

### What Will the Benefits of iSSI Be in Comparison to Our Current Processes?

- iSSI will be much *simpler* than the current process for the early stages of the SSI application process. Rather than completing a paper form, calling or visiting a field office to preserve a protective filing date, or assembling significant amounts of information to begin an application, the applicants will now just need to start the online DIB application process and answer the new iSSI basic eligibility questions. Once SSA receives the answers to the questions, we will determine whether further development is needed, and will contact the claimant if necessary.
- iSSI will also be more *convenient and somewhat faster* than the initial stages of the current application process. Primarily, this is because the iClaim system pre-populates information from SSA's records for authenticated applicants that the applicant might otherwise have needed to provide. As well, iSSI will seamlessly move the applicant on to the other next steps described above (*e.g.*, completion of the 13368). Moreover, applicants will save time that might have been required for a field office visit or a phone appointment.
- Finally, iSSI will, for the first time, offer an *electronic option to non-U.S. citizens*. Currently, a non-U.S. citizen is told they will be contacted by an SSA employee to initiate an application. With iSSI, we will be able to utilize citizenship and country information from SSA's records for authenticated applicants.

Dated: August 3, 2023.

#### Naomi Sipple,

Reports Clearance Officer, Office of Regulations and Reports Clearance, Office of Legislation and Congressional Affairs, Social Security Administration.

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### Notice of Intent To Rule on a Land Release Request for Change in Use From Aeronautical to Non-Aeronautical at Salisbury-Ocean City: Wicomico Regional Airport, Salisbury, MD

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of request for a change in use of on-airport property.

**SUMMARY:** The FAA proposes to rule and invites public comment on Wicomico County's request to change 24.5 acres of

federally obligated airport property at Salisbury-Ocean City: Wicomico Regional Airport, Salisbury, MD from aeronautical to non-aeronautical use. This acreage was originally purchased with federal financial assistance through the Airport Improvement Program. The proposed use of land after the sale will be compatible with the airport and will not interfere with the airport or its operation.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before September 8, 2023.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Comments on this application may be mailed or delivered to the following address: Anthony Rudy, Airport Manager, Salisbury-Ocean City: Wicomico Regional Airport, 5485 Airport Terminal Road, Unit A, Salisbury, MD 21804, (410) 548-4827, and at the FAA Washington Airports District Office: Matthew J. Thys, Manager, Washington Airports District Office, 13873 Park Center Road, Suite 490S, Herndon, VA 20171, (703) 487-3980.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In accordance with the Wendell H. Ford Aviation Investment and Reform Act for the 21st Century (AIR 21), Public Law 106-181 (Apr. 5, 2000; 114 Stat. 61), this notice must be published in the **Federal Register** 30 days before the Secretary may waive any condition imposed on a federally obligated airport by grant agreements. The following is a brief overview of the request.

Wicomico County has submitted a land release request seeking FAA approval for the change in use of approximately 24.5 acres of federally obligated airport property from aeronautical to non-aeronautical use. The property is situated within the approach to Runway 14 but outside of the runway protection zone. Due to this location, the subject area is unable to be utilized for aviation.

The 24.5 acres of land to be released consist of 12.7 acres of Parcel 24 and 11.8 acres of Parcel 63. Parcel 63 was originally purchased with federal financial assistance through the AIP program under Grant Agreement 3-24-0025-37-2007. The FAA has determined the proposed project would have no material impact on aircraft operations, at, to or from the airport; would not affect the safety of people and property on the ground adjacent to the airport as a result of aircraft operations; and would not have an adverse effect on the value of prior Federal investments to a significant extent. Subsequent to the implementation of the proposed change in use, rents received by the airport

from this property is considered airport revenue, and will be used in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 47107(b) and the FAA's Policy and Procedures Concerning the Use of Airport Revenue published in the **Federal Register** on February 16, 1999. The proposed use of the property will not interfere with the airport or its operation.

Issued in Herndon, Virginia.

**Matthew J. Thys,**

Manager, Washington Airports District Office.

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket Number FRA-2023-0057]

#### Petition for Waiver of Compliance

Under part 211 of title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), this document provides the public notice that by letter dated August 1, 2023, the Buckingham Branch Railroad (BBRR) petitioned the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) for a waiver of compliance from certain provisions of the Federal railroad safety regulations contained at 49 CFR part 240 (Qualification and Certification of Locomotive Engineers). FRA assigned the petition Docket Number FRA-2023-0057.

Specifically, BBRR requests relief from § 240.201(d), which requires that only certified persons operate locomotives and trains. The relief would allow noncertified persons to pay a fee and operate a locomotive as part of a "Hand on the Throttle" program in partnership with the Virginia Museum of Transportation. In support of its petition, BBRR notes that the relief would only apply to persons participating in the program, and that participants would be under the direct supervision of a certified and qualified locomotive engineer. Further, all movements would take place during daylight hours and at restricted speed. BBRR also specifies that the section of track on which the program will run will be under absolute block authority and derails with red flags will be placed at the beginning and end of the segment.

A copy of the petition, as well as any written communications concerning the petition, is available for review online at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov).

