

Plaza, PO Box 2648, Houston, Texas, 77252, or by calling 713-241-0461.

5. *Tennessee Gas Pipeline Corporation/East Tennessee Natural Gas Company (Tennessee/East Tennessee)*: Tennessee/East Tennessee are subsidiaries of El Paso Natural Gas Company of Houston, Texas. Tennessee Gas operates a total of 14,574 miles of both onshore and offshore pipeline, while East Tennessee Natural Gas operates 1,149 miles of onshore pipeline.

Tennessee/East Tennessee proposes to apply a risk management approach to its entire system. The company proposes modifying or eliminating compressor station relief valve testing and inspection under certain conditions, extending from 18 months to 24 months the time it is allowed to confirm or revise maximum allowable operating pressure due to class location changes, reducing the inspection frequency under certain conditions of certain emergency valves and regulators, and using new design criteria for increased system efficiency.

Tennessee/East Tennessee has also specified locations in western Pennsylvania, central Tennessee, and offshore Louisiana where it proposes altering maximum allowable operating pressure to suit local conditions.

The company believes superior safety can be achieved by enhanced damage prevention, increased patrolling, the use of internal inspection tools, and the reallocation of funds to re-habilitation projects on its higher risk pipeline segments.

OPS is interested in entering into consultations with Tennessee/East Tennessee because its risk management program has the potential to:

- Provide examples of data collection and analysis tools for supporting risk management; and
- Provide examples of how companies can use risk management to re-allocate resources to re-habilitation projects and other high value safety activities.

The proposed Tennessee/East Tennessee demonstration project also has the potential to help OPS examine the benefits of risk management as a regulatory alternative under a variety of conditions because of the following distinguishing features:

- Consideration of worker safety as well as public safety in risk assessment;
- Examination of the risk control potential of a number of existing regulations;
- The use of risk-based arguments for establishing MAOP; and
- The breadth of the demonstration site (which includes four OPS regions:

Southern, Eastern, Central, and Southwest; and 17 states).

Tennessee/East Tennessee's risk management program coordinator and point-of-contact is Daron Moore. He can be reached at Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, PO Box 2511, Houston, TX, 77252-2511, or by calling (713) 757-4023.

Issued in Washington, DC on July 22, 1997.

Cesar De Leon,

Deputy Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.

[FR Doc. 97-19664 Filed 7-24-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 378X)]

Burlington Northern Railroad Company—Abandonment Exemption—in Grays Harbor County, WA

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board.

ACTION: Notice of exemption.

SUMMARY: Under 49 U.S.C. 10502, the Board exempts from the requirements of 49 U.S.C. 10903 the abandonment by Burlington Northern Railroad Company¹ of a 1.18-mile line of railroad referred to as the South Aberdeen trackage between mileposts 1.82 and 3.00 in South Aberdeen, WA, subject to environmental conditions and standard labor protective conditions.

DATES: The exemption will be effective August 24, 1997 unless stayed or a statement of intent to file an offer of financial assistance (OFA) is filed. Statements of intent to file an OFA under 49 CFR 1152.27² and requests for interim trail use/rail banking under 49

¹ On December 31, 1996, The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company merged with and into Burlington Northern Railroad Company. The name of the surviving corporation is The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company. Because the petition for exemption was filed and the record was largely developed before the merger, we will continue to use Burlington Northern Railroad Company in the case title.

² See Exempt. Of Rail Abandonment—Offers of Finan. Assist., 4 I.C.C.2d 164 (1987), for regulations in effect at the time of filing of the exemption petition. We note that the ICC Termination Act of 1995 has made changes and additions to the previous law regarding the processing of abandonments and OFAs. To implement these changes, we have issued final rules in Abandonment and Discontinuance of Rail Lines and Rail Transportation Under 49 U.S.C. 10903, STB Ex Parte No. 537 (STB served Dec. 24, 1996) (effective on January 23, 1997), modified, STB served June 27, 1997 (to be effective July 27, 1997). Because we have processed the exemption petition under the former regulations, we will continue to use those regulations in this proceeding to process an OFA, if one is filed.

CFR 1152.29³ must be filed by August 4, 1997; petitions to stay must be filed by August 11, 1997; petitions to reopen must be filed by August 19, 1997.

ADDRESSES: An original and 10 copies of all pleadings referring to STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 378X) 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: Sarah J. Whitley, 3800 Continental Plaza, 777 Main Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102-5384.

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 St., N.W., Room 210, Washington, DC 20006. Telephone: (202) 289-4357. [Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through TDD services (202) 565-1695.]

Decided: July 15, 1997.

By the Board, Chairman Morgan and Vice Chairman Owen.

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-19652 Filed 7-24-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-468 (Sub-No. 2X)]

Paducah & Louisville Railway, Inc.; Abandonment Exemption; in White Plains and St. Charles, KY

Paducah & Louisville Railway, Inc. (P&L) has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR Part 1152 Subpart F—*Exempt Abandonments* to abandon approximately 8.50 miles of its line of railroad between milepost J-146.0 at White Plains and milepost J-154.5 near St. Charles, in Hopkins County, KY.¹

³ At the request of the City of Aberdeen, WA, a notice of interim trail use (NITU) will be issued under 49 CFR 1152.29. Also, a public use condition will be imposed on the transaction under 49 CFR 1152.28.

¹ Pursuant to 49 CFR 1152.50(d)(2), the railroad must file a verified notice with the Board at least 50 days before the abandonment or discontinuance is to be consummated. The applicant in its verified notice, indicated a proposed consummation date of August 25, 1997. However, because the verified notice was filed on July 7, 1997, consummation

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