

State or Territory	Award
Arizona	100,000
Arkansas	100,000
California	439,035
Colorado	100,000
Connecticut	100,000
Delaware	100,000
Florida	245,288
Georgia	130,301
Hawaii	100,000
Idaho	100,000
Illinois	167,305
Indiana	100,000
Iowa	100,000
Kansas	100,000
Kentucky	115,761
Louisiana	100,000
Maine	100,000
Maryland	100,000
Massachusetts	104,768
Michigan	163,605
Minnesota	100,000
Mississippi	100,000
Missouri	100,000
Montana	100,000
Nebraska	100,000
Nevada	100,000
New Hampshire	100,000
New Jersey	100,000
New Mexico	100,000
New York	319,006
North Carolina	146,570
North Dakota	100,000
Ohio	177,910
Oklahoma	100,000
Oregon	100,000
Pennsylvania	203,256
Rhode Island	100,000
South Carolina	100,000
South Dakota	100,000
Tennessee	117,012
Texas	237,941
Utah	100,000
Vermont	100,000
Virginia	100,000
Washington	100,000
West Virginia	100,000
Wisconsin	100,000
Wyoming	100,000
District of Columbia	100,000
Puerto Rico	100,000
American Samoa	50,000
Guam	50,000
Northern Mariana Islands	50,000
Virgin Islands	50,000
Native American Program	50,000

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jennifer DeBoy, 410-965-8658.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Request for Applications was originally published as Program Announcement No. SSA-OESP-04-1. The authority for these grants is found in section 1150 of the Social Security Act, as added by section 122 of Public Law 106-170 (the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999), and amended by sections 404 and 477 of Public Law 108-203. This section, State Grants for Work Incentives Assistance to Disabled Beneficiaries, authorized the Commissioner to make payments only

to the designated Protection and Advocacy Systems established under title I of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (subsequently replaced by title I of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000, Public Law 106-402). Formula-based award amounts are derived from the Social Security Administration's disability population statistics for each State and Territory.

Dated: December 21, 2004.

Martin H. Gerry,

Deputy Commissioner for Disability and Income Security Programs.

[FR Doc. 04-28471 Filed 12-28-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4191-02-P

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION**Benefits Planning, Assistance and Outreach (BPAO) Meeting**

AGENCY: Social Security Administration (SSA).

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

DATES: January 13, 2005, 12 p.m.-4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: International Trade Center (ITC) Bldg., Conference Room 839, 500 E Street, SW., Washington, DC 20254.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Type of meeting: This is an informational meeting open to all interested parties. Interested parties are invited to participate by coming to the address listed above or by teleconferencing. Public comment will be taken.

Purpose: SSA announces a meeting to solicit public input regarding the reauthorization of the Benefits Planning, Assistance and Outreach (BPAO) Program. Section 1149(d) of the Social Security Act (as added by section 121 of the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act (TWWIAA) of 1999, Public Law (Pub. L.) 106-170) required SSA to establish community based benefits planning, assistance and outreach projects in every State, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Section 407 of the Social Security Protection Act (Pub. L. 108-203) recently extended the authorization of these programs.

SSA will solicit public input during this meeting regarding the new BPAO Request for Application (RFA) process, including what services should be provided by projects in support of beneficiaries, with disabilities, in their return to work efforts and what are the preferred characteristics of the

organizations providing such services. Interested parties may also submit input in writing at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/work>.

Since seating may be limited, persons interested in providing comments at the meeting should contact SSA Project Officer, Odessa Doaty, via e mail at: Odessa.Doaty@ssa.gov or by calling: (410) 966-8333 prior to the meeting date.

The full agenda for the meeting will be posted on the Internet at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/work>, at least one week before the meeting, or can be received in advance electronically or by fax upon request. Teleconference call-in information will also be available at that time for interested parties who would like to participate through this venue.

Contact Information: Anyone requiring information regarding the meeting should contact Odessa Doaty, SSA Project Officer, at (410) 966-8333. Transcripts will be kept of the proceedings and will be available for public inspection at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/work> no later than thirty (30) days following the meeting.

If accommodations are needed, please contact Odessa Doaty no later than ten (10) business days prior to the meeting. Ms. Doaty may be contacted by:

- Mail address: Odessa Doaty, Social Security Administration, 6401 Security Blvd., Room 107 Altmeyer Bldg, Baltimore, MD 21235.
- Phone: (410) 966-8333.
- Fax : (410) 966-1278.
- E-mail: Odessa.Doaty@ssa.gov.

Dated: December 16, 2004.

Martin H. Gerry,

Deputy Commissioner for Disability and Income Security Programs.

