

Understanding and waiver of certain regulatory requirements.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the requirements of the Exchange Visitor Program regulations, the Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), U.S. Department of State, has waived certain regulatory provisions to establish an exchange of German principals to secondary schools overseen and financed by the government of the Federal Republic of Germany within the United States.

DATES: This action was effective on November 15, 2023.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rebecca Pasini, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Private Sector Exchange at 2200 C Street NW, SA-5, 5th Floor, Washington, DC 20522 or via email at JExchanges@state.gov or by telephone at (202) 826-4364.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The arrangement between the United States and the Federal Republic of Germany, establishing an exchange of German principals, fosters long-term international cooperation with U.S. communities across the United States. German exchange principals, through their leadership, promote an intercultural environment and strong bonds that last through their students' years at school, university, and beyond. The principals are instrumental in creating a global network of well-connected German and American alumni.

This exchange has been established in accordance with the existing Exchange Visitor Program regulations (22 CFR part 62), including the regulations applying to the Specialist category (22 CFR 62.26). These exchange visitors are experts in a field with specialized knowledge or skills. Program participants are required to be German citizens, hold a valid German passport, and have teaching certification for the secondary level or an advanced degree equivalent to a Master's degree in school administration or a similar field. Program participants are selected by the Federal German Foreign Office and its subordinate authority, the Central Agency for Schools Abroad. Participants are placed as principals in German schools in the United States that are recognized and overseen by the Federal Foreign Office.

Consistent with the arrangement, the Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs waives certain provisions set forth in 22 CFR 62.26. Regulations at 22 CFR 62.26(i) provide that specialists shall be authorized to participate in the Exchange Visitor

Program for the length of time necessary to complete the program, which shall not exceed one year. Regulations at 22 CFR 62.26(d)(3) establish that a foreign national is eligible to participate in an exchange visitor program as a specialist if that individual does not fill a permanent or long-term position of employment while in the United States. Through the arrangement with the Federal Republic of Germany, the United States supports the purposes of the Fulbright-Hayes Act by facilitating administrative support for German schools in the United States and recognizing that international schools are an important way to allow the possibility of young people to be educated in a unique multicultural environment. The arrangement allows German principals to promote intercultural exchange throughout their program, which is permitted to be three years, subject to the terms of the principal's visa.

Subject to the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), participants may be eligible for one-time repeat participation in the program upon the exchange visitor's valid application and after meeting any other applicable requirements. Although the principal position filled by the participant may remain a long-term one for the school, varying individual principals, including program participants, may serve in that role. Accordingly, the Department waives subsections (d)(3) and (i) of 22 CFR 62.26 with respect to this program.

Lee A. Satterfield,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice: 12333]

Notice of Public Meeting in Preparation for International Maritime Organization Tenth Session of the Sub-Committee on Ship Systems and Equipment (SSE) Meeting

The Department of State will conduct a public meeting at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, via teleconference. The primary purpose of the meeting is to prepare for the 10th session of the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) Sub-committee on Ship Systems and Equipment (SSE 10) to be held at IMO Headquarters in London, United Kingdom from Monday, March 4 to Friday, March 8, 2024.

Members of the public may participate up to the capacity of the

teleconference phone line, which can handle 500 participants, and the teleconference line will be provided to those who RSVP. To RSVP, participants should contact the meeting coordinator, LT Jeffrey Bors by email at Jeffrey.S.Bors@uscg.mil. LT Bors will provide access information for virtual attendance.

The agenda items to be considered at SSE 10 include:

- Adoption of the agenda
- Decisions of other IMO bodies
- New requirements for ventilation of survival craft
- Development of design and prototype test requirements for the arrangements used in the operational testing of free-fall lifeboat release systems without launching the lifeboat
- Revision of SOLAS chapter III and the LSA Code
- Amendments to SOLAS chapter III and chapter IV of the LSA Code to require the carriage of self-righting or canopied reversible liferafts for new ships
- Development of amendments to paragraph 8.3.5 and annex 1 of the 1994 and 2000 HSC Codes
- Revision of the 2010 FTP Code to allow for new fire protection systems and materials
- Revision of the provisions for helicopter facilities in SOLAS and the MODU Code
- Development of amendments to SOLAS chapter II-2 and the FSS Code concerning detection and control of fires in cargo holds and on the cargo deck of containerships
- Validated model training courses
- Unified interpretation of provisions of IMO safety, security and environment-related conventions
- Development of provisions to consider prohibiting the use of fire-fighting foams containing fluorinated substances, in addition to PFOS, for fire-fighting on board ships
- Comprehensive review of the Requirements for maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear (resolution MSC.402(96)) to address challenges with their implementation
- Amendments to the LSA Code for thermal performance of immersion suits
- Evaluation of adequacy of fire protection, detection and extinction arrangements in vehicle, special category and ro-ro spaces in order to reduce the fire risk of ships carrying new energy vehicles
- Biennial status report and provisional agenda for SSE 11

- Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for 2025
- Any other business
- Report to the Maritime Safety Committee

Please note: The IMO may, on short notice, adjust the SSE 10 agenda to accommodate the constraints associated with the meeting format. Any changes to the agenda will be reported to those who RSVP.