Interested parties are invited to participate in these proceedings by submitting written views, data, or comments. FRA does not anticipate scheduling a public hearing in

connection with these proceedings since the facts do not appear to warrant a hearing. If any interested party desires an opportunity for oral comment and a public hearing, they should notify FRA, in writing, before the end of the comment period and specify the basis for their request.

All communications concerning these proceedings should identify the appropriate docket number and may be submitted at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

Communications received by September 25, 2023 will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered if practicable. Anyone can search the electronic form of any written communications and comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the document, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). Under 5 U.S.C. 553(c), the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) solicits comments from the public to better inform its processes. DOT posts these comments, without edit, including any personal information the commenter provides, to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), as described in the system of records notice (DOT/ALL-14 FDMS), which can be reviewed at <https://www.transportation.gov/privacy>. See also <https://www.regulations.gov/privacy-notice> for the privacy notice of [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov).

Issued in Washington, DC.

**John Karl Alexy,**

*Associate Administrator for Railroad Safety,  
Chief Safety Officer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Office of the Secretary

[Docket No.: DOT-OST-2023-0120]

### Notice of Proposed Waiver of Buy America Requirements for the Pacific Island Territories and the Freely Associated States

**ACTION:** Notice; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Transportation (DOT) is seeking comments on a proposed temporary general applicability public interest waiver of the requirements of section 70914(a) of the Build America, Buy America Act (BABA) included in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and related domestic preference statutes administered by DOT and its

Operating Administrations (OAs) for federal financial assistance awarded for infrastructure projects located in the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), Guam, and American Samoa, collectively referred to as the Pacific Island territories. The proposed waiver would also apply to financial assistance that is subject to a DOT domestic preference statute and provided by DOT to the Freely Associated States in the Pacific (the Republic of Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Federated States of Micronesia). BABA only applies to the United States and its territories. The waiver would provide time for the Department to collect and analyze evidence to determine if a more targeted waiver of these requirements is in the public interest. The waiver would also allow time for the Department and its OAs to offer technical assistance to potential assistance recipients in the remote communities in the Pacific Island territories and Freely Associated States. The waiver will remain in effect for 18 months after the effective date of the final waiver and will be reviewed as often as necessary.

**DATES:** Comments must be received by August 24, 2023.

**ADDRESSES:** Please submit your comments to the U.S. Government electronic docket site at <http://www.regulations.gov>, Docket: DOT-OST-2023-0120. Note: All submissions received, including any personal information therein, will be posted without change or alteration to <http://www.regulations.gov>. For more information, you may review DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement published in the **Federal Register** on April 11, 2000 (65 FR 19477).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For questions about this notice, please contact Darren Timothy, DOT Office of the Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy, at [darren.timothy@dot.gov](mailto:darren.timothy@dot.gov) or at 202-366-4051. For legal questions, please contact Jennifer Kirby-McLemore, DOT Office of the General Counsel, 405-446-6883, or via email at [jennifer.mclemore@dot.gov](mailto:jennifer.mclemore@dot.gov).

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Background

The Buy America preferences set forth in Section 70914(a) of BABA included in the IIJA require that all iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used for infrastructure projects in the United States under federal financial assistance awards be produced in the United States.

Under Section 70914(b) and in accordance with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB)'s Guidance Memorandum M-22-11, Initial Implementation Guidance on Application of Buy America Preference in Federal Financial Assistance Programs for Infrastructure, DOT may waive the BABA application in any case in which it finds that: (i) applying the domestic content procurement preference would be inconsistent with the public interest; (ii) types of iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction materials are not produced in the U.S. in sufficient and reasonably available quantities or of a satisfactory quality; or (iii) the inclusion of iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction materials produced in the U.S. will increase the cost of the overall project by more than 25 percent. All waivers must have a written explanation for the proposed determination; provide a period of not less than fifteen (15) calendar days for public comment on the proposed waiver; and submit the proposed waiver to the OMB Made in America Office (MIAO) for review to determine if the waiver is consistent with policy.

BABA also provides that the preferences under Section 70914 apply only to the extent that a domestic content procurement preference as described in section 70914 does not already apply to iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials. IIJA section 70917(a)-(b). Federal financial assistance programs administered by DOT's Operating Administrations (OAs)<sup>1</sup> are subject to a variety of mode-specific statutes that apply particular Buy America<sup>2</sup> requirements to iron, steel, and manufactured products, including 49 U.S.C. 50101 (FAA); 23 U.S.C. 313 (FHWA); 49 U.S.C. 5323(j) (FTA); and 46 U.S.C. 54101(d)(2) (MARAD). Recent annual appropriations acts have also required DOT to apply the Buy American Act (41 U.S.C. chapter 83) to funds appropriated under those acts,<sup>3</sup> where a mode-

<sup>1</sup> DOT OAs that provide or administer financial assistance covered under this proposed waiver include the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA); Federal Highway Administration (FHWA); Federal Transit Administration (FTA); and the Maritime Administration (MARAD).

<sup>2</sup> In this notice, references to "Buy America" include domestic preference laws called "Buy American" that apply to DOT financial assistance programs.

<sup>3</sup> For example, section 409 of the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2022 states that "no funds appropriated pursuant to this Act may be expended by an entity unless the entity agrees that in expending the assistance the entity will comply