

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**[Docket No. FD 36604]****Georgia Central Railway, L.P.—Lease and Operation Exemption—City of Vidalia, Ga.**

Georgia Central Railway, L.P. (GC), a Class III railroad, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.41 to replace a lease between GC and the City of Vidalia (the City) for GC to lease and operate as a common carrier over approximately 2.6 miles of track owned by the City beginning at milepost 152.2 and extending to milepost 149.6 (the Line).

According to the verified notice, GC has been the sole operator providing local service on the Line since at least 1997. GC states that the lease agreement (New Lease) supersedes and replaces the current lease, and GC will continue to lease and operate as the sole common carrier on the Line.

GC certifies that the New Lease does not include an interchange commitment. It also certifies that its projected annual revenues from this transaction will not exceed those that would qualify it as a Class III carrier, but that its revenues currently exceed \$5 million. Pursuant to 49 CFR 1150.42(e), if a carrier's projected annual revenues will exceed \$5 million, it must, at least 60 days before the exemption is to become effective, post a notice of its intent to undertake the proposed transaction at the workplace of the employees on the affected lines, serve a copy of the notice on the national offices of the labor unions with employees on the affected lines, and certify to the Board that it has done so. However, GC's verified notice includes a request for waiver of the 60-day advance labor notice requirements. GC's waiver request will be addressed in a subsequent decision. The Board will establish the effective date of the exemption in its separate decision on the waiver request.

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 will not automatically stay the effectiveness of the exemption. Petitions for stay must be filed no later than May 18, 2022.

All pleadings, referring to Docket No. FD 36604, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board either via e-filing on the Board's website or in writing addressed to 395 E Street SW, Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on GC's representative, Justin

J. Marks, Clark Hill PLC, 1001 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 1300 South, Washington, DC 20004.

According to GC, this action is categorically excluded from environmental review under 49 CFR 1105.6(c) and from historic preservation reporting requirements under 49 CFR 1105.8(b).

Board decisions and notices are available at www.stb.gov.

Decided: May 6, 2022.

By the Board, Valerie O. Quinn, Acting Director, Office of Proceedings.

Brendetta Jones,
Clearance Clerk.

[FR Doc. 2022-10110 Filed 5-10-22; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-01-P

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE**[Docket Number USTR-2022-0004]****Annual Review of Country Eligibility for Benefits Under the African Growth and Opportunity Act**

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) is announcing the initiation of the annual review of the eligibility of the sub-Saharan African countries to receive the benefits of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). The AGOA Implementation Subcommittee of the Trade Policy Staff Committee (AGOA TPSC Subcommittee) is developing recommendations for the President on AGOA country eligibility for calendar year 2023 and requests comments for this review. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the AGOA TPSC Subcommittee will foster public participation via written submissions rather than an in-person hearing. This notice includes the schedule for submission of comments and responses to questions from the AGOA TPSC Subcommittee related to this review.

DATES:

June 23, 2022 at 11:59 p.m. EDT: Deadline for submission of written comments on the eligibility of sub-Saharan African countries to receive the benefits of AGOA.

July 7, 2022 at 11:59 p.m. EDT: Deadline for the AGOA TPSC Subcommittee to pose any questions on written comments.

July 15, 2022 at 11:59 p.m. EDT: Deadline for submission of commenters'

responses to questions from the AGOA TPSC Subcommittee.

July 22, 2022 at 11:59 p.m. EDT: Deadline for replies from other interested parties to the written comments and responses to the AGOA TPSC Subcommittee questions.

August 3, 2022 at 11:59 p.m. EDT: The AGOA TPSC Subcommittee to pose any additional questions on written comments.

August 12, 2022 at 11:59 p.m. EDT: Deadline for submission of responses to any additional questions from the AGOA TPSC Subcommittee.