Those who plan to participate should contact the meeting coordinator, LT Jeffrey Bors, by email at jeffrey.s.bors@uscg.mil by February 23, 2024. Additional information regarding this and other IMO public meetings may be found at: <https://www.dco.uscg.mil/IMO>.

(Authority: 22 U.S.C. 2656 and 5 U.S.C. 552)

Leslie W. Hunt,

Coast Guard Liaison Officer, Office of Ocean and Polar Affairs, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 2024–03387 Filed 2–16–24; 8:45 am]

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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

[Docket No. EP 558 (Sub-No. 27)]

Railroad Cost of Capital—2023

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Board is instituting a proceeding to determine the railroad industry's cost of capital for 2023. The decision solicits comments on the following issues: the railroads' 2023 current cost of debt capital, the railroads' 2023 current cost of preferred equity capital (if any), the railroads' 2023 cost of common equity capital, and the 2023 capital structure mix of the railroad industry on a market value basis.

DATES: Notices of intent to participate are due by April 2, 2024. Statements of the railroads are due by April 23, 2024. Statements of other interested persons are due by May 14, 2024. Rebuttal statements by the railroads are due by June 4, 2024.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be filed with the Board via e-filing on the Board's website.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Pedro Ramirez at (202) 245–0333. If you require an accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act, please call (202) 245–0245.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The decision in this proceeding is posted at www.stb.gov.

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 10704(a).

Decided: February 13, 2024.

By the Board, Board Members Fuchs, Hedlund, Oberman, Primus, and Schultz.

Stefan Rice,

Clearance Clerk.

[FR Doc. 2024–03374 Filed 2–16–24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Notice of Final Federal Agency Action on Proposed Interchange in Georgia, Interstate 285 (I–285) at Interstate 20 (I–20) Reconstruction Project, Cobb, Douglas, and Fulton Counties, Georgia

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: notice of limitations on claims for judicial review of action by FHWA and other Federal agencies.

SUMMARY: This notice announces actions taken by FHWA and other Federal agencies that are final. This final agency action relates to a proposed interchange reconstruction and widening project, the I–285 at I–20 Interchange Reconstruction Project. Along I–20, the proposed project begins at the Thornton Road interchange eastbound I–20 on-ramp and ends at the Hamilton E. Holmes interchange for a total length of approximately 6.5-miles. Along I–285, the proposed project begins just south of the Martin Luther King (MLK) Jr. Drive interchange and extends north to the Donald Lee (DL) Hollowell Parkway interchange for a total length of approximately 2.4-miles. The FHWA's Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) provides details on the Selected Alternative for the proposed interchange and will be used by Federal Agencies in subsequent proceedings, including decisions whether to grant licenses, permits, and approvals for the highway project.

DATES: By this notice, FHWA is advising the public of the final agency actions subject to 23 U.S.C. 139(j)(1). A claim seeking judicial review of the Federal agency actions on the highway project will be barred unless the claim is filed on or before July 19, 2024. If the Federal law that authorizes judicial review of a claim provides a time period of less than 150 days for filing such claim, then that shorter time period still applies.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For FHWA: Ms. Sabrina David, Division Administrator, Georgia Division, Federal Highway Administration, 75 Ted Turner Drive, Suite 1000, Atlanta, Georgia 30303; telephone (404) 562–

3630; email: Sabrina.David@dot.gov.

The FHWA's normal business hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (eastern time) Monday through Friday. For Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT): Mr. Russell McMurray, Commissioner, Georgia Department of Transportation, 600 West Peachtree Street, 22nd Floor, Atlanta, Georgia 30308; telephone (404) 631–1990; email: RMcMurray@dot.ga.gov. The GDOT's normal business hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (eastern time) Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given that FHWA has taken a final agency action by issuing a FONSI for the following new highway project in the State of Georgia:

The I–285 at I–20 Interchange Reconstruction Project located in Cobb, Douglas, and Fulton Counties, Georgia. The Selected Alternative will reconstruct the interchange to remove left hand exits and improve design speed, and also includes modification and/or replacement of existing bridges and ramps. An I–20 westbound collector-distributor (CD) system would be constructed from the interchange to Fulton Industrial Boulevard. Along I–20, the proposed project begins at the Thornton Road interchange eastbound I–20 on-ramp/acceleration lane (which is located at approximately the Factory Shoals Road overpass) and ends at the Hamilton E. Holmes interchange (approximate 6.5-mile length). Along I–285, the proposed project begins just south of the Martin Luther King (MLK) Jr. Drive interchange and extends north to the Donald Lee (DL) Hollowell Parkway interchange (approximate 2.4-mile length). The purpose of the project is listed below:

- Improve traffic flow within the I–285/I–20 West Interchange.
- Improve operations and safety along approximately 6.5 miles of I–20, from Factory Shoals Road to Hamilton E. Holmes Drive, and approximately 2.4 miles of I–285 from just south of the MLK Jr. Drive interchange to the DL Hollowell Parkway interchange.
- Accelerate project delivery through the Major Mobility Investment Program, which is advancing projects across the state to create additional capacity, improve freight movement, provide transportation improvements and efficiencies, enhance safety, and decrease travel times.

The FHWA's action, related actions by other Federal Agencies, and the laws under which such actions were taken, are described in the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the project, approved on November 8, 2022, the FONSI issued on February 14, 2024, and