

book, the Specialist must ensure that at least one ROT is present in the trading crowd and is aware of the Specialist's intention to trade with the book both at the time of and immediately before the execution. Phlx Options Floor Procedure Advice C-1 provides that a Floor Broker representing an order in options shall, before executing the order, ascertain that at least one ROT is present in the trading crowd at the post where the order is executed.

Each of these rules currently contains a temporary exception that is limited only to FCO transactions. Pursuant to the temporary exception, which expires on March 31, 2001, an FCO Specialist may trade as principal with an order on the book and an FCO Floor Broker may represent an order or execute a trade when no ROT registered in the FCO is present on the Phlx's FCO trading floor.⁴ The proposed rule change would permanently exempt FCO Specialists and FCO Floor Brokers from the requirements in Phlx Rule 1063(a) and Phlx Options Floor Procedure Advices A-10 and C-1. Specifically, the Phlx proposes to amend Rule 1063(a) and Phlx Options Floor Procedure Advices A-10 and C-1 by deleting from each rule the words "until March 31, 2001," thereby making permanent the temporary exceptions that those rules currently provide.⁵

The proposal would also make certain non-substantive stylistic changes to Floor Procedure Advices A-10 and C-1. The text of the proposed rule change is available at the principal offices of the Phlx and at the Commission.

III. Discussion

The Commission approved the temporary exception on January 3, 2001, on an accelerated basis.⁶ The Phlx requested accelerated approval of the temporary exception after it learned that, as of January 3, 2001, no ROTs would be doing business on a regular basis on the Phlx's FCO floor. The Phlx represented that there very likely would be periods of time when FCO Specialists and FCO Floor Brokers would be on the FCO floor with no FCO ROTs present, and that compliance with Phlx Rule 1063(a) and Phlx Options Floor Procedure Advices A-10 and C-1 would

not be possible under those circumstances. In the Commission's view, the exception was necessary in order to enable the Phlx to continue to provide fair and orderly markets in FCOs in the absence of FCO ROTs on the FCO floor.

Like the temporary rule change, the proposed permanent exception would apply only if no ROT is present on the FCO floor when an FCO Specialist trades as principal with an order on the book, or when an FCO Floor Broker represents an order or executes a trade. The Commission believes that the proposed rule change will permit Phlx Specialists to continue to trade as principal with orders on the book, and will allow Phlx Floor Brokers to continue to represent and execute orders in FCOs in the event that no ROTs are present on the FCO floor. In view of the foregoing, the Commission finds that the Phlx's proposal is designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to facilitate transactions in securities, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market, and to protect investors and the public interest, consistent with section 6(b)(5) of the Act.⁷

IV. Conclusion

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act, that the proposed rule change (File No. SR-Phlx-01-06) is approved.⁸

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.⁹

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 01-6803 Filed 3-19-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-M

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[Declaration of Economic Injury Disaster #9K98]

State of South Carolina

Beaufort, Charleston, and Georgetown Counties and the contiguous counties of Berkeley, Colleton, Dorchester, Hampton, Horry, Jasper, Marion, and Williamsburg in the State of South Carolina constitute an economic injury disaster loan area as a result of extended cold and severe freezes that occurred between December 17, 2000 and January 7, 2001. Eligible small businesses and

small agricultural cooperatives without credit available elsewhere may file applications for economic injury assistance as a result of this disaster until the close of business on December 14, 2001 at the address listed below or other locally announced locations: U.S. Small Business Administration, Disaster Area 2 Office, One Baltimore Place, Suite 300, Atlanta, GA 30308.

The interest rate for eligible small businesses and small agricultural cooperatives is 4 percent.

The number assigned for economic injury for the State of South Carolina is 9K9800.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 59002)

Dated: March 13, 2001.

John Whitmore,

Acting Administrator.

[FR Doc. 01-6859 Filed 3-19-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-U

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Region I Hartford District Advisory Council; Public Meeting

The U.S. Small Business Administration, Region I Hartford, Connecticut District Advisory Council, will hold a public meeting on Monday, April 2, 2001, at 8:30 a.m. at the Connecticut District Office, 330 Main Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106, to discuss such matters as may be presented by members, staff of the U.S. Small Business Administration or others present. For further information, write or call Ms. Marie Record, District Director, U.S. Small Business Administration, 330 Main Street, Hartford, Connecticut, telephone (860) 240-4700.

Nancyellen Gentile,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 01-6861 Filed 3-19-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-U

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Region IV North Florida; Jacksonville, Florida District Advisory Council; Public Meeting

The U.S. Small Business Administration, Region IV North Florida District Advisory Council, will hold a public meeting on April 12, 2001, at 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., at the Citrus Club, 1800 Republic Bank Tower (Citrus Center), 255 S. Orange Avenue, Orlando, Florida, to discuss such matters as may be presented by members, staff of the U.S. Small Business Administration or

⁴ The Phlx's FCO trading floor is located in the same building as its equity options trading floor, but is in a different room.

⁵ The proposed rule change also makes non-substantive changes to Phlx Rule 1063(a) and Phlx Options Floor Procedure Advices A-10 and C-1 by replacing the shorthand term "ROT" with the term "Registered Options Trader." The temporary rule change incorporated those same changes.

⁶ Securities Exchange Act Release No. 43799 (January 3, 2001), 66 FR 2469 (January 11, 2001) (File No. SR-Phlx-00-111).