[FR Doc. 04-28470 Filed 12-28-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4191-02-P

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE**United States-Israel Free Trade Area Implementation Act; Designation of Qualifying Industrial Zones**

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Under the United States-Israel Free Trade Area Implementation Act ("IFTA Act"), articles of qualifying industrial zones encompassing portions of Israel and Jordan or Israel and Egypt are eligible to receive duty-free treatment. Effective upon publication of this notice, the United States Trade Representative, pursuant to authority

delegated by the President, is designating the Greater Cairo zone, Alexandria zone, and Suez Canal zone as qualifying industrial zones under the IFTA Act.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Edmund Saums, Director for Middle East Affairs, (202) 395-4987, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20508.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to authority granted under section 9 of the United States-Israel Free Trade Area Implementation Act of 1985 ("IFTA Act"), as amended (19 U.S.C. 2112 note), Presidential Proclamation 6955 of November 13, 1996 (61 FR 58761) proclaimed certain tariff treatment for articles of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and qualifying industrial zones. In particular, the Presidential Proclamation modified general notes 3 and 8 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States: (a) To provide duty-free treatment to qualifying articles that are the product of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip or a qualifying industrial zone and are entered in accordance with the provisions of section 9 of the IFTA Act; (b) to provide that articles of Israel may be treated as though they were articles directly shipped from Israel for the purposes of the United States-Israel Free Trade Area Agreement ("the Agreement") even if shipped to the United States from the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, or a qualifying industrial zone, if the articles otherwise meet the requirements of the Agreement; and (c) to provide that the cost or value of materials produced in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, or a qualifying industrial zone may be included in the cost or value of materials produced in Israel under section 1(c)(i) of Annex 3 of the Agreement and that the direct costs of processing operations performed in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, or a qualifying industrial zone may be included in the direct costs of processing operations performed in Israel under section 1(c)(ii) of Annex 3 of the Agreement.

Section 9(e) of the IFTA Act defines a "qualifying industrial zone" as an area that "(1) encompasses portions of the territory of Israel and Jordan or Israel and Egypt; (2) has been designated by local authorities as an enclave where merchandise may enter without payment of duty or excise taxes; and (3) has been specified by the President as a qualifying industrial zone."

Presidential Proclamation 6955 delegated to the United States Trade Representative the authority to designate qualifying industrial zones.

The United States Trade Representative has previously designated qualifying industrial zones under Section 9 of the IFTA Act on March 13, 1998 (63 FR 12572), March 19, 1999 (64 FR 13623), October 15, 1999 (64 FR 56015), October 24, 2000 (65 FR 64472), December 12, 2000 (65 FR 77688), June 15, 2001 (66 FR 32660), and January 28, 2004 (69 FR 4199).

The governments of Israel and Egypt jointly requested in a letter submitted to the United States Trade Representative on December 7, 2004, the designation as qualifying industrial zones of areas comprising a Greater Cairo zone, Alexandria zone, and Suez Canal zone. The names and locations of the factories comprising these three zones are specified on maps and materials submitted by Egypt and Israel and on file with the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. Israel and Egypt have agreed that merchandise may enter, without payment of duty or excise taxes, areas under their respective customs control that comprise the Greater Cairo zone, Alexandria zone, and Suez Canal zone. In addition, Israel and Egypt have agreed to a "Protocol Between the Government of the State of Israel and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt On Qualifying Industrial Zones" that provides for the operation and administration of these zones.

Accordingly, the Greater Cairo zone, Alexandria zone, and Suez Canal zone meet the criteria under sections 9(e)(1) and (2) of the IFTA Act.

Therefore, pursuant to the authority delegated to me by Presidential Proclamation 6955, I hereby designate the areas occupied by the factories that comprise the Greater Cairo zone, Alexandria zone, and Suez Canal zone, as specified on maps and materials received from Egypt and Israel, as qualifying industrial zones under section 9 of the IFTA Act, effective upon the date of publication of this notice, applicable to articles shipped from these qualifying industrial zones after such date.

Dated: December 14, 2004.

Robert B. Zoellick,

United States Trade Representative.

[FR Doc. 04-28445 Filed 12-28-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3190-W5-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 34630]

**MRC Regional Railroad Authority—
Trackage Rights Exemption—Lines of
the State of South Dakota**

MRC Regional Railroad Authority (MRC), a noncarrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.31 to acquire from the State of South Dakota (the State)¹ overhead trackage rights over a line of railroad extending between milepost 654 near Mitchell, SD, and milepost 511.90 in Sioux City, IA, including such yard tracks, sidetracks, and connecting tracks (existing or to be constructed) as are reasonable: (a) To interchange railcars with The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF) and Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern Railroad Corporation at Mitchell; (b) to access the State-owned line extending westerly from Napa Junction, SD, to Platte, SD; and (c) to interchange railcars with BNSF, Union Pacific Railroad Company, and Canadian National Railway Company at Sioux City. MRC will also acquire from the State limited local trackage rights on the Mitchell-Sioux City Line: (i) to move loaded cars of corn, soybeans, and wheat originating at points on the line between Mitchell and Kadoka, SD,² and terminating at the Mitchell Elevator in Mitchell and the Beardsley Elevator in Beardsley, SD; and (ii) to move empty cars via the reverse route. The total distance of the trackage rights to be acquired is approximately 142.1 miles.

MRC certifies that its projected revenues as a result of the MRC-South Dakota transaction will not result in MRC becoming a Class I or Class II rail carrier, and further certifies that its projected revenues will not exceed \$5 million. The MRC-South Dakota transaction was scheduled to be consummated on or after December 17, 2004.

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 does not automatically stay the transaction.

¹ The trackage rights will be granted by the State acting by and through the South Dakota State Railroad Board and the South Dakota Department of Transportation, Office of Railroads.

² The previously abandoned Mitchell-Kadoka Line, which is now owned by the State, has been leased to MRC. And MRC, in turn, has subleased the Mitchell-Kadoka Line to Dakota Southern Railway Company (DSRC), which operates over the line.