

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Surface Transportation Board**

[STB Docket No. AB-32 (Sub-No. 83)] and
[STB Docket No. AB-355 (Sub-No. 23)]

**Boston and Maine Corporation—
Abandonment and Springfield
Terminal Railway Company—
Discontinuance of Service—in Hartford
and New Haven Counties, CT**

On December 29, 1997, the Boston and Maine Corporation (B&M) and Springfield Terminal Railway Company (ST) (referred to collectively as applicants) filed with the Surface Transportation Board (Board), Washington, DC 20423, an application for permission for B&M to abandon and ST to discontinue service on a line of railroad known as the Canal Branch extending from milepost 14.50 in Cheshire, CT, to milepost 24.00 in Southington, CT, a distance of approximately 9.50 miles, in Hartford and New Haven Counties, CT. The line traverses U.S. Postal Service ZIP Codes 06410, 06467, 06479, and 06489. Applicants have indicated that there are no agency stations located on the line.

The line does not contain federally granted rights-of-way. Any documentation in B&M's possession will be made available promptly to those requesting it. The applicants' entire case for abandonment and discontinuance was filed with the application.

The line of railroad has appeared on B&M's system diagram map or has been included in its narrative in category 1 since February 28, 1997.

The interest of railroad employees will be protected by *Oregon Short Line R. Co.—Abandonment—Goshen*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979).

Any interested person may file with the Board written comments concerning the proposed abandonment and discontinuance or protests (including the protestant's entire opposition case), by February 12, 1998. All interested persons should be aware that following any abandonment of rail service and salvage of the line, the line may be suitable for other public use, including interim trail use. Any request for a public use condition under 49 U.S.C. 10905 (49 CFR 1152.28 of the Board's rules) and any request for a trail use condition under 16 U.S.C. 1247(d) (49 CFR 1152.29 of the Board's rules) must be filed by February 12, 1998. Persons who may oppose the abandonment or discontinuance but who do not wish to participate fully in the process by appearing at any oral hearings or by submitting verified statements of

witnesses containing detailed evidence should file comments. Persons interested only in seeking public use or trail use conditions should also file comments. Persons opposing the proposed abandonment or discontinuance that do wish to participate actively and fully in the process should file a protest.

In addition, a commenting party or protestant may provide:

- (i) An offer of financial assistance, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10904 (due 120 days after the application is filed or 10 days after the application is granted by the Board, whichever occurs sooner);
- (ii) Recommended provisions for protection of the interests of employees;
- (iii) A request for a public use condition under 49 U.S.C. 10905; and
- (iv) A statement pertaining to prospective use of the right-of-way for interim trail use and rail banking under 16 U.S.C. 1247(d) and 49 CFR 1152.29.

Parties seeking information concerning the filing of protests should refer to 49 CFR 1152.25.

Written comments and protests, including all requests for public use and trail use conditions, must indicate the proceeding designation STB Nos. AB-32 (Sub-No. 83) and AB-355 (Sub-No. 23) and should be filed with the Secretary, Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423, no later than February 12, 1998. Interested persons may file a written comment or protest with the Board to become a party to this proceeding. A copy of each written comment or protest shall be served upon the applicants' representative, John R. Nadolny, General Counsel, Law Department, Boston and Maine Corporation, Iron Horse Park, N. Billerica, MA 01862. The original and 10 copies of all comments or protests shall be filed with the Board with a certificate of service. Except as otherwise set forth in part 1152, every document filed with the Board must be served on all parties to the proceeding. 49 CFR 1104.12(a).

The line sought to be abandoned and discontinued will be available for subsidy or sale for continued rail use, if the Board decides to permit the abandonment and discontinuance, in accordance with applicable laws and regulations (49 U.S.C. 10904 and 49 CFR 1152.27). No subsidy arrangement approved under 49 U.S.C. 10904 shall remain in effect for more than 1 year unless otherwise mutually agreed by the parties (49 U.S.C. 10904(f)(4)(B)). Applicants will promptly provide upon request to each interested party an estimate of the subsidy and minimum purchase price required to keep the line in operation. The carriers'

representative to whom inquiries may be made concerning sale or subsidy terms is set forth above.

Persons seeking further information concerning abandonment procedures may contact the Board or refer to the full abandonment or discontinuance regulations at 49 CFR part 1152. Questions concerning environmental issues may be directed to the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA).