ADDRESSES: USTR strongly prefers electronic submissions made through the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <https://www.regulations.gov> (Regulations.gov), using Docket Number USTR-2022-0004. Follow the instructions for submitting comments in 'Requirements for Submissions' below. For alternatives to on-line submissions, please contact Jeremy Streatfeild, Director of African Affairs, Office of African Affairs, in advance of the relevant deadline at Jeremy.E.Streatfeild@ustr.eop.gov or (202) 395-8642.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeremy Streatfeild, Director of African Affairs, Office of African Affairs, at Jeremy.E.Streatfeild@ustr.eop.gov or (202) 395-8642.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Background**

AGOA (Title I of the Trade and Development Act of 2000, Pub. L. 106-200) (19 U.S.C. 2466a *et seq.*), as amended, authorizes the President to designate sub-Saharan African countries as beneficiaries eligible for duty-free treatment for certain additional products not included for duty-free treatment under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) (Title V of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2461 *et seq.*) (1974 Act), as well as for the preferential treatment for certain textile and apparel articles. The President may designate a country as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country eligible for AGOA benefits if he determines that the country meets the eligibility criteria set forth in section 104 of AGOA (19 U.S.C. 3703) and section 502 of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2462).

Section 104 of AGOA includes requirements that the country has established or is making continual progress toward establishing, among other things:

- A market-based economy
- the rule of law
- political pluralism
- the right to due process
- the elimination of barriers to U.S. trade and investment

- economic policies to reduce poverty
- a system to combat corruption and bribery
- protection of internationally recognized worker rights

In addition, the country may not engage in activities that undermine U.S. national security or foreign policy interests or engage in gross violations of internationally recognized human rights. Section 502 of the 1974 Act provides for country eligibility criteria under GSP. For a complete list of the AGOA eligibility criteria and more information on the GSP criteria, see section 104 of the AGOA and section 502 of the 1974 Act.

Section 506A of the 1974 Act requires the President to monitor and annually review the progress of each sub-Saharan African country in meeting the foregoing eligibility criteria in order to determine if a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country should continue to be eligible, and if a sub-Saharan African country that currently is not a beneficiary, should be designated as a beneficiary. If the President determines that a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country is not making continual progress in meeting the eligibility requirements, the President must terminate the designation of the country as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country. The President also may withdraw, suspend, or limit the application of duty-free treatment with respect to specific articles from a country if they determine that it would be more effective in promoting compliance with AGOA eligibility requirements than terminating the designation of the country as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country.

For 2022 the President designated the following 36 countries as beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries:

1. Angola
2. Benin
3. Botswana
4. Burkina Faso
5. Cabo Verde
6. Central African Republic
7. Chad
8. Comoros
9. Democratic Republic of Congo (reinstated in 2021)
10. Republic of Congo
11. Cote d'Ivoire
12. Djibouti
13. Eswatini
14. Gabon
15. The Gambia
16. Ghana
17. Guinea-Bissau
18. Kenya
19. Lesotho

20. Liberia
21. Madagascar
22. Malawi
23. Mauritius
24. Mozambique
25. Namibia
26. Niger
27. Nigeria
28. Rwanda (AGOA apparel benefits suspended effective July 31, 2018)
29. Sao Tome & Principe
30. Senegal
31. Sierra Leone
32. South Africa
33. Tanzania
34. Togo
35. Uganda
36. Zambia

The President did not designate the following sub-Saharan African countries as beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries for 2022:

1. Burundi
2. Cameroon
3. Equatorial Guinea (graduated from GSP)
4. Eritrea
5. Ethiopia (terminated in 2022)
6. Guinea (terminated in 2022)
7. Mali (terminated in 2022)
8. Mauritania
9. Seychelles (graduated from GSP)
10. Somalia
11. South Sudan
12. Sudan
13. Zimbabwe

The AGOA TPSC Subcommittee is seeking public comments to develop recommendations to the President in connection with the annual review of sub-Saharan African countries' eligibility for AGOA benefits. The Secretary of Labor may consider comments related to the child labor criteria to prepare the U.S. Department of Labor's report on child labor as required under section 504 of the 1974 Act.

