

Planning and Construction. The regulation implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernment consultation of Federal programs and activities apply to this program).

Issued on: July 9, 1997.

**Renee Sigel,**

*Planning, Research and Environment Team Leader, Baltimore, Maryland.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**Surface Transportation Board**

[STB Ex Parte No. 558]

**Railroad Cost of Capital—1996**

**AGENCY:** Surface Transportation Board.

**ACTION:** Notice of decision.

**SUMMARY:** On July 16, 1997, the Board served a decision to update its estimate of the railroad industry's cost of capital for 1996. The composite cost of capital rate for 1996 is found to be 11.9%, based on a current cost of debt of 7.4%; a cost of common equity capital of 13.9%; a cost of preferred equity capital of 2.3%; and a 28.0% debt, 70.7% common equity, 1.3% preferred equity capital structure mix. The cost of capital finding made in this proceeding will be used in a variety of Board proceedings.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This action is effective July 16, 1997.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Leonard J. Blistein, (202) 565-1529. [TDD for the hearing impaired: (202) 565-1695.]

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The cost of capital finding in this decision shall be used to evaluate the adequacy of railroad revenues for 1996 under the standards and procedures promulgated in *Standards for Railroad Revenue Adequacy*, 3 I.C.C.2d 261 (1986). This finding may also be used in other Board proceedings involving, for example, the prescription of maximum reasonable rate levels and proposed abandonments of rail lines. Additional information is contained in the Board's decision. To obtain a copy of the full decision, write to, call, or pick up in person from: DC NEWS & DATA, INC., Room 210, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20423. Telephone: (202) 289-4357. [Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through TDD services (202) 565-1695.]

**Environmental and Energy Considerations**

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

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis**

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 605(b), we conclude that our action in this proceeding will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. The purpose and effect of this action are to update the annual railroad industry cost of capital finding by the Board. No new reporting or other regulatory requirements are imposed, directly or indirectly, on small entities.

**Authority:** 49 U.S.C. 10704(a).

Decided: July 2, 1997.

By the Board, Chairman Morgan and Vice Chairman Owen.

**Vernon A. Williams,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 97-18544 Filed 7-15-97; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**Surface Transportation Board**

[STB Finance Docket No. 33387]

**Southern Electric Railroad Company—Construction and Operation Exemption—West Jefferson, AL**

**AGENCY:** Surface Transportation Board.

**ACTION:** Notice of exemption.

**SUMMARY:** Under 49 U.S.C. 10502, the Board conditionally exempts from the requirements of 49 U.S.C. 10901 the construction and operation of 4.5 miles of railroad beginning near milepost 821, on the Norfolk Southern (NS) main line, located near the intersection of U.S. Highway 78 and Jefferson County Road No. 45 near West Jefferson, Jefferson County, AL and connecting with the industry track facilities of the James H. Miller, Jr. Steam Electric Generating Plant located near the south bank of the Locust Fork of the Black Warrior River, approximately 20 miles northwest of Birmingham, AL. The grant is subject to our further consideration of the anticipated environmental impacts of the proposal.

**DATES:** The exemption will be effective, if appropriate, following completion of the environmental review process and issuance of a further decision addressing the environmental impacts. Petitions to reopen must be filed by August 5, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** An original and 10 copies of all pleadings referring to STB Finance Docket No. 33387 must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington DC 20423-0001; in addition a copy of all pleadings must be served on petitioner's

representative: John R. Molm, Troutman Sanders LLP, 1300 Eye St., N.W., Suite 500 East, Washington, DC 20005.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Joseph H. Dettmar, (202) 565-1600. [TDD for the hearing impaired (202) 565-1695.]

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

Additional information is contained in the Board's decision. To purchase a copy of the full decision, write to, call or pick up in person from: DC NEWS & DATA, INC., 1925 K Street, N.W., Suite 210, Washington, DC 20006. Telephone: (202) 289-4357. [Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through TDD services (202) 565-1695.]

Decided: July 1, 1997.

By the Board, Chairman Morgan and Vice Chairman Owen.

**Vernon A. Williams,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 97-18545 Filed 7-15-97; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY**

**Internal Revenue Service**

**Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Form 1000**

**AGENCY:** Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the IRS is soliciting comments concerning Form 1000, Ownership Certificate.

**DATES:** Written comments should be received on or before September 15, 1997 to be assured of consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Garrick R. Shear, Internal Revenue Service, room 5571, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the form and instructions should be directed to Martha R. Brinson, (202) 622-3869, Internal Revenue Service, room 5571, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* Ownership Certificate.