

IV. Probable Effects/Potential Impacts for Analysis

The FTA and RTA plan to evaluate in the EIS all significant, social, economic, and environmental impacts of the alternatives. The EIS is being prepared largely to evaluate the potential environmental impacts on natural resources associated with track and siding improvements and additions, which may involve fill in shoreline or wetland areas. Other environmental and social impacts proposed for analysis include land use and neighborhood impacts, traffic and parking impacts near stations, traffic circulation, visual impacts, health and safety impacts, impacts on cultural and archaeological resources, impacts on parkland areas, and noise and vibration impacts. The impacts on natural areas, rare and endangered species, and earth, air and water quality, will also be covered. The impacts will be evaluated both for the construction period and for the long-term period of operations. Reasonable measures to mitigate adverse impacts will be identified.

V. FTA Procedures

The locally preferred commuter rail transit mode and its general alignment were selected previously on the basis of the evaluation in the Major Investment Study (1997). The EIS/PE process will assess the social, economic and environmental impacts of alternative station locations, maintenance facility locations, and track designs to minimize and mitigate adverse impacts. A draft EIS will be published and made available for public and agency review and comment, and public hearings will be held. On the basis of the draft EIS and the comments received, the RTA will refine the project design and complete preliminary engineering and the final EIS.

Issued on: January 5, 1998.

Shelly R. Brown,

Regional Counsel.

[FR Doc. 98-491 Filed 1-8-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33531]

Dallas Area Rapid Transit; Acquisition and Operation Exemption—Line of Union Pacific Railroad Company

Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART), a political subdivision of the State of Texas, has filed a verified notice of

exemption under 49 CFR 1150.41 to acquire approximately 1.5 miles of rail line owned by Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) from approximately milepost 749.75 to approximately milepost 748.25 in the vicinity of Garland, TX.¹

The transaction was expected to be consummated on or soon after December 18, 1997, the effective date of the exemption.

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 automatically stay the transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 33531, 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 each pleading must be served on: Kevin M. Sheys, Oppenheimer Wolff & Donnelly, 1020 Nineteenth Street, N.W., Suite 400, Washington, DC 20036.

Decided: January 2, 1998.

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

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-581 Filed 1-8-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33530]

RailTex, Inc., Indiana & Ohio Rail Corp., Cincinnati Terminal Railway Company, Indiana and Ohio Railroad, Inc., Indiana & Ohio Railway Company, and Indiana & Ohio Central Railroad, Inc; Corporate Family Transaction Exemption

RailTex, Inc. (RailTex),¹ Indiana & Ohio Rail Corp. (I&O),² Cincinnati Terminal Railway Company (CTER), Indiana and Ohio Railroad, Inc. (INOH),

¹ Applicant states that it will grant trackage rights to UP (or UP's designee) on the subject line and that freight railroad operations on the subject line will be conducted by UP (or UP's designee) pursuant to the trackage rights. UP (or UP's designee) will seek the Board's approval for the trackage rights in a separate filing.

² RailTex is a noncarrier which directly controls 17 Class III railroads operating in 21 states, as well as 3 rail carriers that operate in Canada.

³ RailTex also directly controls I&O, a noncarrier, which controls CTER, INOH, IORY, and IOCR, 4 Class III railroads that have been operated as a single system.

Indiana & Ohio Railway Company (IORY), and Indiana & Ohio Central Railroad, Inc. (IOCR) have jointly filed a verified notice of exemption. CTER and INOH will be merged into IORY. After consummation of the transaction, I&O will directly control two Class III railroads: the IORY and the IOCR.

The transaction was to be consummated on or after December 18, 1997. The transaction will simplify RailTex's corporate structure and eliminate costs associated with separate accounting, tax, bookkeeping and reporting functions.

The merger of CTER and INOH into IORY is a transaction within a corporate family of the type specifically exempted from prior review and approval under 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(3). The parties state that the transaction will not result in changes in service levels, operational changes, or a change in the competitive balance with carriers outside the corporate family.

Under 49 U.S.C. 10502(g), the Board may not use its exemption authority to relieve a rail carrier of its statutory obligation to protect the interests of its employees. Section 11326(c), however, does not provide for labor protection for transactions under sections 11324 and 11325 that involve only Class III rail carriers. Because this transaction involves Class III rail carriers only, the Board, under the statute, may not impose labor protective conditions for this transaction.

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*. Petitions to reopen the proceeding to revoke the exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) may be filed at any time. The filing of a petition to reopen will not automatically stay the transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 33530, 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 each pleading must be served on Karl Morell, Esq., Ball Janik LLP, 1455 F Street, N.W., Suite 225, Washington, DC 20005.

Decided: December 31, 1997.

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

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-580 Filed 1-8-98; 8:45 am]

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