

the purposes of the Act. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission shall institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be approved or disapproved.

#### IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

##### *Electronic Comments*

- Use the Commission's internet comment form (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>); or
- Send an email to [rule-comments@sec.gov](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include File Number SR-NYSE-2019-65 on the subject line.

##### *Paper Comments*

- Send paper comments in triplicate to: Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-NYSE-2019-65. This file number should be included on the subject line if email is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's internet website (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>). Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for website viewing and printing in the Commission's Public Reference Room, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549 on official business days between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Copies of the filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. All comments received will be posted without change. Persons submitting comments are cautioned that we do not redact or edit personal identifying information from comment submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. All submissions should refer to File Number SR-NYSE-2019-65 and should

be submitted on or before December 27, 2019.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>18</sup>

**Jill M. Peterson,**

*Assistant Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2019-26305 Filed 12-5-19; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8011-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice:10968]

### Designation of Amadou Kouffa as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist

Acting under the authority of and in accordance with section 1(b) of Executive Order 13224 of September 23, 2001, as amended by Executive Order 13268 of July 2, 2002, and Executive Order 13284 of January 23, 2003, I hereby determine that the person known as Amadou Kouffa, also known as Hamadou Kouffa, also known as Amadou Barry, is a foreign person who is a leader of an entity whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to a determination by the Secretary of State pursuant to Executive Order 13224.

Consistent with the determination in section 10 of Executive Order 13224 that prior notice to persons determined to be subject to the Order who might have a constitutional presence in the United States would render ineffectual the blocking and other measures authorized in the Order because of the ability to transfer funds instantaneously, I determine that no prior notice needs to be provided to any person subject to this determination who might have a constitutional presence in the United States, because to do so would render ineffectual the measures authorized in the Order.

This notice shall be published in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: July 23, 2019.

**Michael R. Pompeo,**

*Secretary of State.*

**Editorial Note:** The Office of the Federal Register received this document for publication on December 3, 2019.

[FR Doc. 2019-26396 Filed 12-5-19; 8:45 am]

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<sup>18</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

## SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

[Docket No. FD 36364]

### Decatur & Eastern Illinois Railroad, L.L.C.—Acquisition and Change of Operator Exemption—NRG, Inc., and Eastern Illinois Railroad Company

Decatur & Eastern Illinois Railroad, L.L.C. (DEIR), a Class III rail carrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.41 for it to (1) acquire from NRG, Inc. (NRG), an approximately 53-mile line of railroad extending between milepost 286.0 near Metcalf, Ill., and approximately milepost 338.95 (east of Oak Avenue) in Neoga, Ill., (the Line) and (2) replace NRG's corporate subsidiary, Eastern Illinois Railroad Company (EIRC), as operator on the Line.<sup>1</sup>

The verified notice states that DEIR, NRG, and EIRC are in the process of completing terms of an Agreement for Sale and Purchase of Business Assets (the Agreement). Pursuant to the Agreement, ownership of the Line will transfer from NRG to DEIR, and DEIR will replace EIRC as the operator on the Line. DEIR states that EIRC, as a party to the Agreement, has consented to the proposed change in operators.

DEIR certifies that the transaction does not include an interchange commitment.<sup>2</sup>

DEIR further certifies that its projected annual revenues resulting from the transaction will not result in its becoming a Class I or Class II rail carrier. DEIR states, however, that its annual operating revenues will exceed \$5 million. Accordingly, in compliance with 49 CFR 1150.42(e), DEIR submitted a letter on November 1, 2019, certifying that it posted the required 60-day labor notice of this transaction at the workplace of EIRC employees on the Line.<sup>3</sup>

Under 49 CFR 1150.42(b), a change in operator requires that notice be given to shippers. DEIR states that notice of the proposed transaction was provided to

<sup>1</sup> According to the verified notice, NRG is a noncarrier that acquired the assets of the Line in 1988 after the Line was abandoned by Norfolk and Western Railway Company. See *E. Ill. R.R.—Operation Exemption—Line of R.R. of NRG, Inc., in Edgar, Coles, Cumberland, & Douglas Cty.s., Ill.*, FD 31860 (ICC served June 26, 1991).

<sup>2</sup> DEIR states that, although the transaction under which it became a common carrier involved interchange commitments in favor of the seller, see *Decatur & E. Ill. R.R.—Acquis. Exemption Containing Interchange Commitment—CSX Transp., Inc.*, FD 36206 (STB served Aug. 24, 2018), those interchange restrictions will not extend to traffic originating or terminating on the Line.

<sup>3</sup> DEIR states that it has been advised that no EIRC employees are represented by a labor union, and, for that reason, that portion of the advance-notice requirement is inapplicable.

shippers on the Line on November 22, 2019.

The earliest this transaction may be consummated is December 31, 2019 (60 days after the certification under 49 CFR 1150.42(e) was filed). DEIR states that it expects to consummate the transaction on that date.

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void ab initio. Petitions to revoke the exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) may be filed at any time. The filing of a petition to revoke will not automatically stay the effectiveness of the exemption. Petitions for stay must be filed no later than December 24, 2019 (at least seven days before the exemption becomes effective).

