

applicable to consumer commodities, (5) Harmonized requirements for compressed gas cylinders, (6) Classification of individual substances, (7) Requirements for bulk and non-bulk packagings used to transport hazardous materials, (8) Requirements for the transport of Ammonium Nitrate Emulsions and (9) Hazard communication requirements including harmonized shipping paper requirements.

The public is invited to attend without prior notification.

Documents

Copies of documents for the UNCOE meeting may be obtained by downloading them from the United Nations Transport Division's web site at <http://www.unece.org/trans/main/dgdb/dgcomm/dgcomm.html>. Information concerning UN dangerous goods meetings including agendas can be downloaded at <http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/meetings.htm#ST/SG>. These sites may also be accessed through RSPA's Hazardous Materials Safety Homepage at <http://hazmat.dot.gov/intstandards.htm>. RSPA's site also provides information regarding the UNCOE and SCOE and related matters such as a summary of decisions taken at the 18th session of the UNSCOE, meeting dates and a summary of the primary topics which the UNCOE plans to address.

Issued in Washington, DC, on November 14, 2000.

Robert A. McGuire,

Associate Administrator for Hazardous Materials Safety.

[FR Doc. 00-29573 Filed 11-17-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-60-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33954]

Hollis & Eastern Railroad Company, a Delaware Corporation—Acquisition and Operation Exemption—Hollis & Eastern Railroad Company, an Oklahoma Corporation

Hollis & Eastern Railroad Company (Applicant), a noncarrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.31 to acquire and operate the railroad line of Hollis & Eastern Railroad Company (Target) between Duke, OK, at milepost 0, and the Wichita, Tillman & Jackson Ry. Co. line, at milepost 14,

located approximately 14 miles to the east.¹

The transaction was scheduled to be consummated on or about November 9, 2000. The earliest the transaction could be consummated was November 7, 2000, 7 days after the exemption was filed.

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*. Petitions to reopen the proceeding 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 transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 33954, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on Bryan Bishop, Esq., Locke Liddell & Sapp LLP, 2200 Ross Avenue, Suite 2200, Dallas, TX 75201.

Board decisions and notices are available on our website at "WWW.STB.DOT.GOV."

Decided: November 13, 2000.

By the Board, David M. Konschnik, Director, Office of Proceedings.

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-29651 Filed 11-17-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Grant Program for Research and Development in the Field of Transportation Statistics

AGENCY: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of request for grant applications.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Transportation Statistics supports its goal of advancing the field of transportation statistics through the Transportation Statistics Research Grants program. This notice solicits applications for projects that (1)

¹ Target, an Oklahoma corporation, is a 99.3%-owned subsidiary of Republic Gypsum Company. Applicant, a Delaware corporation, is a wholly owned subsidiary of Target. Target will, pursuant to Oklahoma and Delaware law, merge into Applicant with Applicant being the surviving corporation. Following the mergers, Applicant will be converted to a Delaware limited liability company. As a result, the state of incorporation of Target will be changed from Oklahoma to Delaware, and Target will be changed to a Delaware limited liability company.

support the development of the field of transportation statistics; and/or (2) involve research or development in transportation statistics. It outlines the purpose, goals, and general procedures for application and award. For FY 2001, BTS will make available up to \$500,000 in grant funds to eligible organizations.

DATES: For BTS to consider your application, we must receive it by January 19, 2000, at 5 P.M. Eastern Standard Time. Applications received after January 19, 2000, will be held for the next cycle, which is anticipated to be every six to twelve months, unless you request in writing that your application be returned.

ADDRESSES: You must send six copies of the application package to the BTS Grants Program, Room 3430, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Promod Chandhok, Office of Statistical Programs and Services, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, Room 3430, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590; phone (202) 366-2158; fax: (202) 366-3640; e-mail: promod.chandhok@bts.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background—Advancing the Discipline of Transportation Statistics

The purpose of this grant program is to provide financial assistance to eligible organizations to help advance the discipline of transportation statistics. These grants are authorized by section 5109 of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) (Pub. L. 105-178 (1998), codified at 49 U.S.C. 111(g)). BTS anticipates awarding up to \$500,000 per year in grants for projects that (1) support development of the field of transportation statistics; and/or (2) advance research or development in transportation statistics.

BTS is an operating administration within the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT). Its mission is to lead in developing transportation data and information of high quality, and to advance their effective use in public and private transportation decision-making. In accomplishing this mission, BTS works to improve six key attributes of transportation data and analysis—quality, comparability, completeness, timeliness, relevance, and utility.