II. Public Participation

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the AGOA TPSC Subcommittee will foster public participation via written submissions rather than an in-person hearing for the 2023 AGOA Eligibility Review. USTR invites public comment according to the schedule set out in the Dates section above. The AGOA TPSC Subcommittee will review comments and replies to comments, if any, and may ask clarifying questions to commenters according to the schedule set out above. The AGOA TPSC Subcommittee will post the questions it asks on the public docket, other than questions that include properly designated business confidential information (BCI). Any questions that

include properly designated BCI will not be posted on the docket for public viewing, but rather will be sent via email to the relevant commenters. Replies to these questions that also contain BCI must follow procedures laid out in section IV.

III. Requirements for Submissions

You must submit comments and answers to questions from the AGOA TPSC Subcommittee by the applicable deadlines set forth in this notice. You must make all submissions in English via *Regulations.gov*, using Docket Number USTR-2022-0004. USTR will not accept hand-delivered submissions. To make a submission using *Regulations.gov*, enter Docket Number USTR-2022-0004 in the 'search for' field on the home page and click 'search.' The site will provide a search results page listing all documents associated with this docket. Find a reference to this notice by selecting 'notice' under 'document type' in the 'refine documents results' section on the left side of the screen and click on the link entitled 'comment.' The *Regulations.gov* website offers the option of providing comments by filling in a 'comment' field or by attaching a document using the 'attach files' field. The AGOA TPSC Subcommittee prefers that you provide submissions in an attached document and note 'see attached' in the 'comment' field on the online submission form. At the beginning of the submission, or on the first page (if an attachment) include the following text (in bold and underlined): (1) "2023 AGOA Eligibility Review"; (2) the relevant country or countries; and (3) whether the document is a comment, a reply to a comment, or an answer to an AGOA Subcommittee question. Submissions should not exceed 30 single-spaced, standard letter-size pages in 12-point type, including attachments. Include any data attachments to the submission in the same file as the submission itself, and not as separate files. You will receive a tracking number upon completion of the submission procedure at *Regulations.gov*. The tracking number is confirmation that *Regulations.gov* received the submission. Keep the confirmation for your records. USTR is not able to provide technical assistance for *Regulations.gov*. USTR may not consider documents that you do not submit in accordance with these instructions. If you are unable to provide submissions as requested, please contact Jeremy Streatfeild, Director of African, Office of African Affairs, in advance of the relevant

deadline at Jeremy.E.Streatfeild@ustr.eop.gov or (202) 395-8642, to arrange for an alternative method of transmission.

General information concerning USTR is available at www.ustr.gov.

IV. Business Confidential Submissions

If you ask USTR to treat information you submitted as BCI, you must certify that the information is business confidential and you would not customarily release it to the public. You must clearly designate BCI by marking the submission 'BUSINESS CONFIDENTIAL' at the top and bottom of the cover page and each succeeding page, and indicating, via brackets, the specific information that is BCI. Additionally, you must note that the submission contains information that is business confidential by including 'Business Confidential' in the 'comment' field. For any submission containing BCI, you must separately submit a non-confidential version, *i.e.*, not as part of the same submission with the confidential version, indicating where BCI has been redacted. USTR will post the non-confidential version in the docket and it will be open to public inspection.

V. Public Viewing of Review Submissions

USTR will make public versions of all documents relating to these reviews available for public viewing pursuant to 15 CFR 2017.4, in Docket Number USTR-2022-0004 on Regulations.gov, upon completion of processing. This usually is within two weeks of the relevant due date or date of the submission.

VI. Petitions

At any time, any interested party may submit a petition to USTR with respect to whether a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country is meeting the AGOA eligibility requirements. An interested party may file a petition through Regulations.gov, under Docket Number USTR-2022-0004.

