

remains closed, thus preventing the United States from providing routine diplomatic protection or consular assistance to Americans who may travel to Libya.

In light of these events and circumstances, I have determined that Libya continues to be an area “* * * where there is imminent danger to the public health or physical safety of United States travellers” within the meaning of 22 U.S.C. 211a and 22 CFR 51.73(a)(3).

Accordingly, all United States passports shall remain invalid for travel to, in, or through Libya unless specifically validated for such travel under the authority of the Secretary of State.

The Public Notice shall be effective upon publication in the **Federal Register** and shall expire at midnight November 24, 2003, unless extended or sooner revoked by Public Notice.

Dated: November 22, 2002.

Colin L. Powell,

Secretary of State, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 02-30450 Filed 11-26-02; 8:45 pm]

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Request for Comments Concerning Compliance With Telecommunications Trade Agreements

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice of request for public comment and reply comment.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 1377 of the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988 (19 U.S.C. 3106) (“section 1377”), the Office of the United States Trade Representative (“USTR”) is reviewing, and requests comments on: The operation and effectiveness of and the implementation of and compliance with the World Trade Organization (“WTO”) Basic Telecommunications Agreement; other WTO agreements affecting market opportunities for telecommunications products and services of the United States; the telecommunications provisions of the North American Free Trade Agreement (“NAFTA”); and, other telecommunications trade agreements with the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (“APEC”) members, the European Union (“EU”), the Inter-American Telecommunications Commission (“CITEL”), Japan, Korea, Mexico and Taiwan. The USTR will conclude the review on March 31, 2003.

DATES: Comments are due by noon on January 3, 2003, and Reply Comments are due by noon on January 24, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be submitted to Rhonda Schnare, Office of General Counsel, Attn: Section 1377 Comments, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20508. As explained below, in order to ensure the most timely and expeditious receipt and consideration of comments and reply comments, USTR has arranged to accept submissions in electronic format (e-mail). Comments should be submitted electronically to fr0056@ustr.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kenneth Schagrin, Office of Industry and Telecommunications (202) 395-5663; or Rhonda Schnare, Office of the General Counsel (202) 395-3582.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 1377 requires the USTR to review annually the operation and effectiveness of all U.S. trade agreements regarding telecommunications products and services of the United States that are in force with respect to the United States. The purpose of the review is to determine whether any act, policy, or practice of a country that has entered into a telecommunications trade agreement with the United States is inconsistent with the terms of such agreement, or otherwise denies to U.S. firms, within the context of the terms of such agreements, mutually advantageous market opportunities. For the current review, the USTR seeks comments on:

(1) Whether any WTO member is acting in a manner that is inconsistent with its commitments under the WTO Basic Telecommunications Agreement or with other WTO obligations, *e.g.*, the WTO General Agreement on Trade in Services (“GATS”), including the Annex on Telecommunications and the Reference Paper on Pro-Competitive Regulatory Principles, that affect market opportunities for U.S. telecommunications products and services;

(2) Whether Canada or Mexico has failed to comply with their telecommunications commitments under NAFTA;

(3) Whether APEC or CITEL members, the EU, Japan, Korea, Mexico or Taiwan have failed to comply with their commitments under additional telecommunications agreements with the United States.¹

¹ Japan: The 1999 Nippon Telegraph and Telephone (NTT) agreement; the 1994 U.S.-Japan Public Sector Procurement Agreement on Telecommunications Products and Services; and, additional telecommunications trade agreements

(4) Whether there remains outstanding issues from previous Section 1377 reviews on those countries or issues previously cited. Last year’s review concluded that it would focus attention on the following practices as a matter of priority: (1) Mobile wireless termination rates in the European Union (EU) Member States and Japan, (2) provisioning and pricing of leased telecom lines in EU Member States and Switzerland, and (3) interconnection and other competitive concerns in Mexico. USTR continues to closely monitor other telecommunications trade practices identified in the following countries: Australia, Brazil, China, Colombia, India, Japan, Peru, and South Africa.

See 63 FR 1140 (January 8, 1998) for further information concerning the agreements listed below and USTR Press Release 02-XX available at <http://www.ustr.gov>, for the results of the 2001-2002 section 1377 review concerning these agreements.

Public Comment and Reply Comment: Requirements for Submissions

USTR requests comments on: The operation and effectiveness of—including implementation of and compliance with—the WTO Basic Telecommunications Agreement; other WTO agreements affecting market opportunities for telecommunications products and services of the United States; the NAFTA; and other telecommunications trade agreements with APEC members, CITEL members,

with Japan, including a series of agreements on: International value-added network services (IVANS) (1990-91); open government procurement of all satellites, except for government research and development satellites (1990); network channel terminating equipment (NCTE) (1990); and cellular and third-party radio systems (1989) and cellular radio systems (1994).

Korea: Agreements regarding protection of intellectual property rights (“IPR”) (1996), type approval of telecommunications equipment (1992/1996), transparent standard-setting processes, (1992/1997) and non-discriminatory access to Korea Telecommunications’ procurement of telecommunications products (1992/1996).

Mexico: The 1997 understanding regarding test data acceptance agreements between product safety testing laboratories.

Mutual Recognition Agreements For Conformity Assessment of Telecommunications Equipment: Mutual Recognition Agreements (“MRAs”) regarding telecommunications equipment trade with the European Union (1997), APEC countries (1998), and CITEL countries (1999).

