

in the national interest. I have ordered that Public Notice of these determinations be published in the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Reed Liriano, Program Coordinator, Office of the Legal Adviser, U.S. Department of State (telephone: 202–632–6471; email: section2459@state.gov). The mailing address is U.S. Department of State, L/PPD, 2200 C Street NW, (SA–5), Suite 5H03, Washington, DC 20522–0505.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The foregoing determinations were made pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Act of October 19, 1965 (79 Stat. 985; 22 U.S.C. 2459), Executive Order 12047 of March 27, 1978, the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (112 Stat. 2681, *et seq.*; 22 U.S.C. 6501 note, *et seq.*), Delegation of Authority No. 234 of October 1, 1999, Delegation of Authority No. 236–3 of August 28, 2000, and Delegation of Authority No. 523 of December 22, 2021.

Nicole L. Elkon,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Professional and Cultural Exchanges, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 2024–00064 Filed 1–4–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710–05–P

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

[Docket No. FD 36750]

Empire River Rail LLC—Operation Exemption—in Brooke County, W. Va.

Empire River Rail LLC (ERRA), a non-carrier controlled by Empire Diversified Energy, Inc. (Empire), has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.31 to assume common carrier operations over roughly 0.464 miles of railroad trackage located along the Ohio River in Brooke County, W. Va. (the Line.) The Line connects to Norfolk Southern Railway Company's Wells Industrial Track at approximately NSR milepost 3.6 and extends northward. The Line itself has no mileposts.

According to the verified notice, the Line is part of a logistics facility that boasts barge, warehousing, truck, transloading, and railroad service capabilities owned by Empire Trimodal Terminal LLC d/b/a Port of West Virginia (Port of West Virginia),¹ located in Follansbee, W. Va. The notice states that the Line currently is not a Board-regulated line of railroad but that the

Port of West Virginia has chosen to arrange for the commencement of common carrier operations and has negotiated an operating agreement with ERRA that extends to ERRA the exclusive right to conduct common carrier service.

ERRA certifies that its projected annual revenue is not expected to exceed \$5 million, and will not result in the creation of a Class II or Class I rail carrier. ERRA further certifies that it will not be contractually limited in its ability to interchange traffic with any third-party connecting carrier.

The earliest this transaction may be consummated is January 21, 2024, 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 for stay must be filed no later than January 12, 2024 (at least seven days before the exemption becomes effective).

All pleadings, referring to Docket No. FD 36750, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board either via e-filing on the Board's website or in writing addressed to 395 E Street SW, Washington, DC 20423–0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on ERRA's representative, Robert A. Wimbish, Fletcher & Sippel LLC, 29 North Wacker Drive, Suite 800, Chicago, IL 60606–3208.

According to ERRA, 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).

Board decisions and notices are available at www.stb.gov.

Decided: January 2, 2024.

By the Board, Mai T. Dinh, Director, Office of Proceedings.

Jeffrey Herzig,
Clearance Clerk.

[FR Doc. 2024–00046 Filed 1–4–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket No. FRA–2023–0002–N–36]

Proposed Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request

In notice document 2023–28382 beginning on page 89017 in the issue of Tuesday, December 26, 2023, make the following correction:

On page 89017, in the third column, in the second line “February 9, 2024” should read “February 26, 2024”.

[FR Doc. C1–2023–28382 Filed 1–4–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 1505–01–D

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Transit Administration

[Docket FTA–2024–0001]

Notice of Establishment of Emergency Relief Docket for Calendar Year 2024

AGENCY: Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: By this notice, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is establishing an Emergency Relief Docket for calendar year 2024, so grantees and subgrantees affected by a national or regional emergency or disaster may request temporary relief from FTA administrative and statutory requirements.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bonnie L. Graves, Attorney-Advisor, Office of Chief Counsel, Federal Transit Administration, phone: (202) 366–0944, or email, Bonnie.Graves@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to 49 CFR 601.42, FTA is establishing the Emergency Relief Docket for calendar year 2024. In the case of a national or regional emergency or disaster, or in anticipation of such an event, when FTA requirements impede a grantee or subgrantee's ability to respond to the emergency or disaster, a grantee or subgrantee may submit a request for relief from specific FTA requirements.

If FTA determines that a national or regional emergency or disaster has occurred, or in anticipation of such an event, FTA will place a message on its web page (<https://www.transit.dot.gov>) indicating the Emergency Relief Docket has been opened and including the docket number.

All petitions for relief from FTA administrative or statutory requirements

¹ The notice states that like ERRA, the Port of West Virginia is a holding of Empire.

must be posted in the docket in order to receive consideration by FTA. The docket is publicly available and can be accessed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, via the internet at <https://www.regulations.gov/>. Any grantee or subgrantee submitting petitions for relief or comments to the docket must include the agency name (Federal Transit Administration) and docket number FTA-2024-0001.

Interested parties may consult 49 CFR part 601, subpart D for information on FTA's emergency procedures for public transportation systems. FTA strongly encourages grantees and subgrantees to contact their FTA regional office and notify FTA of the intent to submit a petition to the docket.