Our ultimate goal is to make transportation better—to enhance safety, mobility, economic growth, the human and natural environment, and national security (the five strategic goals of the

Department of Transportation). BTS's role in this goal is to put together data and information that others need to make decisions concerning transportation. We collect data and compile, analyze, and publish statistics. Many others, both within and outside DOT, are involved in building this knowledge base and BTS could not do it alone.

While there are many excellent transportation data programs and many excellent statistics programs, few are devoted to the intersection of these two disciplines. Bringing a better understanding of statistics to transportation data will improve data quality, increase utility (e.g., by improving measures of travel), and reduce costs (e.g., by using techniques to make data collection, analysis, and dissemination more efficient). BTS wants to foster the transportation statistics discipline and increase its quality and usefulness to the transportation community. This grants program is one way BTS is working toward this goal.

II. Eligibility Requirements

What Organizations May Apply?

BTS invites applications from public and private non-profit institutions of higher education. We strongly encourage Minority Serving Institutions, which have been traditionally under represented in transportation statistics, to submit applications. If organizations partner on a project, the participants should submit a single application. You may submit more than one application as long as the applications are for separate and distinct projects.

What Projects Are Eligible for Funding?

Eligible projects must support the development of the field of transportation statistics and/or involve research or development in transportation statistics. Examples include, but are not limited to, research and development in the following areas:

- (1) Visualizing and mining transportation databases;
- (2) Aggregating and analyzing databases maintained by DOT agencies, especially where the research involves multiple modes of transportation;
- (3) Improving the quality and usability of federal transportation statistics;
- (4) Developing exposure measures (e.g., vehicle miles traveled) for use in risk analyses;
- (5) Improving the statistical use of geographic information systems to better understand and quantify travel behavior;

(6) Developing performance measures for the transportation system;

(7) Designing and analyzing transportation surveys;

(8) Improving data quality and data collection; and

(9) Enhancing or extending the National Transportation Library to better express or incorporate statistical analyses.

What Are the Cost Sharing Requirements?

For awards of \$100,000 or more, the recipient shall fund at least 50 percent of the project's total estimated funding requirement. The nonfederal match must come from sources other than the project sponsor, and must be cash contributions rather than in-kind contributions. In reviewing all applications, even those requesting less than \$100,000, the degree of cost-sharing will be considered, with more weight given to cash contributions than in-kind services.

III. Application Contents

For more information about sending your application, please refer to the **ADDRESSES** and **DATES** sections listed above. In order to be considered for funding under this program, your application package must include the following:

(1) A Project Narrative. This must not exceed seven letter-size pages, single-sided and double-spaced. Use at least 12-point type and one inch margins. In general, the information you provide should be in sufficient detail so BTS understands the proposed work and its anticipated benefits. It should also demonstrate that you have the necessary experience and resources to accomplish it. The narrative must identify the organization; how it meets the eligibility criteria; its experience and accomplishments in collecting, analyzing, and/or disseminating transportation data; and the qualifications of the principals proposed to conduct the activities. The narrative must also describe the proposed activity, including how you would accomplish it, a timeline listing major milestones associated with the project, and a list of specific products and/or services with the dates they will be delivered.

(2) An Application for Federal Assistance. Submit OMB SF-424 (Application for Federal Assistance), which is the official form required for all federal grants. It requests basic information about the grantee and the proposed project. Under Part 10 of this form, use 20.920 and Transportation Statistics Research Grants for the

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number and Title. Also submit OMB SF-424A (Budget Information—Nonconstruction Programs). You can download these forms from the OMB Internet site at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants>.

(3) An Evaluation Plan. Include a brief description of how you will evaluate and measure the success of the project, including the anticipated benefits and challenges in completing it. This can be part of the Project Narrative.

(4) Resumes. Include resumes of up to three key personnel who would be significantly involved in the project.

(5) Letters of Commitment. If your proposal includes the significant involvement of other eligible organizations, your application must include letters of commitment from them.

IV. Application Review Process and Selection Criteria

The Transportation Statistics Research Grants program uses a competitive process and applications will be evaluated based on the merit and relevance of the proposed project in relation to the other applications received. BTS anticipates making multiple awards based on this solicitation. While BTS will select the most meritorious proposals, we may choose to not award all available funds.

Upon receiving an application, BTS will conduct an initial review to determine if it meets the eligibility criteria and contains all of the items specified under the Application Contents section of this announcement. A BTS evaluation committee will then review each complete application from an eligible recipient using the evaluation criteria listed below (the order of criteria does not designate priority) and the BTS Director will select the final grants. The evaluation criteria are:

(1) How well does the proposal support BTS's strategic goals of improving the quality, comparability, completeness, timeliness, relevance, and utility of transportation data? How well does the proposal serve the broad transportation interests of the United States?

(2) How innovative is the proposed activity? To what extent is the work being accomplished elsewhere?

