

(historic reports), 49 CFR 1105.11 (transmittal letter), 49 CFR 1105.12 (newspaper publication), and 49 CFR 1152.50(d)(1) (notice to governmental agencies) have been met.

As a condition to this exemption, any employee adversely affected by the abandonment shall be protected under *Oregon Short Line R. Co.—Abandonment—Goshen*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979). To address whether this condition adequately protects affected employees, a petition for partial revocation under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) must be filed. Provided no formal expression of intent to file an offer of financial assistance (OFA) has been received, this exemption will be effective on January 21, 1999, unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay that do not involve environmental issues,² formal expressions of intent to file an OFA under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2),³ and trail use/rail banking requests under 49 CFR 1152.29 must be filed by January 4, 1999. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by January 11, 1999, with: Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20423.

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to applicants representative: James R. Paschall,

²The Board will grant a stay if an informed decision on environmental issues (whether raised by a party or by the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis in its independent investigation) cannot be made before the exemption's effective date. See *Exemption of Out-of-Service Rail Lines*, 5 I.C.C. 2d 377 (1989). Any request for a stay should be filed as soon as possible so that the Board may take appropriate action before the exemption's effective date.

³Each offer of financial assistance must be accompanied by the filing fee, which currently is set at \$1000. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

General Attorney, Norfolk Southern Corporation, Three Commercial Place, Norfolk, VA 23510-2191. If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*.

CSR and CNO&TP have filed an environmental report which addresses the abandonment's effects, if any, on the environment and historic resources. The Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) will issue an environmental assessment (EA) by December 24, 1998. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA by writing to SEA (Room 500, Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423) or by calling SEA, at (202) 565-1545. Comments on environmental and historic preservation matters must be filed within 15 days after the EA becomes available to the public.

Environmental, historic preservation, public use, or trail use/rail banking conditions will be imposed, where appropriate, in a subsequent decision.

Pursuant to the provisions of 49 CFR 1152.29(e)(2), CSR shall file a notice of consummation with the Board to signify that it has exercised the authority granted and fully abandoned the line. If consummation has not been effected by CSR's filing of a notice of consummation by December 22, 1999, and there are no legal or regulatory barriers to consummation, the authority to abandon will automatically expire.

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

Decided: December 15, 1998.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

United States Mint

Request for Comments, Extension of Time

ACTION: Request for Comments, Extension of Time.

SUMMARY: In a notice appearing November 27, 1998, the United States Mint announced that it was seeking comments from the public on proposed obverse and reverse designs for the new \$1 coin to be issued beginning in 2000. The designs have been displayed on the Mint's web site since December 7, 1998. The Mint set a comment deadline of December 21, 1998. Because of overwhelming response to the Mint's web site, the Mint is extending this deadline to December 28, 1998. Current finalist designs remain displayed on the Mint's web site at <http://www.usmint.gov>.

COMMENT DEADLINE: December 28, 1998.

RECEIPT OF COMMENTS: Any member of the public wishing to comment should do so via the Internet by accessing the Mint's web site (<http://www.usmint.gov>). Alternatively, comments may be submitted in writing to Michael White, 633 3rd Street NW, Room 715, Washington, DC 20220, Fax (202) 874-4083; mail must be received no later than December 28, 1998.

Philip Diehl,

Director, The United States Mint.

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