

To ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposed action are addressed and all significant issues identified, comments and suggestion are invited from all interested parties. Comments or questions concerning these proposed actions and EIS should be directed to the FHWA at the address provided above.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway Research, Planning and Construction. The regulation implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation of Federal programs and activities apply to this program)

Issued on: February 3, 1998.

Renee Sigel,

Planning, Research and Environment Team Leader, Baltimore.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Research and Special Programs Administration

[Notice No. 98-2]

Hazardous Materials in Intrastate Commerce: Public Meetings Related to Implementation and Compliance

AGENCY: Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a series of four public meetings to provide information and accept questions regarding regulations issued under Docket HM-200, "Hazardous Materials in Intrastate Transportation," published in the **Federal Register** on January 8, 1997 (62 FR 1208). The regulations require that most intrastate shippers and carriers comply with the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR) and provide a number of exceptions to reduce regulatory burdens. The meetings are intended to assist in understanding and complying with the new requirements.

DATES: *Public Meetings.* Public meetings will be held as follows:

- (1) March 26, 1998 in Lincoln, Nebraska;
- (2) April 7, 1998 in Irving, Texas;
- (3) April 22, 1998, in Decatur, Georgia; and
- (4) May 5, 1998, in Seattle, Washington.

ADDRESSES: *Meetings.* See Supplementary Information for specific times, locations and agendas.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Diane LaValle, Office of Hazardous

Materials Standards, (202) 366-8553, Research and Special Programs Administration, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590-0001. E-mail address: rules@rspa.dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

On January 8, 1997, RSPA published a final rule in the **Federal Register** (62 FR 1208) which amended the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR; 49 CFR parts 171-180) to expand the scope of the regulations to include most intrastate transportation of hazardous materials. RSPA also provided exceptions to the regulations to reduce the impact on persons newly subject to the HMR and others. Exceptions for agricultural operations are found in § 173.5; exceptions for materials of trade (MOTS) are found in § 173.6; and exceptions for non-specification packagings for flammable liquid petroleum products are found in § 173.8. As part of an outreach program to assist the public in understanding and complying with these regulations, RSPA is holding four public meetings.

Conduct of Meetings

Meetings will be informal, intended to produce dialogue between agency personnel and those persons affected by the expansion of the scope of the HMR.

Meeting Schedule and Agendas

The public meetings will be held at the following locations:

- (1) March 26, 1998, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon in Lincoln, Nebraska, Best Western Airport Inn, I-80 and Airport Exit #399, (402) 475-9541;
- (2) April 7, 1998, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon in Irving, Texas, Wilson World Hotel, 4600 West Airport Freeway, (972) 513-0800;
- (3) April 22, 1998, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon in Decatur, Georgia, Holiday Inn Hotel & Conference Plaza, 130 Clairemont Avenue, (404) 371-0204; and
- (4) May 5, 1998, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon in Seattle, Washington, Double Tree Hotel, 18470 Pacific Highway South, (206) 439-6130.

If there is interest, the meetings will resume after lunch.

Issued in Washington, DC on February 6, 1998 under authority delegated in 49 CFR.

Alan I. Roberts,

Associate Administrator for Hazardous Materials Safety.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket Nos. AB-502 and AB-503 (Sub-No. 1X)]

Bootheel Rail Properties, Inc.— Abandonment Exemption—in Pemiscot and Dunklin Counties, MO, and Bootheel Regional Rail Corporation—Discontinuance Exemption—in Pemiscot and Dunklin Counties, MO

On January 23, 1998, Bootheel Rail Properties, Inc. (BRP) and Bootheel Regional Rail Corporation (BRR) filed with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) a petition under 49 U.S.C. 10502 for exemption from the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 10903 for BRP to abandon and BRR to discontinue service over a line of railroad known as the Hayti-Kennett Branch, extending from milepost 212.73, near Hayti, MO, to milepost 230.00, near Kennett, MO, a distance of 17.27 miles in Pemiscot and Dunklin Counties, MO. The line traverses U.S. Postal Service ZIP Codes 63851, 63857, 63871, and 63827. There are no agency stations located on the line.

The line does not contain federally granted rights-of-way. Any documentation in BRP's possession will be made available promptly to those requesting it. Because BRP and BRR are proposing to abandon and discontinue service respectively over their entire lines, no labor conditions will be imposed.

By issuance of this notice, the Board is instituting an exemption proceeding pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10502(b). A final decision will be issued by May 13, 1998.

Any offer of financial assistance (OFA) under 49 CFR 1152.27(b)(2) will be due no later than 10 days after service of a decision granting the petition for exemption. Each OFA must be accompanied by a \$900 filing fee. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

All interested persons should be aware that, following abandonment of rail service and salvage of the line, the line may be suitable for other public use, including interim trail use. Any request for a public use condition under 49 CFR 1152.28 or for trail use/rail banking under 49 CFR 1152.29 will be due no later than March 4, 1998. Each trail use request must be accompanied by a \$150 filing fee. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(27).

All filings in response to this notice must refer to STB Docket Nos. AB-503 (Sub-No. 1X) and AB-502 (Sub-No. 1X) and must be sent to: (1) Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K