Taiwan: The February 1998 agreement on interconnection pricing for provision of wireless services in Taiwan; and, the July 1996 agreement on the licensing and provision of wireless services through the establishment of a competitive, transparent and fair wireless market in Taiwan. USTR also seeks comments on telecommunications commitments made by Taiwan to the United States in October 1999 and February 1998 as part of its accession to the WTO.

the EU, Japan, Korea, Mexico and Taiwan. All comments must be in English, identify on the first page of the comments the telecommunications trade agreement(s) discussed therein, be addressed to Gloria Blue, Executive Secretary, TPSC, Attn: Section 1377 Comments, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, and be submitted in 15 copies by noon on January 3, 2003. Reply Comments will also require 15 copies by noon on January 24, 2003.

In order to ensure the most timely and expeditious receipt and consideration of comments and reply comments, USTR has arranged to accept submissions in electronic format (e-mail). Comments should be submitted electronically to fr0056@ustr.gov. An automatic reply confirming receipt of e-mail submission will be sent. E-mail submissions in Microsoft Word or Corel WordPerfect are preferred. If a word processing application other than those two is used, please include in your submission the specific application used. For any document containing business confidential information submitted electronically, the file name of the business confidential version should begin with the characters "BC", and the file name of the public version should begin with the character "P". The "BC" and "P" should be followed by the name of the person or entity submitting the comments or reply comments. Interested persons who make submissions electronically should not provide separate cover letters; rather, information that might appear in a cover letter should be included in the submission itself. Similarly, to the extent possible, any attachments to the submission should be included in the same file as the submission itself, and not as separate files.

We strongly urge people to avail themselves of the electronic filing, if at all possible. If an e-mail submission is impossible, 15 copies may be submitted in accordance with the procedures listed below, and if not filed electronically must be delivered via private commercial courier, and arrangements must be made with Ms. Blue prior to delivery for their receipt. Ms. Blue should be contacted at (202) 395-3475.

All non-confidential comments and reply comments will be placed on the USTR website, <http://www.ustr.gov> and in the USTR Reading Room for inspection shortly after the filing deadline, except business confidential information exempt from public inspection in accordance with 15 CFR 2003.6. Confidential information submitted in accordance with 15 CFR 2003.6, must be clearly marked

"BUSINESS CONFIDENTIAL" in a contrasting color ink at the top of each page on each of 15 copies, and must be accompanied by 15 copies of a nonconfidential summary of the confidential information. The nonconfidential summary will be placed in the USTR Public Reading Room. Since comments and reply comments will be posted on USTR's website, those persons not availing themselves of electronic filing must submit their 15 copies with a diskette. USTR will post the non-confidential version of the filing, therefore the non-confidential version must be clearly marked on the diskette.

An appointment to review the comments may be made by calling the USTR Reading Room at (202) 395-6186. The USTR Reading Room is open to the public from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon, and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, and is located in Room 3 of 1724 F Street, NW.

Dated: November 25, 2002.

Peter B. Davidson,

General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 02-30311 Filed 11-27-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Environmental Impact Statement: Rutland County, Vermont

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that an environmental impact statement will be prepared for the proposed relocation of the Rutland rail switching yard and related improvements.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rob Sikora, Environmental Program Manager, Federal Highway Administration, P.O. Box 568, Montpelier, Vermont 05601. Telephone: 802-828-4433.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FHWA, in cooperation with the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) and the Rutland Redevelopment Authority (RRA), will prepared an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed relocation of the Rutland rail switching yard and related improvements in Rutland, Vermont. Relocation of the existing rail yard is considered necessary due to changes to both the City of Rutland and the railroad. The

existing rail yard site is in downtown Rutland. Industry in Rutland has changed and the rail yard results in frequent noise, traffic delay and congestion, safety hazards to pedestrians and vehicles, and occupies land that could be redeveloped.

Other improvements related to the proposed rail yard relocation are the construction of a new access road from Route 4 to downtown Rutland paralleling the rail line corridor, a connector track at Howe Center between the Green Mountain Railroad Corporation (GMRC) and the switching yard and a connector track in Center Rutland, Town of Rutland, between the Clarendon and Pittsford Railroad (CLP) and Vermont Railway (VTR).

Alternatives under consideration include (1) taking no action; (2) improvement to the existing rail yard; and (3) alternative relocation sites with associated connector tracks and downtown access roads.

Letters describing the proposed action and soliciting comments will be sent to appropriate Federal, State and local agencies, and to private organizations and citizens who have previously expressed or are known to have interest in this proposal. A series of public meetings will be held in Rutland. In addition, a public hearing will be held. Public notice will be given of the time and place of the meetings and hearing. The draft EIS will be available for public and agency review and comment prior to the public hearing. No formal scoping meeting is planned at this time.

To ensure that a full range of issues related to this proposed action are addressed and all significant issues identified, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments or questions concerning this proposed action and the EIS should be directed to FHWA at the address provided above.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation on Federal programs and activities apply to this program.)

Issued on: November 20, 2002.

Kenneth R. Sikora, Jr.,

Environmental Program Manager, Montpelier, Vermont.

[FR Doc. 02-30201 Filed 11-27-02; 8:45 am]

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