(3) How much experience has the applicant demonstrated in one or more of the following areas—collecting, analyzing, storing, or disseminating transportation data, particularly data collected or disseminated by BTS, and working with theoretical statistical issues concerning transportation data?

(4) Does the applicant have the professional qualifications and team members necessary for satisfactory performance of the proposed activity?

(5) How well does the technical approach and proposed costs reflect an understanding of the procedures necessary to complete the required tasks?

(6) To what degree does the proposal include cost-sharing? More weight will be given to proposals with cash contributions than in-kind services. For awards of \$100,000 or more, BTS requires cash contributions of 50 percent toward the project's total estimated funding requirement.

V. Amount of Funds Available and Period of Support

We anticipate that approximately \$500,000 per year will be designated to support grants, subject to the availability of appropriated funds. This estimate does not bind BTS to a specific number of offers or awards, nor to a specific amount of funding support for particular awards or awards in aggregate. It is anticipated that individual awards amounts, based upon demonstrated needs, will likely range from \$50,000 to \$200,000, though BTS has not established minimum or maximum funding levels.

Given the limited amount of funds available, applicants are strongly encouraged to seek other funding opportunities to supplement the federal funds. Preference will be given to applicants with cost sharing proposals from within or outside their organizations.

The period of time of awards will vary with the complexity of the project and it is possible that grants will be awarded for periods greater than one year.

VI. BTS Involvement

BTS involvement, if any, will vary by award. If you anticipate BTS involvement, you must note this in your project narrative and any support BTS provides will be specified in the award agreement. BTS will assign a liaison to serve as the primary contact regarding the grant.

VII. Terms and Conditions of Award

(1) Prior to award, each grantee will be required to complete additional government application forms, such as OMB SF-424B (Assurances—Nonconstruction Programs), and with certification requirements, such as 49 CFR part 20, Department of Transportation New Restrictions on Lobbying, and 49 CFR part 29, Department of Transportation

Government-Wide Debarment and Suspension (Non-Procurement).

(2) Each grantee shall submit quarterly progress reports, a draft final report, and a final report that reflects the BTS liaison's comments.

Thank you for your interest in our Transportation Statistics Research Grants program.

Ashish Sen,

Director.

[FR Doc. 00-29571 Filed 11-17-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-FE-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms

[Notice No. 908]

Availability of ATF Publication 5400.7 (Federal Explosives Law and Regulations—2000)

AGENCY: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), Department of the Treasury.

ACTION: General notice.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) is issuing this notice: (1) To announce the release of ATF Publication 5400.7 (09/00), "Federal Explosives Law and Regulations—2000" and (2) to make certain technical corrections to that publication. The purpose of this publication is to serve as a guide to Federal explosives laws, regulations, and related information.

ADDRESSES: ATF P 5400.7 (09/00), "Federal Explosives Law and Regulations—2000" is available at no cost upon request from the ATF Distribution Center, P.O. Box 5950, Springfield, Virginia 22150-5950. The publication may also be viewed at ATF's web site at: <http://www.atf.treas.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bill O'Brien, Public Safety Branch, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, 680 Techworld South Building, Washington, DC 20226 (202-927-7930).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) is pleased to announce the release of ATF Publication 5400.7 (09/00), "Federal Explosives Law and Regulations—2000." The purpose of this publication is to serve as a guide to Federal explosives law, regulations, and related information. Several changes have been made to explosives laws and regulations since the last publication.

In examining the completed publication, we observed two errors in the regulations section which need to be corrected, as follows:

1. In 27 CFR 55.218 (Table of distances for storage of explosive materials), footnote 3 at the end of the table, "11/2 lbs." should be changed to read "1½ lbs."; and

2. In 27 CFR 55.223 (Table of distances between fireworks process buildings and other specified areas), the title heading of the table was omitted and should be added to read:

Distance From Passenger Railways, Public Highways, Fireworks Plant Buildings Used to Store Consumer Fireworks and Articles Pyrotechnic, Magazines and Fireworks Shipping Buildings, and Inhabited Buildings.^{3 4 5}

In addition to the above, we wish to point out that the correct address of the ATF Out-of-Business Records Center is: 2029 Stonewall Jackson Drive, Spring Mills Office Park, Falling Waters, West Virginia 25419. The regulations at 27 CFR 55.128 (Discontinuance of business) will be amended to reflect this change in a forthcoming Treasury decision.

Approved: November 13, 2000.

Bradley A. Buckles,

Director.

[FR Doc. 00-29615 Filed 11-17-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4810-31-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Notice 97-66

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the IRS is soliciting comments concerning Notice 97-66, Certain Payments Made Pursuant to a Securities Lending Transaction.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before January 19, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Garrick R. Shear, Internal Revenue