

NE (milepost 0.2), and St. Francis, KS (milepost 133.9); a distance of approximately 133.7 miles; (4) between Holdrege, NE (milepost 0.8), and east of Sterling, CO (milepost 225.9),¹ a distance of approximately 225.1 miles; and (5) Norton, KS area trackage between milepost 315.1 and milepost 319.2, a distance of approximately 4.1 miles.

In addition, to the above-described line acquisitions, NKCR will also acquire, by assignment from BN, certain overhead trackage rights currently exercised by BN between Almena Junction, KS (milepost 29.6), and Oronoque Junction, KS (milepost 47.3), a distance of approximately 17.7 miles. The overhead trackage rights run over a line of railroad owned by the Kyle Railroad and currently dispatched by BN. The trackage rights effectively link the lines to be acquired by NKCR between Flynn, NE, and Almena Junction, KS, and between Oronoque Junction, KS, and Oberlin, KS. The trackage rights will also enable NKCR to access and serve customers located on the Norton, KS area trackage.

The subject trackage, including the overhead trackage rights, is approximately 437.6 route miles in length.²

The transaction was expected to be consummated on or about December 16, 1996.

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. 33314, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Branch, 1201 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20423. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on Robert A. Wimbish, Esq., Rea, Cross & Auchincloss, Suite 420, 1920 N Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20036.

Decided: December 17, 1996.

¹ BN will retain overhead trackage rights to provide rail freight service between milepost 225.9, east of Sterling, CO, and a connection with the current or any future industry track at or near Wallace, NE, at or about milepost 114.0, for the sole purpose of serving the Gentleman Power Plant, or any successor.

² NKCR will serve as the operator of the lines, except that BN shall have the right to operate over the retained BN overhead trackage rights.

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

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-32657 Filed 12-23-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

[STB Finance Docket No. 33306]

Wabash & Western Railway Co.; Lease and Operation Exemption; Morris Leasing Co., Ltd., and Michigan Southern Railroad, Inc.

Wabash & Western Railway Co., Ltd. (WAB), a Class III shortline rail carrier, has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.41 to lease and operate approximately 49.6 route miles of rail lines (the Lines) owned and/or operated by Morris Leasing Co., Ltd. (MLSC) and Michigan Southern Railroad, Inc. (MSR), Class III rail carriers, as follows: (1) Between milepost 119.0 and milepost 120.1, at or near Kendallville, Noble County, IN, (a portion of the GR&I Industrial Track); (2) between milepost 0.0 and milepost 9.8, at or near Elkhart, Elkhart and St. Joseph Counties, IN, (a portion of the E&W Secondary Track); and (3) between milepost 382.5, at or near Coldwater, MI, and milepost 421.2, at or near White Pigeon, MI, (the Quincy Secondary Track). Michigan Southern will be the operator of the lines.¹

The transaction was expected to be consummated on or after December 4, 1996.

If the 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 does not automatically stay the transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 33306, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Branch, 1201 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20423. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on Robert A. Wimbish, Esq., Rea, Cross & Auchincloss, Suite 420, 1920 N Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20036.

Decided: December 17, 1996.

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

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-32658 Filed 12-23-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

¹ For purposes of this lease transaction, WAB will enter into an agreement with MLSC and MSR whereby WAB will be permitted to do business under the trade name "Michigan Southern Railroad."

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Customs Service

Public Meeting on the Meaning of "Customs Business"

AGENCY: U.S. Customs Service,
Department of the Treasury.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces that a public meeting will be held in Hearing Room B of the Interstate Commerce Commission Building in Washington, D.C., commencing at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 28, 1997. The purpose of this meeting is to (1) provide the public with a briefing on Customs interpretation of the meaning of "customs business" as provided in section 641(a)(2) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1641 (a)(2)), as amended by Title VI of the North American Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (Pub. L. 103-182); (2) surface and discuss differing public interpretations of this definition and related issues; and, (3) explore options for clarifying the differing interpretations. Due to limitations on available seating, those planning to attend are requested to notify Customs in advance.

DATES: January 28, 1997, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Interstate Commerce Commission Building, Hearing Room B, 12th Street & Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dale Snell, "Mod Act" Task Force, U.S. Customs Service, Franklin Court, 1301 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20229. Phone: (202) 482-6987; FAX: (202) 482-6994.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On December 8, 1993, the President signed the "North American Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act." The Customs modernization portion of this Act (Title VI of Public Law 103-182), popularly known as the Customs Modernization Act or "Mod Act," amended the definition of "customs business" as contained in 19 U.S.C. 1641(a)(2) to provide, among other things, that such business includes the preparation of documents but does not include the mere transmission of data received for transmission to Customs. The amended definition in 19 U.S.C. 1641 (a)(2) now reads:

The term "customs business" means those activities involving transactions with the Customs Service concerning the entry and admissibility of merchandise, its classification and valuation, the payment of duties, taxes, or other charges, assessed or collected by the Customs Service upon