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

⁸ In approving the proposal, the Commission has considered the rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

⁹ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

others present. For further information, write or call Ms. Claudia D. Taylor, U.S. Small Business Administration, 7825 Baymeadows Way, Suite 100-B, Jacksonville, Florida 32256; telephone (904) 443-1933.

Nancyellen Gentile,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 01-6860 Filed 3-19-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-U

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Office of the Secretary

Aviation Proceedings, Agreements Filed During the Week Ending March 9, 2001

The following Agreements were filed with the Department of Transportation under the provisions of 49 U.S.C. § 412 and 414. Answers may be filed within 21 days after the filing of the application.

Docket Number: OST-2001-9055.

Date Filed: March 5, 2001.

Parties: Members of the International Air Transport Association.

Subject:

PTC3 0480 dated 2 March 2001

Mail Vote 114—TC3 Special

Passenger Amending.

Resolution between Korea and Japan.

Intended effective date: 1 April 2001.

Docket Number: OST-2001-9056.

Date Filed: March 5, 2001.

Parties: Members of the International Air Transport Association.

Subject:

PTC2 EUR-AFR 0129 dated 2 March

2001.

TC2 Europe-Africa Expedited

Resolution 0020.

Intended effective date: 15 April 2001.

Docket Number: OST-2001-9060.

Date Filed: March 5, 2001.

Parties: Members of the International Air Transport Association.

Subject:

PTC COMP 0784 dated 2 March 2001.

Mail Vote 113—Resolution 010u.

TC12/TC31/TC123 Special Passenger

Amending Resolution.

Flagstaff Add-on Amounts.

Intended effective date: 1 April 2001.

Docket Number: OST-2001-9077.

Date Filed: March 7, 2001.

Parties: Members of the International Air Transport Association.

Subject:

PTC12 NMS-ME 0127 dated 16

February 2001.

North Atlantic-Middle East

Resolutions r1-r19.

PTC12 NMS-ME 0128 dated 16

February 2001.

North Atlantic-Israel Resolution r20-r38.

Minutes—PTC12 NMS-ME 0131

dated 2 March 2001.

Tables—PTC12 NMS-ME FARES

0074 dated 20 February 2001.

Intended effective date: 1 April 2001.

Docket Number: OST-2001-9126.

Date Filed: March 8, 2001.

Parties: Members of the International Air Transport Association.

Subject:

Mail Votes 110 and 111.

PTC12 NMS-ME 0124 dated 8

February 2001.

Mid Atlantic-Middle East Resolutions r1-r11.

PTC12 NMS-ME 0125 dated 8

February 2001.

South Atlantic-Middle East

Resolutions r12-r23.

PTC12 NMS-ME 0132 and 0133 dated

6 March 2001.

Adoption of Mail Votes 110 and 111.

Minutes—PTC12 NMS-ME 0131

dated 2 March 2001.

Filed with Docket OST-2001-9077.

Tables—PTC12 NMS-ME Fares 0075

dated 6 March 2001.

PTC12 NMS-ME Fares 0076 dated 6

March 2001.

Intended effective date: 1 April 2001.

Dorothy Y. Beard,

Federal Register Liaison.

[FR Doc. 01-6907 Filed 3-19-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-62-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 585X)]

CSX Transportation, Inc.—

Abandonment Exemption—in Boone County, WV

CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT) has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 subpart F—*Exempt Abandonments* to abandon a 1.74-mile line of its railroad between milepost CLH-9.00 and milepost CLH-10.74 in Boone County, WV. The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Code 25021.

CSXT has certified that: (1) No local traffic has moved over the line for at least 2 years; (2) there is no overhead traffic on the line; (3) no formal complaint filed by a user of rail service on the line (or by a state or local government entity acting on behalf of such user) regarding cessation of service over the line either is pending with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) or with any U.S. District Court or has been

decided in favor of complainant within the 2-year period; and (4) the requirements at 49 CFR 1105.7 (environmental reports), 49 CFR 1105.8 (historic reports), 49 CFR 1105.11 (transmittal letter), 49 CFR 1105.12 (newspaper publication), and 49 CFR 1152.50(d)(1) (notice to governmental agencies) have been met.

As a condition to this exemption, any employee adversely affected by the abandonment and discontinuance shall be protected under *Oregon Short Line R. Co.—Abandonment—Goshen*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979). To address whether this condition adequately protects affected employees, a petition for partial revocation under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) must be filed. Provided no formal expression of intent to file an offer of financial assistance (OFA) has been received, this exemption will be effective on April 19, 2001, unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay that do not involve environmental issues,¹ formal expressions of intent to file an OFA under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2),² and trail use/rail banking requests under 49 CFR 1152.29 must be filed by March 30, 2001. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by April 9, 2001, with: Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423.

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to applicant's representative: Natalie S. Rosenberg, Counsel, CSX Transportation, Inc., 500 Water Street J150, Jacksonville, FL 32202.

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*.

CSXT has filed an environmental report which addresses the effects, if any, of the abandonment and discontinuance on the environment and historic resources. The Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) will issue an environmental assessment (EA) by March 23, 2001. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA by writing to SEA (Room 500, Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC

¹ The Board will grant a stay if an informed decision on environmental issues (whether raised by a party or by the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis in its independent investigation) cannot be made before the exemption's effective date. See *Exemption of Out-of-Service Rail Lines*, 5 I.C.C.2d 377 (1989). Any request for a stay should be filed as soon as possible so that the Board may take appropriate action before the exemption's effective date.

² Each offer of financial assistance must be accompanied by the filing fee, which currently is set at \$1000. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).