A grantee or subgrantee seeking relief has three avenues for submitting a petition. First, a grantee or subgrantee may submit a petition for waiver of FTA requirements to <https://www.regulations.gov/>, for posting in the docket (FTA-2024-0001). Alternatively, a grantee or subgrantee may submit a petition in duplicate (two copies) to the FTA Administrator, via U.S. mail or hand delivery to Federal Transit Administration, 1200 New Jersey Ave. SE, Washington, DC 20590; via fax to (202) 366-3472; or via email to Bonnie.Graves@dot.gov; or via U.S. mail or hand delivery to the DOT Docket Management Facility, 1200 New Jersey Ave. SE, Room W12-140, Washington, DC 20590. Thirdly, in the event that a grantee or subgrantee needs to request immediate relief and does not have access to electronic means to request that relief, the grantee or subgrantee may contact any FTA regional office or FTA headquarters and request that FTA staff submit the petition on its behalf.

Federal public transportation law at 49 U.S.C. 5324(d) provides that a grant awarded under section 5324, or under 49 U.S.C. 5307 or 49 U.S.C. 5311, that is made to address an emergency shall be subject to the terms and conditions the Secretary determines are necessary. This language allows FTA to waive certain statutory, as well as administrative, requirements.

An FTA grantee or subgrantee receiving financial assistance under 49 U.S.C. 5324, 5307, or 5311 that is affected by a national or regional emergency or disaster may request a waiver of provisions of chapter 53 of title 49 of the United States Code in connection with such financial assistance, when a grantee or subgrantee

demonstrates that the requirement(s) will limit a grantee's or subgrantee's ability to respond to a national or regional emergency or disaster.

Pursuant to 49 CFR 601.42, a grantee or subgrantee must include certain information when requesting a waiver of statutory or administrative requirements. A petition for relief shall:

(a) Include the agency name (Federal Transit Administration) and docket number FTA-2024-0001;

(b) Identify the grantee or subgrantee and its geographic location;

(c) Identify the section of Chapter 53 of Title 49 of the United States Code, or the portion of an FTA policy statement, circular, guidance document or rule, from which the grantee or subgrantee seeks relief;

(d) Specifically address how a requirement in Chapter 53 of Title 49 of the United States Code, or an FTA requirement in a policy statement, circular, agency guidance or rule, will limit a grantee's or subgrantee's ability to respond to a national or regional emergency or disaster; and

(e) Specify if the petition for relief is one-time or ongoing, and if ongoing identify the time period for which the relief is requested. The time period may not exceed three months; however, additional time may be requested through a second petition for relief.

Pursuant to 49 CFR 601.46, a petition for relief from administrative requirements will be conditionally granted for a period of three (3) business days from the date it is submitted to the Emergency Relief Docket. FTA will review the petition after the expiration of the three business days and review any comments submitted regarding the petition. FTA may contact the grantee or subgrantee that submitted the request for relief, or any party that submits comments to the docket, to obtain more information prior to making a decision. FTA shall then post a decision to the Emergency Relief Docket. FTA's decision will be based on whether the petition meets the criteria for use of these emergency procedures, the substance of the request, and any comments submitted regarding the petition. If FTA does not respond to the request for relief to the docket within three business days, the grantee or subgrantee may assume its petition is granted for a period not to exceed three months until and unless FTA states otherwise.

A petition for relief from statutory requirements will not be conditionally granted and requires a written decision from the FTA Administrator. Further, grantees seeking a waiver from Buy America requirements must follow the procedures in 49 CFR 661.7 and 661.9. Buy America waivers will not be granted through the Emergency Relief Docket.

An FTA decision, either granting or denying a petition, shall be posted in the Emergency Relief Docket and shall reference the document number of the petition to which it relates. FTA reserves the right to reconsider any decision made pursuant to these emergency procedures based upon its own initiative, based upon information or comments received subsequent to the three business day comment period, or at the request of a grantee or subgrantee upon denial of a request for relief. FTA shall notify the grantee or subgrantee if FTA plans to reconsider a decision.

Pursuant to FTA's Charter Rule at 49 CFR 604.2(f), grantees and subgrantees may assist with evacuations or other movement of people that might otherwise be considered charter transportation when that transportation is in response to an emergency declared by the President, governor or mayor, or in an emergency requiring immediate action prior to a formal declaration, even if a formal declaration of an emergency is not eventually made by the President, governor or mayor. Therefore, a request for relief is not necessary in order to provide this service. However, if the emergency lasts more than 45 calendar days and the grantee will continue to provide service that would otherwise be considered charter service, the grantee or subgrantee shall follow the procedures set out in this notice.

The contents of this document do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies. Grantees and subgrantees should refer to FTA's regulations, including 49 CFR part 601, for requirements for submitting a request for emergency relief.

Nuria I. Fernandez,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 2024-00026 Filed 1-4-24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-57-P