William Shpiece,

*Chair of the Trade Policy Staff Committee,
Office of the United States Trade Representative.*

[FR Doc. 2022-10082 Filed 5-10-22; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3290-F2-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Notice of Final Federal Agency Actions on Proposed Highway in California

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice of Limitation on Claims for Judicial Review of Actions by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the United States Forest Service (Plumas National Forest) to issue a special use permit to Caltrans.

SUMMARY: The FHWA, on behalf of Caltrans, is issuing this notice to announce actions taken by Caltrans that are final. The actions relate to a proposed highway project, State Route 82, postmiles 12.3 to 15.9, in the County San Mateo, State of California. Those actions grant licenses, permits, and approvals for the project.

DATES: By this notice, the FHWA, on behalf of Caltrans, is advising the public of final agency actions subject to 23 U.S.C. 139(l)(1). A claim seeking judicial review of the Federal agency actions on the highway project will be barred unless the claim is filed on or before October 11, 2022. If the Federal law that authorizes judicial review of a claim provides a time period of less than 150 days for filing such claim, then that shorter time period still applies.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For Caltrans District 4: Yolanda Rivas, Senior Environmental Planner, Caltrans Office of Environmental Planning and Engineering, California Department of Transportation—District 4, 111 Grand Avenue, Oakland, CA 95901. Office Hours: 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Pacific Standard Time, telephone (510) 506-1461 or email yolanda.rivas@dot.ca.gov. For FHWA, contact Shawn Oliver at (916) 498-5048 or email Shawn.Oliver@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Effective July 1, 2007, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) assigned, and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) assumed, environmental responsibilities for this project pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327. Notice is hereby given that Caltrans has taken final agency actions subject to 23 U.S.C. 139(l)(1) by issuing licenses, permits, and approvals for the following highway project in the State of California: Remove and reconstruct entire roadway pavement structural section between East Santa Inez (PM 12.3) and Murchison Drive (PM 15.8). A total of 34 new drainage inlets would be installed, and 25 existing drainage inlets

would be modified to conform to changes to curb ramps. All existing reinforced concrete pipes, clay pipes, and metal pipes smaller than 18 inches would be replaced with 18-inch polyvinyl chloride pipes. All existing sidewalks from East Santa Inez Avenue (PM 12.3) to Dufferin Avenue (PM 15.3) would be upgraded, ranging from 5 to 6 feet in width, to comply with ADA standards. Other pedestrian improvements include touch-free APS and CPS at signalized intersections, pedestrian hybrid beacons at uncontrolled intersections, realignment of existing crosswalks, advance stop pavement markings, adjustments to signal timing to provide for a leading pedestrian interval. Two design options regarding utilities are being evaluated (1) Utility poles would be removed and relocated at various locations throughout the project limits to conform to infrastructure upgrades, or (2) existing electrical transmission, telecommunications, and cable TV lines that currently run along poles above the roadway would be relocated underground from Barroilhet Avenue (PM 12.9) to Ray Drive/Rosedale Avenue (PM 15.2). The actions by the Federal agencies, and the laws under which such actions were taken, are described in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) approved on April 20, 2022, and in other documents in the Caltrans' project records. The FEIS and other project records are available by contacting Caltrans at the addresses provided above. The Caltrans FEIS can be viewed and downloaded from www.ecralternatives.com. This notice applies to all Federal agency decisions as of the issuance date of this notice and all laws under which such actions were taken, including but not limited to:

1. Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR 1500 *et seq.*, 23 CFR 771);
2. National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*;
3. Federal-Aid Highway Act, (23 U.S.C. 109, as amended by FAST Act Section 1404(a), Public Law 114-94, and 23 U.S.C. 128);
4. MAP-21, the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (Pub. L. 112-141);
5. Clean Air Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 7401 *et seq.* (Transportation Conformity, 40 CFR part 93);
6. Clean Water Act of 1977 (33 U.S.C. 1251 *et seq.*);
7. Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972 (see Clean Water Act of 1977 & 1987);
8. Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, Public Law 94-579;
9. Noise Control Act of 1972;
10. Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 300f *et seq.*);