

Wichita, KS, to MP-571.85 at Kiowa, KS; (3) UP's Stafford Branch from MP-559.028 of the south leg of the wye and 955 feet of the north leg of the wye at Conway Springs, KS, to MP-654.11 at Radium, KS; and (4) UP's Iuka Branch from MP-609.97 at Olcott, KS, to MP-630.13 at Iuka, KS. KSW currently leases and operates over the lines. Following its acquisition of the lines, KSW would continue to be the operator over the lines.

The transaction was expected to be consummated on or shortly after the March 3, 1998 effective date of the exemption.

If this 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 does not automatically stay the transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 33551, 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 Karl Morell, Esq., Ball Janik LLP, 1455 F. Street, NW, Suite 225, Washington, DC 20005.

Decided: March 3, 1998.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-6290 Filed 3-10-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33562]

South Central Florida Express, Inc.; Trackage Rights Exemption; Florida East Coast Railway

Florida East Coast Railway Company has agreed to grant overhead trackage rights between milepost K-0.0 near Ft. Pierce, FL, and milepost K-15.0, and local trackage rights between milepost K-15.0 and milepost K-70.4, at or near Lake Harbor, FL, to South Central Florida Express, Inc. The trackage rights were scheduled to take effect on March 2, 1998, the effective date of the exemption.

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. 33562, 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 Edward D. Greenberg, Esq., Galland, Kharasch & Garfinkle, P.C., 1054 Thirty-First Street, NW, Washington, DC 20007.

Decided: March 3, 1998.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-6291 Filed 3-10-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-542X]

Harbor Belt Line Railroad; Discontinuance Exemption; Port of Los Angeles

On February 19, 1998, Harbor Belt Line Railroad (HBL) filed with the Surface Transportation Board a petition under 49 U.S.C. 10502 for exemption from the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 10903 to discontinue its switching operations on tracks owned by the City of Los Angeles (the City) within the Port of Los Angeles (the Port) harbor complex, Los Angeles County, CA.¹ The tracks traverse U.S. Postal Service Zip Codes 90731, 90744, 90802, and 90822.

This transaction is related to *Pacific Harbor Line, Inc.—Operation Exemption—Port of Los Angeles*, STB Finance Docket No. 33411 (STB served Dec. 2, 1997), in which Pacific Harbor Line, Inc. (PHL), filed a notice of exemption to acquire operating rights from the City to provide the switching services being discontinued here. Upon

¹ HBL was created in 1928 by the City and the railroads then serving the Port to provide switching service within the Port. HBL is now controlled by the City through its Board of Harbor Commissioners, Union Pacific Railroad Company and The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company.

commencement of services by PHL, HBL will be replaced as the operator of the lines in the harbor complex and will completely discontinue all operations.

The lines do not contain federally granted rights-of-way. Any documentation in HBL's possession will be made available promptly to those requesting it. Because HBL is proposing to discontinue services over its entire line, 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 June 9, 1998.

Any offer of financial assistance to subsidize continued rail service 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 offer of financial assistance must be accompanied by a \$1,000 filing fee. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

Because this is a discontinuance proceeding and not an abandonment, trail use/rail banking and public use conditions are not appropriate.

This proceeding is exempt from environmental reporting requirements under 49 CFR 1105.6(c) and from historic reporting requirements under 1105.8(b).

All filings in response to this notice must refer to STB Docket No. AB-542X and must be sent to: (1) Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001; and (2) Samuel M. Sipe, Jr., Steptoe & Johnson, LLP, 1330 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20036.

Persons seeking further information concerning abandonment and discontinuance procedures may contact the Board's Office of Public Services at (202) 565-1592 or refer to the full abandonment or discontinuance regulations at 49 CFR part 1152. Questions concerning environmental issues may be directed to the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis at (202) 565-1545. [TDD for the hearing impaired is available at (202) 565-1695.]

Decided: March 6, 1998.

By the Board, Joseph H. Dettmar, Acting Director, Office of Proceedings.

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

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