

NHTSA's evaluation of the consequentiality of this noncompliance should not be interpreted as a diminution of the agency's concern for child safety. Rather, it represents NHTSA's assessment of the gravity of the noncompliance based upon the likely consequences. Ultimately, the issue is whether this particular noncompliance is likely to increase the risk to safety. Although empirical results are not determinative, the absence of any reports of fires originating in these child restraints supports the agency's decision that the noncompliance does not have a consequential effect on safety.

For the above reasons, the agency has decided that Cosco has met its burden of persuasion that the noncompliance at issue here is inconsequential to motor vehicle safety and its application is granted. Accordingly, Cosco is hereby exempted from the notification and remedy provisions of 49 U.S.C. 30118 and 30120.

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 30118(d), 30120(h) delegations of authority at 49 CFR 1.50 and 501.8.

Issued on: May 29, 1998.

L. Robert Shelton,

Associate Administrator for Safety Performance Standards.

[FR Doc. 98-15037 Filed 6-4-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-59-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33597]

Great Western Railway of Colorado, LLC—Acquisition and Operation Exemption—Great Western Lines, LLC

Great Western Railway of Colorado, LLC (GWC), a Class III rail carrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption to acquire approximately 23 miles of rail line from Great Western Lines, LLC.¹ The line involved in the acquisition transaction is located in Colorado as follows: (1) between milepost 76.5, at Fort Collins, and milepost 98.9 at Greeley; and (2) the Burlington Northern Railroad Company's former interchange track at Loveland, between the end of the track and a point 10 feet south of Tenth Street in Loveland.

The transaction was to be consummated on or shortly after May 14, 1998, the effective date of the exemption.

¹ GWC certifies that the projected revenues do not exceed those that would qualify as a Class III rail carrier. GWC also certifies that the projected annual revenue will not exceed \$5 million.

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. 33597, 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.

Board decisions and notices are available on our website at WWW.STB.DOT.GOV."

Decided: June 2, 1998.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-15066 Filed 6-4-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33598]

OmniTRAX, Inc.—Control Exemption—Northern Ohio & Western Railway, LLC

OmniTRAX, Inc. (OmniTRAX), a noncarrier holding company has filed a notice of exemption to control Northern Ohio & Western Railway, LLC (NOW), a Class III rail carrier. OmniTRAX is proposing to acquire all of the issued and outstanding stock of NOW.

The transaction was scheduled to be consummated on May 14, 1998, the effective date of the exemption.

Applicant currently controls 9 Class III railroad subsidiary operating in 7 states: Central Kansas Railway LLC and Kansas Southwestern Railway LLC, in Kansas; Chicago Rail Link LLC and Manufacturers' Junction Railway LLC, in Illinois; Georgia Woodlands Railroad LLC, in Georgia; Great Western Railway of Colorado LLC, in Colorado; Great Western Railway of Iowa LLC, in Iowa; Newburgh and South Shore Railroad Limited, in Ohio; and Panhandle Northern Railroad LLC, in Texas.

OmniTRAX states that: (1) the railroads do not connect with each other or any railroad in their corporate family; (ii) the acquisition of control is not part of a series of anticipated transactions that would connect the ten railroads with each other or any railroad in their corporate family; and (iii) the

transaction does not involve a Class I carrier. Therefore, the transaction is exempt from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 11323. See 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(2).

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 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. 33598, 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.

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Decided: June 2, 1998.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-15065 Filed 6-4-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33611]

Union Pacific Railroad Company—Petition for Declaratory Order—Former Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad Line Between Jude and Ogden Junction, TX

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board.
ACTION: Institution of declaratory order proceeding; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Surface Transportation Board (Board) is instituting a declaratory order proceeding and requesting comments on the petition of the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP), for an order declaring that the Board lacks authority under 49 U.S.C.