

3. Requirements for Submissions

In order to facilitate prompt processing of submissions, USTR strongly urges and prefers electronic (e-mail) submissions in response to this notice.

Persons making submissions by e-mail should use the following subject line: "United States—Bahrain FTA Environmental Review" followed by "Written Comments." Documents should be submitted as either WordPerfect, MSWord, or text (.TXT) files. Supporting documentation submitted as spreadsheets are acceptable as Quattro Pro or Excel. 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 characters "P-". The "P-" or "BC-" should be followed by the name of the submitter. Persons who make submissions by e-mail should not provide separate cover letters; information that might appear in a cover letter should be included in the submission itself. 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.

Written comments submitted in response to this request will be placed in a file open to public inspection pursuant to 15 CFR 2003.5, except business confidential information exempt from public inspection in accordance with 15 CFR 2003.6. Business confidential information submitted in accordance with 15 CFR 2003.6 must be clearly marked "BUSINESS CONFIDENTIAL" at the top of each page, including any cover letter or cover page, and must be accompanied by a nonconfidential summary of the confidential information. All public documents and nonconfidential summaries shall be available for public inspection in the USTR Reading Room. The USTR Reading Room is open to the public, by appointment only, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. An appointment to review the file must be scheduled at least 48 hours in advance and may be made by calling (202) 395-6186.

USTR also welcomes and will take into account the public comments on Bahrain FTA environmental issues submitted in response to a previous notice—the **Federal Register** notice dated August 25, 2003 (68 FR 51062)—requesting comments from the public to assist USTR in formulating positions

and proposals with respect to all aspects of the negotiations, including environmental issues. These comments will also be made available for public inspection.

General information concerning the Office of the United States Trade Representative may be obtained by accessing its Internet Web site <http://www.ustr.gov>.

Carmen Suro-Bredie,

Chair, Trade Policy Staff Committee.

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Notice of Re-scheduled Public Hearing Concerning China's Compliance With WTO Commitments

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice of re-scheduled public hearing concerning China's compliance with its WTO commitments.

SUMMARY: The interagency Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) has re-scheduled the public hearing that was to be held to assist the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) in its preparation of its annual report to the Congress on China's compliance with the commitments that it made in connection with its accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO).

DATES: The public hearing concerning China's compliance with its WTO commitments will be held on Friday, October 3, 2003 in the Truman Room at the White House Conference Center, 726 Jackson Place NW., Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For procedural questions concerning participation in the public hearing, contact Gloria Blue, (202) 395-3475. All other questions should be directed to Terrence J. McCartin, Director of Monitoring and Enforcement for China, (202) 395-3900, or David L. Weller, Assistant General Counsel, (202) 395-3581.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On July 21, 2003, the TPSC published a Request for Comments and Notice of Public Hearing Concerning China's Compliance With WTO Commitments in the **Federal Register** (68 FR 43247). In that notice, the TPSC scheduled a public hearing for Thursday, September 18, 2003. The TPSC subsequently had to postpone the hearing because Federal Government offices were closed that day due to Hurricane Isabel.

The TPSC will hold the public hearing concerning China's compliance with its WTO commitments on Friday, October 3, 2003, beginning at 10 a.m., in the Truman Room at the White House Conference Center, which is located at 726 Jackson Place, NW., Washington, DC 20006.

Carmen Suro-Bredie,

Chairman, Trade Policy Staff Committee.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

Petition for Waiver of Compliance

In accordance with part 211 of Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), notice is hereby given that the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has received a request for a waiver of compliance with certain requirements of its safety standards. The individual petition is described below, including the party seeking relief, the regulatory provisions involved, the nature of the relief being requested, and the petitioner's arguments in favor of relief.

San Francisco Municipal Railway Department

[Waiver Petition Docket Number FRA-2003-15988]

San Francisco Municipal Railway Department (MUNI) located in San Francisco, California, seeks a permanent waiver of compliance from Title 49 of the CFR for operation of an extension of an existing light rail line at a "limited connection" with two existing Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) industry lead tracks. See *Statement of Agency Policy Concerning Jurisdiction Over the Safety of Railroad Passenger Operations and Waivers Related to Shared Use of the Tracks of the General Railroad System by Light Rail and Conventional Equipment*, 65 FR 42529 (July 10, 2000). See also *Joint Statement of Agency Policy Concerning Shared Use of the Tracks of the General Railroad System by Conventional Railroads and Light Rail Transit Systems*, 65 FR 42626 (July 10, 2000).

In regards to this, MUNI plans to construct its 5.4 mile double-track Third Street Light Rail Project, which is an extension of the City's existing 35 mile light rail system, crossing two existing single-track freight railroad (UPRR) industry lead tracks via at grade rail-crossings. MUNI is a light rail transit operation and except for these minor crossing connections, will not share