

national emergency. The vessel operators who are interested in participating in the Maritime Security Fleet are required to submit an application to MARAD for its review and approval.

**Need and Use of the Information:** The collected information is necessary for MARAD to determine if selected vessels are qualified to participate in the Maritime Security Program.

**Description of Respondents:** Operators of U.S.-flag vessels who are interested in participating in the Maritime Security Fleet.

**Annual Responses:** Approximately 10–15.

**Annual Burden:** Approximately four to six hours.

**Comments:** Comments should refer to the docket number that appears at the top of this document. Written comments may be submitted to the Docket Clerk, U.S. DOT Dockets, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, D.C. 20590. Comments may also be submitted by electronic means via the Internet at <http://dmses.dot.gov/submit/>. Specifically, address whether this information collection is necessary for proper performance of the function of the agency and will have practical utility, accuracy of the burden estimates, ways to minimize this burden and ways to enhance quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected. All comments received will be available for examination at the above address between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., ET., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays. An electronic version of this document and filings in this docket are available on the World Wide Web at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

By Order of the Maritime Administrator.

Dated: June 2, 1999.

**Joel C. Richard,**

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99–14328 Filed 6–4–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–81–P

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33753]

#### South Plains Switching, Ltd. Co.— Acquisition Exemption—The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company

South Plains Switching, Ltd. Co. (South Plains), a Class III rail common carrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.41 to acquire approximately 67,784 feet of rail lines from The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF)<sup>1</sup> in Lubbock, TX, as follows: (1) former ATSF side tracks 0310–0313, 032, 0330–0332, 0340–0341, 0370, 0372–0373, 0380–0382, 0385, 0387, and 0390; and (2) former BN side tracks 9201–9204, 9208, 9220, 9298, 9310, 9320, 9322, 9330, Orchard Lead, 9304, 9311–9312, 9321, 9323–9326, 9331, 9333, 9401–9406, 9409–9412, 9415, and 9420–9424. In conjunction with the acquisition of these rail lines, South Plains will acquire approximately 18 miles of incidental trackage rights over BNSF's tracks 0340, 9200, 9205 and 9208 and BNSF's mainline between track 9298 and BNSF's Lower Yard at Lubbock.

The transaction is expected to be consummated on or shortly after June 4, 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 does not automatically stay the transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 33753, 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 William R. Power, Esq., 260 Cordovan Park, 5840 West Interstate Twenty, Arlington, TX 76017.

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

<sup>1</sup> On December 31, 1996, The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company (ATSF) merged with and into Burlington Northern Railroad Company (BN). The name of the surviving corporation of the merger is The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company.

Decided: May 28, 1999.

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

**Vernon A. Williams,**

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99–14324 Filed 6–4–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915–00–P

## UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

### Culturally Significant Objects Imported for Exhibition; Determinations: “Discovering the Secrets of Soft Paste Porcelain in the Saint Cloud Manufactory, 1690–1766”

**AGENCY:** United States Information  
Agency.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given of the following determinations: Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Act of October 19, 1965 (79 Stat. 985, 22 U.S.C. 2459), Executive Order 12047 of March 27, 1978 (43 FR 13359, March 29, 1978), and Delegation Order No. 85–5 of June 27, 1985 (50 FR 27393, July 2, 1985). I hereby determine that the objects to be included in the exhibit “Discovering the Secrets of Soft Paste Porcelain in the Saint Cloud Manufactory, 1690–1766,” imported from abroad for temporary exhibition without profit within the United States, are of cultural significance. These objects are imported pursuant to a loan agreement with the foreign lenders. I also determine that the exhibition or display of the listed exhibit objects at the Bard Graduate Center, New York, NY, from on or about July 14, 1999, to on or about October 24, 1999, is in the national interest. Public Notice of these determinations is ordered to be published in the **Federal Register**.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For a copy of the list of exhibit objects or for further information, contact Carol Epstein, Assistant General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, United States Information Agency, at 202/619–6981, or USIA, 301 4th Street, SW, Room 700, Washington, DC 20547–0001.

Dated: June 2, 1999.

**Les Jin,**

General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 99–14294 Filed 6–4–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8230–01–M