at its offices in Washington, DC, to provide interested persons an opportunity to express their views on the subject of rail rate challenges under the stand-alone cost (SAC) methodology. Persons wishing to speak at the hearing should notify the Board in writing.

DATES: The public hearing will take place on Thursday, March 24, 2005. Any person wishing to speak at the hearing should file with the Board a written notice of intent to participate, and should indicate a requested time allotment, as soon as possible but no later than March 14, 2005. Each speaker should also file with the Board his/her written testimony by March 18, 2005. Written submissions by interested persons who do not wish to appear at the hearing will also be due by March 18, 2005.

ADDRESSES: All notices of intent to participate and testimony may be submitted either via the Board's e-filing format or in the traditional paper format. Any person using e-filing should comply with the Board's *http://www.stb.dot.gov* Web site, at the "E-FILING" link. Any person submitting a filing in the traditional paper format should send an original and 10 copies of the filing (referring to STB Ex Parte No. 657) to: Surface Transportation Board, Attn: STB Ex Parte No. 657, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Raymond A. Atkins, (202) 565-1624. (Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at: (800) 877-8339.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Board will hold a public hearing to provide a forum for the expression of views by rail shippers, railroads, and other interested persons, on the Board's consideration of rail rate challenges under the SAC methodology. This hearing will provide a forum for the discussion of any suggestions and proposals that interested persons might wish to offer regarding the Board's consideration of rail rate reasonableness challenges under the SAC methodology. The hearing is not intended to offer a forum for discussion of pending cases, but rather is intended as an opportunity for interested persons to address broader issues that may cut across SAC cases generally.

Date of Hearing. The hearing will begin at 10 a.m. on Thursday, March 24, 2005, in the 7th floor hearing room at the Board's headquarters in Washington, DC, and will continue, with short breaks if necessary, until every person scheduled to speak has been heard.

Notice of Intent To Participate. Any person wishing to speak at the hearing should file with the Board a written notice of intent to participate, and should indicate a requested time allotment, as soon as possible, but no later than March 14, 2005.

Testimony. Each speaker should file with the Board his/her written testimony by March 18, 2005. Also, any interested person who wishes to submit a written statement without appearing at the March 24 hearing should file that statement by March 18, 2005.

Board Releases and Live Audio Available Via the Internet. Decisions and notices of the Board, including this notice, are available on the Board's Web site at *http://stb.dot.gov*. This hearing will be available on the Board's Web site by live audio streaming. To access the hearing, click on the "Live Audio" link under "Information Center" at the left side of the home page beginning at 10 a.m. on March 24, 2005.

This action will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

Dated: February 16, 2005.

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

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