

liquid hazardous materials by marine vessel compared to other modes of transportation,

2. Inadequate regulations, and
3. Training and Procedures.

The meeting is open to the public.

Please note that the meeting may close early if all business is finished. At the Chair's discretion, members of the public may make oral presentations during the meeting. If you would like to make an oral presentation at the meeting, please notify Mr. Payne no later than January 4, 1999. Written material for distribution at the meeting should reach the U.S. Coast Guard no later than January 4, 1999. If you would like a copy of your material distributed to each member of the Subcommittee in advance of the meeting, please submit 25 copies to Mr. Payne no later than January 4, 1999 or make other arrangements with Mr. Payne.

#### Information on Services for Individuals With Disabilities

For information on facilities or services for individuals with disabilities or to request special assistance at the meeting, contact Mr. Payne as soon as possible.

Dated: December 17, 1998.

**Joseph J. Angelo,**

*Director of Standards, Marine Safety and Environmental Protection.*

[FR Doc. 98-34341 Filed 12-24-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-15-M

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33692]

#### Adrian & Blissfield Rail Road Company—Acquisition Exemption—Grand Trunk Western Railroad Incorporated

Adrian & Blissfield Rail Road Company (ADBF), a Class III rail carrier, has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.41 to acquire (by purchase) approximately 2.27 miles of rail line owned by Grand Trunk Western Railroad Incorporated (GTW) (known as the Dequindre Line) between (1) milepost 1.77 and milepost 4.04 in Wayne County, MI (the Holly subdivision).<sup>1</sup> ADBF will operate the property.

The transaction was scheduled to be consummated on or shortly after December 15, 1998.

<sup>1</sup> ADBF certifies that its annual revenue will not exceed those that would qualify it as a Class III rail carrier and that its annual revenues are not projected to 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. 33692, 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 Kenneth J. Bisdorf, 2301 West Big Beaver Road, Suite 600, Troy, MI 48084-3329.

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

Decided: December 17, 1998.

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

**Vernon A. Williams,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 98-34280 Filed 12-24-98; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-437 (Sub-No. 2X)]

#### Kansas Southwestern Railway, L.L.C.—Abandonment Exemption—in Reno, Pratt and Stafford Counties, KS

Kansas Southwestern Railway, L.L.C. (KSW) has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR part 1152 subpart F—*Exempt Abandonments* to abandon an approximately 64.27-mile line of railroad on the Iuka Branch between milepost 609.97, at Olcott and milepost 630.13 at Iuka, and the portion of its Stafford Branch between milepost 610.0, at Olcott and milepost 654.11 at Radium, in Reno, Pratt and Stafford Counties, KS. The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Codes 67121, 67583, 67578, 67545, 67577, 67571, 67569 and 67066.

KSW has certified that: (1) No local traffic has moved over the line for at least 2 years; (2) there has been no overhead traffic handled on the line during that period; (3) no formal complaint filed by a user of rail service on the line (or by a state or local government entity acting on behalf of such user) regarding cessation of service over the line either is pending with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) or with any U.S. District Court or has been decided in favor of complainant within the 2-year period; and (4) the requirements at 49 CFR 1105.7

(environmental reports), 49 CFR 1105.8 (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 27, 1999, unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay that do not involve environmental issues,<sup>1</sup> formal expressions of intent to file an OFA under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2),<sup>2</sup> and trail use/rail banking requests under 49 CFR 1152.29 must be filed by January 7, 1999. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by January 19, 1999, with: Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20423.

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to applicant's representative: Karl Morell, Ball Janik LLP, 1455 F St., NW., Suite 225, Washington, DC 20005. If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*.

KSW has 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 31, 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

<sup>1</sup> The 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.

<sup>2</sup> Each offer of financial assistance must be accompanied by the filing fee, which currently is set at \$1000. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).