

Authority: 23 U.S.C. 315; 49 U.S.C. 31136; 49 U.S.C. 31502; 49 CFR 1.48 and 1.50.

Issued on: January 22, 1999.

George L. Reagle,

*Associate Administrator for Motor Carriers
Federal Highway Administration.*

Raymond P. Owings,

*Associate Administrator for Research and
Development, National Highway Traffic
Safety Administration.*

[FR Doc. 99-2020 Filed 1-27-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33680]

Central New England Railroad, Inc.— Operation Exemption—Line Owned by State of Connecticut Department of Transportation

Central New England Railroad, Inc., an existing Class III carrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.41 to operate approximately 8.7 miles of rail line owned by the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation from milepost 0.0, at Hartford, CT, to milepost 8.7, at Griffins, CT (known as the Griffins Industrial Track).¹

The transaction is expected to be consummated on or after January 22, 1999.

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. 33680 must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, D.C. 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served upon Robert A. Wimbish, Esq., Rea, Cross & Auchincloss, 1707 L Street, NW., Suite 570, Washington, DC 20036.

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

Decided: January 21, 1999.

¹ Applicant represents that the result of the proposed transaction will be the resumption of common carrier service on a state-owned line.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-1887 Filed 1-27-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33704]

Pioneer Railcorp and Wabash & Western Railway Co.—Acquisition of Control Exemption—Michigan Southern Railroad Co., Inc.

Pioneer Railcorp (Pioneer), a noncarrier holding company, and Wabash & Western Railway Co. (WAB), a Class III rail carrier, have jointly filed a verified notice of exemption to acquire, through stock purchase, Michigan Southern Railroad Co., Inc., (MSR), a Class III rail carrier, operating in the States of Michigan and Indiana.¹

The earliest the transaction could be consummated was January 6, 1999, the effective date of the exemption (7 days after the exemption was filed).

As indicated by Pioneer and WAB in their notice, pursuant to the original lease agreement between WAB, MSR, Gordon D. Morris, and Morris Leasing Co., Ltd. (MLSC), WAB has the option to purchase the outstanding stock of MSR, and the rail assets of MLSC would be transferred to MSR prior the closing of the stock purchase. WAB will continue to lease and operate the lines of MSR as well as operate under the name of Michigan Southern Railroad.²

WAB is a subsidiary of Pioneer Railcorp (Pioneer), which directly controls thirteen existing shortline rail carriers.³ Pioneer will indirectly control MSR upon completion of this transaction.

Pioneer and WAB state that: (i) The railroads do not connect with each other; (ii) the transaction is not part of a series of anticipated transactions that would connect the railroads with each other; and (iii) the transaction does not involve a Class I carrier. Therefore, the transaction is exempt from the prior

¹ See *Morris Leasing Co., Ltd. and Michigan Southern Railroad, Inc.—Acquisition and Operation Exemption—Lines of Consolidated Rail Corporation*, STB Finance Docket No. 33265 (STB served Nov. 13, 1996).

² See *Wabash & Western Railway Co.—Lease and Operation Exemption—Morris Leasing Co., Ltd., and Michigan Southern Railroad, Inc.*, STB Finance Docket No. 33306 (STB served Dec. 24, 1996).

³ See *Pioneer Railcorp—Continuance in Control Exemption—Pioneer Industrial Railway Co.*, STB Finance Docket No. 33550 (STB served Feb. 20, 1998).

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. 33704, 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 all pleadings must be served on Daniel A. LaKemper, Esq., 1318 S. Johanson Road, Peoria, IL 61607.

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Decided: January 21, 1999.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-1888 Filed 1-27-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

January 21, 1999.

The Department of Treasury has submitted the following public information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling the Treasury Bureau Clearance Officer listed. Comments regarding this information collection should be addressed to the OMB reviewer listed and to the Treasury Department Clearance Officer, Department of the Treasury, Room 2110, 1425 New York Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20220.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before March 1, 1999 to be assured of consideration.