

DATES: The Environmental Assessment will remain available for public comment through September 29, 1999. Written comments should be received no later than September 29, 1999. Late comments will be considered so far as practicable.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Persons with questions about the Environmental Assessment may contact Jim Taylor at (202) 366-8860 or email jim.taylor@rspa.dot.gov. Persons with questions about viewing the Environmental Assessment in the DOT Docket Center may contact Dorothy Walker at (202) 366-9329 or email dorothy.walker@tasc.dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In 1990, the United States Congress passed Public Law 101-380, the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA), to improve the nation's ability to respond to, and limit the economic and environmental impact from, marine spills of oil and other pollutants. Section 4202 of the OPA modifies the planning and response system created under the authority of Section 311(j) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (also known as the Clean Water Act). OPA required response plans for vessels and facilities that produce, store, transport, refine, and market oil.

Just as oil tankers are required to submit oil spill response plans to the Coast Guard and refineries are required to submit such plans to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), oil pipelines are required to submit their facility response plans (FRP) to OPS for review and approval. To date, more than 1300 facility response plans have been submitted to OPS. They represent some 200 oil pipeline operators, and lines that vary from 3-inch gathering systems to 36-inch product lines to the 48-inch Trans-Alaska Pipeline System. OPS conducts a thorough review of the plans, with particular emphasis on the adequacy of the pipeline operator's response resources, incident command system, and ability to protect environmentally sensitive areas from harm. OPS also makes sure that pipeline operators' plans are consistent with both the National Contingency Plan and the local Area Contingency Plan, which are developed by the Coast Guard and EPA.

In addition to reviewing operators' plans, OPS conducts exercises to test pipeline operators' ability to implement their facility response plans. To date, OPS has conducted sixty-nine Tabletop Exercises, scenario-driven discussions in which operators explain how they would implement their plans to respond to a worst-case spill. OPS has also

conducted nine full-scale Area Exercises with pipeline operators in which they deploy people and equipment to the field in response to a simulated spill. In both Tabletop and Area Exercises, OPS makes every effort to have other Federal, State, and local environmental and emergency response agencies participate. Their participation makes exercises more realistic, and builds relationships between industry and public sector responders that make the response to real spills go more smoothly.

The Environmental Assessment concisely describes OPS's recent review of the effectiveness of its Response Plan Review and Exercise Program, its proposed action to continue implementation of the current program, the alternative programmatic approaches considered, the environment affected by this action, the consequences to the environment of the alternatives considered, and a list of the agencies and organizations consulted.

Issued in Washington, DC, on August 24, 1999.

Richard B. Felder,

Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.

[FR Doc. 99-22332 Filed 8-27-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-60-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33785]

Utah Railway Company—Acquisition and Operation Exemption—Lines of Utah Transit Authority in Salt Lake City, UT

The Utah Railway Company (URC), a Class III rail carrier, has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.41, *et seq.* to acquire rights to operate over approximately 25 miles of rail line from milepost 775.19 at the Salt Lake County/Utah County boundary line to milepost 798.74 at Ninth South Street in Salt Lake City, including the 1.4-mile Lovendahl Spur. URC filed a supplement to the notice on August 9, 1999.

The notice recites that URC is acquiring "certain rights of Salt Lake City Southern Railroad Company, Inc. (SLCS) to operate over certain rail lines owned by Utah Transit Authority (UTA)." While UTA owns the underlying real property, it does not possess an ownership interest in a railroad right-of-way as such ownership is understood by this agency. If it did, UTA would have had to obtain authority from this agency for such an

acquisition. UTA holds no such authority. Rather, SLCS owns the right-of-way, having acquired a permanent easement from the Union Pacific Railroad Company.

The notice recites that URC may consummate the transaction on September 30, 1999, 60 days after notice of the proposed transaction was posted at the workplace of the employees on the affected line. The regulations at 49 CFR 1150.42(e) provide, however, that the transaction not be consummated until 60 days after certification to the Board that the notice has been posted. Because this agency did not receive the certification until August 9, 1999, the transaction may not be consummated until October 8, 1999 at the earliest. In STB Docket No. AB-520, Salt Lake City Southern Railroad Company, Inc.—Adverse Abandonment—Line Of Utah Transit Authority in Salt Lake County, Utah, UTA has filed an adverse abandonment application against SLCS. UTC states that it will consummate the transaction in this proceeding after the Board authorizes SLCS's abandonment.

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 will not automatically stay the transaction. An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 33785, 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 Theodore A. McConnell, Kirkpatrick & Lockhart LLP, 1500 Oliver Building, Pittsburgh, PA 15222.

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

Decided: August 24, 1999.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-22465 Filed 8-27-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Performance Review Board

AGENCY: Department of the Treasury.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice lists the membership to the Department Offices' Performance Review Board (PRB) and