

Coaches, Inc., Continental Panhandle Lines, Inc., Vermont Transit Co., Inc., Los Rapiados, Inc., and Grupo Centro, Inc. (Grupo), each of which is a regional motor passenger carrier.

Applicant asserts that the aggregate gross operating revenues of Greyhound and its affiliates exceeded \$2 million during the twelve months preceding the filing of this application (the minimum gross operating revenues required to trigger section 14303). Applicant also states that the proposed transaction will have no competitive effects, and that the operations of the carriers involved will remain unchanged; that the total fixed charges associated with the proposed transaction are well within Greyhound's financial means; and that there will be no change in the status of any employees.

Applicant certifies that the pertinent carrier parties have satisfactory safety fitness ratings (including Greyhound's affiliates, except Grupo, a newly organized motor carrier); that Greyhound and Carolina maintain sufficient liability insurance and are neither domiciled in Mexico nor owned or controlled by persons of that country; and that approval of the transaction will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources. Additional information may be obtained from applicant's representative.

Under 49 U.S.C. 14303(b), we must approve and authorize a transaction we find consistent with the public interest, taking into consideration at least: (1) The effect of the transaction on the adequacy of transportation to the public; (2) the total fixed charges that result; and (3) the interest of affected carrier employees.

On the basis of the application, we find that the proposed acquisition of control is consistent with the public interest and should be authorized. If any opposing comments are timely filed, this finding will be deemed as having been vacated and a procedural schedule will be adopted to reconsider the application. If no opposing comments are filed by the expiration of the comment period, this decision will take effect automatically and will be the final Board action.

This decision will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

It is ordered:

1. The proposed acquisition of control is approved and authorized, subject to the filing of opposing comments.
2. If timely opposing comments are filed, the findings made in this decision will be deemed as having been vacated.

3. This decision will be effective on July 7, 1997, unless timely opposing comments are filed.

4. A copy of this notice will be served on the Department of Justice, Antitrust Division, 10th Street & Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20530.

Decided: May 14, 1997.

By the Board, Chairman Morgan and Vice Chairman Owen.

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-13315 Filed 5-20-97; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4910-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-167 (Sub-No. 1178X)]

Consolidated Rail Corporation— Abandonment Exemption—in Erie County, NY

On May 1, 1997, Consolidated Rail Corporation (Conrail) filed with the Surface Transportation Board a petition under 49 U.S.C. 10502 for exemption from the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 10903 to abandon a line of railroad known as the Black Rock Industrial Track, extending from railroad milepost 396.97± to railroad milepost 397.56± in the City of Buffalo, NY, which traverses U.S. Postal Service ZIP Code 14207, a distance of 0.59 miles±, in Erie County, NY. Conrail has indicated that there are no stations on the line and that the line lies wholly within the station of Buffalo.

The line does not contain federally granted rights-of-way. Any documentation in Conrail's possession will be made available promptly to those requesting it. The interest of railroad employees will be protected by the conditions set forth in *Oregon Short Line R. Company—Abandonment—Goshen*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979).

By issuance of this notice, the Board is instituting an exemption proceeding pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10502(b). A final decision will be issued by August 19, 1997.

Any offer of financial assistance under 49 CFR 1152.27(b)(2) will be due no later than 10 days after service of a decision granting the petition for exemption. Each offer of financial assistance must be accompanied by a \$900 filing fee. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

All interested persons should be aware that following 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 CFR 1152.28 or for trail use/rail banking under 49 CFR 1152.29 will be due no later than June 10, 1997. Each trail use request must be accompanied by a \$150 filing fee. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(27).

All filings in response to this notice must refer to STB Docket No. AB-167 (Sub-No. 1178X) and must be sent to: (1) Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001; and (2) John J. Paylor, 2001 Market Street-16A, Philadelphia, PA 19101-1416.

Persons seeking further information concerning abandonment procedures may contact the Board's Office of Public Services at (202) 565-1592 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) at (202) 565-1545. [TDD for the hearing impaired is available at (202) 565-1695.]

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. Other interested persons may contact SEA to obtain a copy of the EA (or EIS). EAs in these abandonment proceedings normally will be made available within 60 days of the filing of the petition. The deadline for submission of comments on the EA will generally be within 30 days of its service.

Decided: May 15, 1997.

By the Board, Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-13314 Filed 5-20-97; 8:45 am]
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UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

Notice of Receipt of Cultural Property Request From the Government of Guatemala

The Government of Guatemala has submitted a cultural property request to the Government of the United States under Article 9 of the 1970 UNESCO Convention. The request was received on May 13, 1997, by the United States Information Agency. The request seeks U.S. protection of certain categories of archaeological material and ethnological material the pillage of which, it is alleged, jeopardizes the national cultural patrimony of Guatemala. In