

This notice, which is published entirely as a matter of discretion, invites comments on maritime policy issues that may be raised by APL/ASM's proposal relating to transfer of the ODS and MSP contracts to ASM. This application may be inspected in the Office of the Secretary, Maritime Administration. Any person, firm, or corporation having any interest in such request and desiring to submit comments concerning the application must file written comments in triplicate with the Secretary, Maritime Administration, Room 7210, Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, D.C. 20590. Comments must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on July 23, 1997. This notice is published as a matter of discretion and the fact of its publication should in no way be considered a favorable or unfavorable decision on the application, as filed or as may be amended. The Maritime Subsidy Board/Maritime Administrator will consider any comments submitted and take such action with respect thereto as may be deemed appropriate.

By Order of the Maritime Administration.

Dated: July 3, 1997.

**Joel C. Richard,**

*Secretary, Maritime Administration.*

[FR Doc. 97-18048 Filed 7-8-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-81-P

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

#### Notice of Public Information Collection Submitted to OMB for Review

**AGENCY:** Surface Transportation Board.

**ACTION:** Extension of a currently approved collection.

**SUMMARY:** The Surface Transportation Board has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for review and approval the following proposal for collection of information as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub. L. 104-13 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).  
*OMB Form Number:* 2140-0003.

*Title:* Financial Assistance of Railroad Lines.

*No. of Respondents:* 15.

*Total Annual Hours:* 625.

*Title:* System Diagram Maps.

*No. of Respondents:* 75.

*Total Annual Hours:* 2,400.

**DATES:** Persons wishing to comment on this information collection should submit comments by September 8, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all comments to Case Control, Surface Transportation Board, Room 706, 1925 K Street, NW,

Washington, DC 20423. When submitting comments refer to the OMB number and title of the information collection.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Charles L. Renninger, (202) 565-1631. Requests for copies of the information collection may be obtained by contacting Ellen R. Keys, Forms Clearance Officer, (202) 565-1654.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Surface Transportation Board is, by statute, responsible for the economic regulation of surface transportation carriers operating in interstate and foreign commerce. The ICC Termination Act of 1995, Pub. L. No. 104-88, 109 Stat. 803 (1995), which took effect on January 1, 1996 abolished the Interstate Commerce Commission and transferred the responsibility for regulating rail transportation, including the proposed abandonment and discontinuance of rail lines, to the Surface Transportation Board.

The Board needs, in abandonment proceedings, information concerning offers of financial assistance. Respondents are those making offers.

The regulations and reporting requirements relate to the filing of system diagram maps by railroads. The rules are necessary for the Board to learn what lines are contemplated for abandonment. Respondents are railroads.

Dated: July 1, 1997.

**Vernon A. Williams,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 97-17949 Filed 7-8-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33416]

#### The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company; Trackage Rights Exemption; Union Pacific Railroad Company

Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) has agreed to grant overhead trackage rights to The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF) over trackage located between a point in Houston, TX, near UP's milepost 377.98 (Gulf Coast Jct.), and a point in Beaumont, TX, near UP's milepost 458.69, a distance of approximately 80.7 miles.

The transaction is expected to be consummated on June 26, 1997, the effective date of the exemption.

The purpose of the trackage rights is to improve UP's and BNSF's operating efficiencies.

As a condition to this exemption, any employees affected by the trackage rights will be protected by the conditions imposed in *Norfolk and Western Ry. Co.—Trackage Rights—BN*, 354 I.C.C. 605 (1978), as modified in *Mendocino Coast Ry., Inc.—Lease and Operate*, 360 I.C.C. 653 (1980).

This notice is filed under 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(7). 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 will not stay the transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 33416, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on Michael E. Roper, Senior General Attorney, The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company, 3017 Lou Menk Drive, P.O. Box 961039, Fort Worth, TX 76161-0039.

Decided: June 27, 1997.

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

**Vernon A. Williams,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 97-17862 Filed 7-8-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-M

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33418]

#### The Texas Mexican Railway Company; Trackage Rights Exemption; Southern Pacific Transportation Company

Southern Pacific Transportation Company (SP) has agreed to grant bridge trackage rights to The Texas Mexican Railway Company over trackage located between a point in Houston, TX, at or near SP's milepost 360.42, and a point in Beaumont, TX, at or near SP's milepost 282.4, a distance of approximately 78.02 miles.

The transaction is expected to be consummated on June 26, 1997, the effective date of the exemption.

The purpose of the trackage rights is to enable SP to implement directional operations between Houston and Beaumont.

As a condition to this exemption, any employees affected by the trackage