All pleadings, referring to Docket No. FD 36364, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board either via e-filing or in writing addressed to 395 E Street SW, Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on DEIR's representative, Robert A. Wimbish, Fletcher & Sippel LLC, 29 North Wacker Drive, Suite 800, Chicago, IL 60606.

According to DEIR, this action is categorically excluded from environmental review under 49 CFR 1105.6(c) and from historic preservation reporting requirements under 49 CFR 1105.8(b)(1).

Board decisions and notices are available at [www.stb.gov](http://www.stb.gov).

Decided: December 2, 2019.

By the Board, Allison C. Davis, Director, Office of Proceedings.

**Eden Besera,**  
Clearance Clerk.

[FR Doc. 2019-26300 Filed 12-5-19; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4915-01-P**

## SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

[Docket No. FD 36367]

### Davenport Industrial Railroad, LLC— Lease & Operation Exemption—City of Davenport, Iowa

Davenport Industrial Railroad, LLC (DIR), a noncarrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.31 to lease from the City of Davenport (the City) and operate an approximately 2.8-mile rail line (the Line).<sup>1</sup> The Line extends west and south from a point about 75 feet from a

connection with the main line of the Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern Railroad Corporation (DM&E) near DM&E milepost 191.2 near Davenport, Iowa, to the City-owned Davenport Transload Facility. According to DIR, the Line does not have mileposts.

DIR states that it is finalizing the terms of a lease with the City, under which, among other things, DIR would assume a leasehold interest in, and provide common carrier service over, the Line.

DIR certifies that, as a result of this transaction, its projected revenue will not exceed \$5 million annually and will not result in its becoming a Class I or Class II carrier. DIR states that the agreement between the City and DIR does not include any provision or agreement that would limit future interchange with a third-party connecting carrier.

According to DIR, it anticipates consummating the transaction on January 1, 2020, to coincide with SDR's discontinuance of service. The transaction may be consummated on or after December 22, 2019, the effective date of the exemption (30 days after the verified notice was filed).

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void ab initio. Petitions to revoke the exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) may be filed at any time. The filing of a petition to revoke will not automatically stay the effectiveness of the exemption. Petitions to stay must be filed no later than December 13, 2019 (at least seven days before the exemption becomes effective).

All pleadings, referring to Docket No. FD 36367, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board either via e-filing or in writing addressed to 395 E Street SW, Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on DIR's representative, Robert A. Wimbish, Fletcher & Sippel LLC, 29 North Wacker Drive, Suite 800, Chicago, IL 60606-3208.

According to DIR, this action is categorically excluded from environmental review under 49 CFR 1105.6(c) and from historic reporting under 49 CFR 1105.8(b).

Board decisions and notices are available at [www.stb.gov](http://www.stb.gov).

Decided: December 2, 2019.

By the Board, Allison C. Davis, Director, Office of Proceedings.

**Kenyatta Clay,**  
Clearance Clerk.

[FR Doc. 2019-26375 Filed 12-5-19; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4915-01-P**

## OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

[Docket No. USTR-2019-0009]

### Notice of Determination and Request for Comments Concerning Action Pursuant to Section 301: France's Digital Services Tax

**AGENCY:** Office of the United States Trade Representative.

**ACTION:** Notice of determination, request for comments, and notice of public hearing.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Trade Representative has determined that France's Digital Services Tax is unreasonable or discriminatory and burdens or restricts U.S. commerce. The U.S. Trade Representative proposes action in the form of additional duties of up to 100 percent on products of France to be drawn from the preliminary list in the Annex to this notice. The Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) seeks comments on this proposed action, as well as on other options including the imposition of fees or restrictions on services of France. The interagency Section 301 Committee will hold a public hearing in connection with the action to be taken under Section 301.

**DATES:** To be assured of consideration, the following schedule applies:

*December 30, 2019:* Due date for submission of a request to appear at the public hearing and a summary of testimony.

*January 6, 2020:* Due date for written comments.

*January 7, 2020:* The Section 301 Committee will convene a public hearing in the main hearing room of the U.S. International Trade Commission, 500 E Street SW, Washington, DC 20436 beginning at 9:30 a.m.

*January 14, 2020:* Due date for submission of post-hearing rebuttal comments.

**ADDRESSES:** You should submit written comments through the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submissions in sections V and VI below. The docket number is USTR-2019-0009. For issues with on-line submissions, please contact the USTR Section 301 line at (202) 395-5725.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For procedural questions concerning the submission of written comments or participating in the public hearing, please contact the USTR Section 301 line at (202) 395-5725. For questions concerning the investigation, please

<sup>1</sup> The Board has authorized the current operator of the Line, Savage Davenport Railroad Company (SDR), to discontinue its operations effective January 1, 2020. See *Savage Davenport R.R.—Discontinuance of Service Exemption—in Scott Cty., Iowa*, AB 1277X (STB served Sept. 30, 2019 and Oct. 29, 2019).