

DC 20590-0001, Telephone Number (202) 366-4406, Fax Number (202) 366-3383 or Email [jeff.gorham@dot.gov](mailto:jeff.gorham@dot.gov).

*Comments:* Send comments to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725-17th Street NW., Washington, DC 20503, Attention: RITA/BTS Desk Officer.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*OMB Approval No.* 2138-0004.

*Title:* Submission of Audit Reports—Part 248.

*Form No.:* None.

*Type of Review:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Respondents:* Large certificated air carriers.

*Number of Respondents:* 76.

*Number of Responses:* 76.

*Total Annual Burden:* 19 hours.

*Needs and Uses:* BTS collects independent audited financial reports from U.S. certificated air carriers. Carriers not having an annual audit must file a statement that no such audit has been performed. In lieu of the audit report, BTS will accept the annual report submitted to the stockholders. The audited reports are needed by the Department of Transportation as (1) a means to monitor an air carrier's continuing fitness to operate, (2) reference material used by analysts in examining foreign route cases (3) reference material used by analyst in examining proposed mergers, acquisitions and consolidations, (4) a means whereby BTS sends a copy of the report to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in fulfillment of a United States treaty obligation, and (5) corroboration of a carrier's Form 41 filings.

The Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002 (44 U.S.C. 3501), requires a statistical agency to clearly identify information it collects for non-statistical purposes. BTS hereby notifies the respondents and the public that BTS uses the information it collects under this OMB approval for non-statistical purposes including, but not limited to, publication of both Respondent's identity and its data, submission of the information to agencies outside BTS for review, analysis and possible use in regulatory and other administrative matters.

Comments are invited on: Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Department concerning consumer protection. Comments should address whether the information will have practical utility; the accuracy of the Department's

estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Issued in Washington, DC on May 1, 2012.

**Pat Hu,**

*Director, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, Research and Innovative Technology Administration.*

[FR Doc. 2012-10910 Filed 5-4-12; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-HY-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**Surface Transportation Board**

[Docket No. AB 1072X]

**Iowa River Railroad, Inc.—  
Abandonment Exemption—in Marshall  
and Hardin Counties, IA**

On April 17, 2012, Iowa River Railroad, Inc. (IRR) filed with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) a petition under 49 U.S.C. 10502 for exemption from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 10903 to abandon an approximately 34.35-mile line of railroad between milepost 209.00 and milepost 243.35 at or near Marshalltown, in Marshall and Hardin Counties, Iowa (the Line). The Line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Codes 50005, 50158, 50627, 50258, and 50259, and includes the stations of Marshalltown (milepost 243.35), Bethel, Minerva Junction, Albion (milepost 236.9), Liscomb (milepost 232.6), Union (milepost 225.9), Eldora (milepost 216.58), and Steamboat Rock (milepost 212.30).<sup>1</sup>

IRR states that it does not have information in its possession to conclude that the Line contains federally granted rights-of-way. Any documentation in IRR's possession will be made available promptly to those requesting it.

The interest of railroad employees will be protected by the conditions set forth in *Oregon Short Line Railroad—Abandonment Portion Goshen Branch Between Firth & Ammon, In Bingham & Bonneville Counties, Idaho*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979).

By issuance of this notice, the Board is instituting an exemption proceeding pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10502(b). A final

<sup>1</sup> IRR states that four shippers have used IRR's services over the Line during the past four years: United Suppliers, Inc., Prairie Land Cooperative, Quality Products, and New Century Farm Service.

decision will be issued by August 3, 2012.

Any offer of financial assistance (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. Each OFA must be accompanied by a \$1,500 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. 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 May 29, 2012. Each trail use request must be accompanied by a \$250 filing fee. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(27).

All filings in response to this notice must refer to Docket No. AB 1072X and must be sent to: (1) Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street SW., Washington, DC 20423-0001; and (2) T. Scott Bannister, 111-SW 56th Street, Des Moines, IA 50312. Replies to the petition are due on or before May 29, 2012.

Persons seeking further information concerning abandonment procedures may contact the Board's Office of Public Assistance, Governmental Affairs and Compliance at (202) 245-0238 or refer to the full abandonment or discontinuance regulations at 49 CFR pt. 1152. Questions concerning environmental issues may be directed to the Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) at (202) 245-0305. [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 OEA will be served upon all parties of record and upon any agencies or other persons who commented during its presentation. Other interested persons may contact OEA 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 generally will be within 30 days of its service.

Board decisions and notices are available on our Web site at [www.stb.dot.gov](http://www.stb.dot.gov).

Decided: May 1, 2012.

By the Board, Rachel D. Campbell,  
Director, Office of Proceedings.

**Derrick A. Gardner,**  
*Clearance Clerk.*

[FR Doc. 2012-10913 Filed 5-4-12; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4915-01-P**

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## **U.S.-CHINA ECONOMIC AND SECURITY REVIEW COMMISSION**

### **Notice of Open Public Hearing**

**AGENCY:** U.S.-China Economic and  
Security Review Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice of open public hearing—  
May 10, 2012, Washington, DC.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given of the  
following hearing of the U.S.-China  
Economic and Security Review  
Commission.

*Name:* Dennis Shea, Chairman of the  
U.S.-China Economic and Security  
Review Commission. The Commission  
is mandated by Congress to investigate,  
assess, and report to Congress annually  
on “the national security implications of  
the economic relationship between the  
United States and the People’s Republic  
of China”. Pursuant to this mandate, the

Commission will hold a public hearing  
in Washington, DC on May 10, 2012,  
“Assessing China’s Efforts to Become an  
Innovation Society—A Progress  
Report”.

### **Background**

This is the fifth public hearing the  
Commission will hold during its 2012  
report cycle to collect input from  
academic, industry, and government  
experts on national security  
implications of the U.S. bilateral trade  
and economic relationship with China.  
The May 10 hearing will address  
China’s innovation capabilities, with  
emphasis on the information technology  
and defense sectors. The hearing will be  
co-chaired by Commissioners Sen. Carte  
Goodwin and Hon. Dennis Shea. Any  
interested party may file a written  
statement by May 9, 2012, by mailing to  
the contact below. A portion of each  
panel will include a question and  
answer period between the  
Commissioners and the witnesses.

*Location, Date and Time:* 562 Dirksen  
Senate Office Building. Thursday May  
10, 2012, 8:45 a.m.–3:40 p.m. Eastern  
Time. A detailed agenda for the hearing

will be posted to the Commission’s Web  
Site at [www.uscc.gov](http://www.uscc.gov) as soon as  
available. Please check our Web site at  
[www.uscc.gov](http://www.uscc.gov) for possible changes to  
the hearing schedule. *Reservations are  
not required to attend the hearing.*

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Any  
member of the public seeking further  
information concerning the hearing  
should contact Gavin Williams, 444  
North Capitol Street NW., Suite 602,  
Washington, DC 20001; phone: 202–  
624–1492, or via email at  
[gwilliams@uscc.gov](mailto:gwilliams@uscc.gov). *Reservations are  
not required to attend the hearing.*

**Authority:** Congress created the U.S.-China  
Economic and Security Review Commission  
in 2000 in the National Defense  
Authorization Act (Pub. L. 106–398), as  
amended by Division P of the Consolidated  
Appropriations Resolution, 2003 (Pub. L.  
108–7), as amended by Public Law 109–108  
(November 22, 2005).

Dated: May 1, 2012.

**Michael Danis,**

*Executive Director, U.S.-China Economic and  
Security Review Commission.*

[FR Doc. 2012-10869 Filed 5-4-12; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 1137-00-P**