

demonstration segments (carbon dioxide and ethylene) can have little impact on the human environment, should a release occur. These reasons are further discussed in the Environmental Assessment referenced above.

Issued in Washington, DC on March 19, 1998.

Richard B. Felder,

Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.

[FR Doc. 98-7605 Filed 3-23-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-60-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33520]

Consolidated Rail Corporation— Trackage Rights Exemption—The Wheeling and Lake Erie Railway Company

The Wheeling and Lake Erie Railway Company (W&LE) has agreed to grant local trackage rights to Consolidated Rail Corporation (Conrail) over certain railroad trackage, being a portion of W&LE's River Line, and more particularly described as follows: (1) initial rights for a period of 6 months from the date Conrail begins operations under the trackage rights agreement, or for such extensions of time as may be mutually agreed, shall begin at the connection between Conrail and W&LE at Shannon Run, OH, in the vicinity of W&LE milepost R-1.5±, and shall extend to the American Electric Power (AEP) Cardinal Plant at Brilliant, OH, in the vicinity of W&LE R-5.0±; and (2) permanent rights, after the term of the initial rights, shall begin at a new connection to be constructed between Conrail's River Line at milepost 26.40± and W&LE's River Branch at milepost R-3.0±, thence extending on W&LE's River Branch to the AEP Cardinal Plant at Brilliant, OH, in the vicinity of W&LE milepost R-5.0±.

The trackage rights exemption will be effective on March 19, 1998. The actual commencement of operations by Conrail pursuant to the trackage rights will depend upon Conrail's commercial arrangements with AEP, but will not take place before the March 19, 1998 effective date.

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 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. 33520, 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: John J. Paylor, Associate General Counsel, Consolidated Rail Corporation, 2001 Market Street, 16A, Philadelphia, PA 19101-1416.

Decided: March 17, 1998.

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

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-7617 Filed 3-23-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33553]

Ventura County Transportation Commission—Acquisition Exemption—Southern Pacific Transportation Company

Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC), a Class III carrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.41 to acquire approximately 31.73 miles of rail line from Southern Pacific Transportation Company (SP) between milepost 435.07 and milepost 403.34 at Montalvo Station near Ventura, CA, where the line connects with the SP Coast Line (the Santa Paula Branch Line).¹

VCTC entered into an agreement with SP to purchase the line, and consummated the transaction on October 27, 1995, apparently without appropriate authority from the Board. Under the agreement, SP retained the right to continue to provide freight common carrier service over a portion of the line, but, according to VCTC, VCTC became a carrier at the time of the purchase in 1995. VCTC did not file its verified notice of exemption, as amended, with the Board until February 27, 1998. VCTC has acknowledged that the effective date of the exemption was

¹This notice of exemption amends and supersedes the earlier notice of exemption that VCTC had filed, pursuant to 49 CFR 1150.31, on February 10, 1998.

March 6, 1998 (7 days after the amended notice of exemption was filed).

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. 33553, 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: Charles A. Spitulnik, Hopkins & Sutter, 888 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20006.

Decided: March 17, 1998.

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

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-7618 Filed 3-23-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 119X)]

Union Pacific Railroad Company— Abandonment Exemption—In Rock, Green and Dane Counties, WI

On March 4, 1998, Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) 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 to abandon and discontinue service on a line of railroad known as the Harvard Subdivision, extending from railroad milepost 119.0 near Evansville to railroad milepost 134.0 near "MX" (a crossing of Wisconsin & Southern Railroad Company near Madison), a distance of 15.0 miles in Rock, Green and Dane Counties, WI. The line traverses U.S. Postal Service Zip Codes 53536, 53575 and Area 537 (near Madison), and includes the non-agency rail station of Oregon at milepost 128.1.

The line does not contain federally granted rights-of-way. Any documentation in UP's possession will be made available promptly to those requesting it.

The interest of railroad employees will be protected by the conditions set forth in *Oregon Short Line R. Co.—Abandonment—Goshen*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979).

By issuance of this notice, the Board is instituting an exemption proceeding