

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** H. Jeff Warren, (202) 565-1549. 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., Suite 210, 1925 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20423, telephone (202) 289-4357. (Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through TDD services (202) 565-1695.)

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

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 605(b), we conclude that our action will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities within the meaning of the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

Decided: September 18, 1997.

By the Board, Chairman Morgan and Vice Chairman Owen.

**Vernon A. Williams,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 97-25352 Filed 9-23-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33463]

#### The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Co.—Trackage Rights Exemption—The Houston Belt & Terminal Railway Co.

The Houston Belt & Terminal Railway Company (HB&T) has agreed to grant local trackage rights to The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF) over HB&T's tracks in Houston, TX, as follows: (a) The West Belt main line between Belt Junction, at milepost 7.2, and TN&O Junction, at milepost 11.1; and (b) the East Belt main line between (1) milepost 0.0 and milepost 3.4, and (2) milepost 12.5, at Tower 85, and milepost 14.3, at Double Track Junction, a distance of approximately 9.1 miles.

The transaction is scheduled to be consummated on September 17, 1997.

The purpose of the local trackage rights is to permit BNSF to provide service to HB&T's shippers and to improve the operating efficiencies of the applicants.

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 it 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 automatically stay the transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 33463, 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, Esq., PO Box 961039, Fort Worth, TX 76161-0039.

Decided: September 15, 1997.

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

**Vernon A. Williams,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 97-25351 Filed 9-23-97; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33461]

#### Southern Pacific Transportation Co.—Trackage Rights Exemption—The Houston Belt & Terminal Railway Co.

The Houston Belt & Terminal Railway Company (HB&T) has agreed to grant overhead and local trackage rights to Southern Pacific Transportation Company (SP) over HB&T's tracks in Houston, Harris County, TX. The overhead trackage rights are described as follows: (1) The West Belt Subdivision between milepost 0.0 and milepost 11.1; (2) the East Belt Subdivision between milepost 0.0 and milepost 14.3; and (3) the Columbia Tap from SP milepost 9.2 to the end of the line. The local trackage rights are described as follows: (1) The West Belt Subdivision between 0.00 and connection at milepost 7.2; (2) the East Belt Subdivision between Belt Junction, at milepost 3.4, and GH&H connection, at milepost 12.5; and (3) the Columbia Tap near Pierce Junction, at SP milepost 9.2, to the end of the line.

The transaction is scheduled to be consummated on or after October 6, 1997.

The purpose of the overhead trackage rights is to permit SP to operate over HB&T's trackage in Houston. The purpose of the local trackage rights is to permit SP to provide service directly to

shippers on HB&T's tracks in the City of Houston.

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 it 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 automatically stay the transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 33461, 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 Joseph D. Anthofer, Esq., 1416 Dodge Street, #830, Omaha, NE 68179.

Decided: September 15, 1997.

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

**Vernon A. Williams,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 97-25349 Filed 9-23-97; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33462]

#### Union Pacific Railroad Co.—Trackage Rights Exemption—The Houston Belt & Terminal Railway Co.

The Houston Belt & Terminal Railway Company (HB&T) has agreed to grant local trackage rights to Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) over HB&T's tracks in Houston, Harris County, TX, as follows: (1) The West Belt Subdivision between milepost 0.00 and connection at milepost 7.2; (2) the East Belt Subdivision between Belt Junction, at milepost 3.4, and GH&H connection, at milepost 12.5; and (3) the Columbia Tap near Pierce Junction, at SP milepost 9.2, to the end of the line.

The transaction is scheduled to be consummated on or after October 6, 1997.

The purpose of the local trackage rights is to permit UP to provide service directly to shippers on HB&T's tracks and will result in an efficient and economical operation in the City of Houston.