An environmental assessment (EA) (or environmental impact statement (EIS), if necessary) prepared by SEA will be served upon all parties of record and upon any agencies or other persons who commented during its preparation. Any other persons who would like to obtain a copy of the EA (or EIS) may contact SEA. EAs in abandonment proceedings normally will be made available within 33 days of the filing of the application. The deadline for submission of comments on the EA will generally be within 30 days of its service. The comments received will be addressed in the Board's decision. A supplemental EA or EIS may be issued where appropriate.

Decided: January 12, 1998.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-1119 Filed 1-15-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

**Departmental Offices; Debt
Management Advisory Committee;
Meeting**

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. App. § 10(a)(2), that a meeting will be held at the U.S. Treasury Department, 15th and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C., on February 3, 1998, of the following debt management advisory committee:

The Bond Market Association
Treasury Borrowing Advisory Committee

The agenda for the meeting provides for a technical background briefing by Treasury staff, followed by a charge by the Secretary of the Treasury or his designate that the committee discuss particular issues, and a working session. Following the working session, the committee will present a written report of its recommendations.

The background briefing by Treasury staff will be held at 9:30 a.m. Eastern time and will be open to the public. The remaining sessions and the committee's reporting session will be closed to the

public, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. App. § 10(d).

This notice shall constitute my determination, pursuant to the authority placed in heads of departments by 5 U.S.C. App. § 10(d) and vested in me by Treasury Department Order No. 101-05, that the closed portions of the meeting are concerned with information that is exempt from disclosure under 5 U.S.C. § 552b(c)(9)(A). The public interest requires that such meetings be closed to the public because the Treasury Department requires frank and full advice from representatives of the financial community prior to making its final decision on major financing operations. Historically, this advice has been offered by debt management advisory committees established by the several major segments of the financial community. When so utilized, such a committee is recognized to be an advisory committee under 5 U.S.C. App. § 3.

Although the Treasury's final announcement of financing plans may not reflect the recommendations provided in reports of the advisory committee, premature disclosure of the committee's deliberations and reports would be likely to lead to significant financial speculation in the securities market. Thus, these meetings fall within the exemption covered by 5 U.S.C. § 552b(c)(9)(A).

The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Financial Markets is responsible for maintaining records of debt management advisory committee meetings and for providing annual reports setting forth a summary of committee activities and such other matters as may be informative to the public consistent with the policy of 5 U.S.C. § 552b.

Gary Gensler,

Assistant Secretary (Financial Markets).

[FR Doc. 98-736 Filed 1-15-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4810-25-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Form 8800

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 Form 8800, Application for Additional Extension of Time To File U.S. Return for a Partnership, REMIC, or for Certain Trusts.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before March 17, 1998 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Garrick R. Shear, Internal Revenue Service, room 5571, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the form and instructions should be directed to Martha R. Brinson, (202) 622-3869, Internal Revenue Service, room 5571, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Application for Additional Extension of Time To File U.S. Return for a Partnership, REMIC, or for Certain Trusts.

OMB Number: 1545-1057

Form Number: 8800

Abstract: Form 8800 is used by partnerships, REMICs, and by certain trusts to request an additional extension of time (up to 3 months) to file Form 1065, Form 1041, or Form 1066. Form 8800 contains data needed by the IRS to determine whether or not a taxpayer qualifies for such an extension.

Current Actions: There are no changes being made to the form at this time.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations and farms.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 20,000

Estimated Time Per Respondent: 13 min.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 4,210

The following paragraph applies to all of the collections of information covered by this notice:

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a collection of information must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any internal revenue law. Generally, tax returns and tax return information are confidential, as required by 26 U.S.C. 6103.

Request for Comments

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Approved: January 8, 1998.

Garrick R. Shear,

IRS Reports Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 98-1079 Filed 1-15-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Forms 8038, 8038-G, and 8038-GC

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 Forms 8038, Information Return for Tax-Exempt Private Activity Bond Issues, 8038-G, Information Return for Tax-Exempt Governmental Obligations, and 8038-GC, Information Return for Small Tax-Exempt Governmental Bond Issues, Leases, and Installment Sales.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before March 17, 1998 to be assured of consideration.