

Dated: May 5, 2005.

**C. Miller Crouch,**

*Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Department of State.*

[FR Doc. 05-9491 Filed 5-11-05; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 5063]

### Overseas Buildings Operations; Industry Advisory Panel: Meeting Notice

The Industry Advisory Panel of the Overseas Buildings Operations will meet on Thursday, June 2, 2005 from 9:45 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. eastern standard time. The meeting will be held at the Department of State, 2201 C Street, NW. (entrance on 23rd Street), Room 1107, Washington, DC. The majority of the meeting is devoted to an exchange of ideas between the Department's Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations' senior management and the panel members, on design, operations and building maintenance. Members of the public are asked to kindly refrain from joining the discussion until Director Williams opens the discussion to the public.

Due to limited seating space for members of the public, we ask that you kindly e-mail your information. To participate in this meeting, simply register by e-mail at [IAPR@STATE.GOV](mailto:IAPR@STATE.GOV) before May 23rd, 2005. Your e-mail should include the following information; Date of birth, social security number, company name and title. This information is required to issue a temporary pass to enter the building.

For questions, please contact [PinzinoLE3@state.gov](mailto:PinzinoLE3@state.gov) or call tel: 703/875-6872 Ms. Gina Pinzino; or [SpragueMA@state.gov](mailto:SpragueMA@state.gov) tel: 703/875-7173 for Michael Sprague.

Dated: May 4, 2005.

**Jay A. Hicks,**

*Acting Director, Overseas Buildings Operations, Department of State.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 5077]

### Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs; Certifications Pursuant to Section 609 of Public Law 101-162

**SUMMARY:** On April 28, 2005, the Department of State certified, pursuant

to Section 609 of Public Law 101-162 ("Section 609"), that 13 nations have adopted programs to reduce the incidental capture of sea turtles in their shrimp fisheries comparable to the program in effect in the United States. The Department also certified that the fishing environments in 24 other countries and one economy, Hong Kong, do not pose a threat of the incidental taking of sea turtles protected under Section 609. Shrimp imports from any nation not certified were prohibited effective May 1, 2005 pursuant to Section 609.

**DATES: Effective Date:** On publication.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** James Story, Office of Marine Conservation, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, Department of State, Washington, DC 20520-7818; telephone: (202) 647-2335.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 609 of Public Law 101-162 prohibits imports of certain categories of shrimp unless the President certifies to the Congress not later than May 1 of each year either: (1) That the harvesting nation has adopted a program governing the incidental capture of sea turtles in its commercial shrimp fishery comparable to the program in effect in the United States and has an incidental take rate comparable to that of the United States; or (2) that the fishing environment in the harvesting nation does not pose a threat of the incidental taking of sea turtles. The President has delegated the authority to make this certification to the Department of State. Revised State Department guidelines for making the required certifications were published in the **Federal Register** on July 2, 1999 (Vol. 64, No. 130, Public Notice 3086).

On April 28, 2005, the Department certified 13 nations on the basis that their sea turtle protection programs are comparable to that of the United States: Belize, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Panama, Suriname, and Venezuela.

The Department also certified 24 shrimp harvesting nations and one economy as having fishing environments that do not pose a danger to sea turtles. Sixteen nations have shrimping grounds only in cold waters where the risk of taking sea turtles is negligible. They are: Argentina, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Russia, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and Uruguay. Eight nations and one economy only harvest shrimp using

small boats with crews of less than five that use manual rather than mechanical means to retrieve nets, or catch shrimp using other methods that do not threaten sea turtles. Use of such small-scale technology does not adversely affect sea turtles. The eight nations and one economy are: the Bahamas, China, the Dominican Republic, Fiji, Hong Kong, Jamaica, Oman, Peru and Sri Lanka.

The Department of State has communicated the certifications under Section 609 to the Office of Field Operations of U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

In addition, this **Federal Register** notice confirms that the requirement for all DS-2031 forms from uncertified nations must be originals and signed by the competent domestic fisheries authority. This policy change was first announced in a Department of State media note released on December 21, 2004.

Dated: May 4, 2005.

**Margaret F. Hayes,**

*Acting, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Fisheries, Department of State.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 34693]

#### Kaw River Railroad, Inc.—Lease and Operation Exemption—BNSF Railway Company

Kaw River Railroad, Inc. (KRR), a Class III rail carrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.41 to lease and operate approximately 15.69 miles of rail lines owned by BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) located: (1) Between milepost 215.55 near Birmingham, MO, and milepost 199.86 at Kearney, MO; and (2) in BNSF's Birmingham Yard, including Track Numbers 1501, 1502, 1503, 1504, 1547, 1555, 1550, 9956, 1560, and 9955 and the ladder track located between Track Numbers 1504 and 1599. In conjunction with the lease of these lines, KRR will acquire incidental overhead trackage rights: (1) Over the portion of Track Number 1599 in BNSF's Birmingham Yard located between milepost 216.76 and milepost 216.18 on BNSF's Kearney Subdivision; and (2) between milepost 216.18 and milepost 215.55 near Birmingham.

KRR certifies that its projected revenues as a result of this transaction will not result in the creation of a Class