

of the requested documents to analyze the documents and prepare comments on the grandfather petition. FRA has agreed to this request and has extended the comment period to the close of business on January 10, 2000. FRA expects that further extensions of the comment period will not be necessary.

FRA has placed in the docket a copy of all the documents provided to the FOIA requester. FRA has also placed in the docket several documents that it received from Talgo that are relevant to the Amtrak petition. Two of these documents contain comments or corrections to the minutes of the June 17, 1999 meeting between FRA, Amtrak and Talgo; the minutes of this meeting was one of the documents released to the FOIA requester. Another document contains weld information pertaining to the Talgo equipment. The remaining documents contain design changes to the Talgo equipment requested by FRA. Talgo has requested confidential treatment, under exemption 4 of FOIA, for certain information in the documents. FRA has redacted from the Talgo documents information that is protected by exemption 4. Unredacted versions of all of the documents placed in the docket are available to agency staff and will be used in the agency's review of the Amtrak petition to the extent deemed necessary.

Comments received after January 10, 2000 will be considered to the extent possible.

Comments received after January 10, 2000 will be considered to the extent possible. Amtrak's petition, documents inserted in the docket, and all written communications concerning this proceeding are available for examination during regular business hours (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) at DOT Central Docket Management Facility, Room PL-401 (Plaza Level), 400 Seventh, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590-0001. All documents in the public docket are also available for inspection and copying on the Internet at the docket facility's Web site at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

Issued in Washington, DC, on December 23, 1999.

Grady C. Cothen, Jr.,

Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Standards and Program Development.

[FR Doc. 99-33926 Filed 12-29-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-06-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

[Docket MARAD-1999-6704]

Matson Navigation Company— Application for Approval of a Proposed Ocean Freight Service under the Fourth Exception to Section 506 of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936, as Amended.

Notice is hereby given that Matson Navigation Company (Matson) has requested approval of the Maritime Administration that a proposed ocean freight service is permitted under the Fourth Exception to Section 506 of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936, as amended, 46 App. U.S.C. 1156. The proposed service would use two of the following C-9 class vessels, MAHIMAH, MANOA, and MOKIHANA, which were built with the aid of construction-differential subsidy. As a result of receiving such assistance, those vessels must be operated in the U.S. foreign trade, except that the vessels may be operated "on a voyage in foreign trade on which the vessel may stop at the State of Hawaii." Matson proposes to operate the vessels in an itinerary which includes stops at Vancouver, B.C., Seattle, Oakland, and Honolulu, with no coastwise cargo to be carried between Seattle and Oakland. The C-9 vessels would be substituted for two of the six vessels Matson presently operates in its Hawaii service. Matson also operates a Pacific Coast Shuttle service with calls at Los Angeles, Seattle and Vancouver.

A redacted copy of the application will be available for inspection at the Department of Transportation (DOT) Dockets Facility and on the DOT Dockets website (address information follows). Any person, firm, or corporation having an interest in this proposal, and desiring to submit comments concerning the application, may file comments as follows. You should mention the docket number that appears at the top of this notice. You should submit your written comments to the Docket Clerk, U.S. DOT Dockets, Room PL-401, Nassif Building, Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590. Comments may also be submitted by electronic means via the internet at <http://dmses.dot.gov/submit>. You may call Docket Management at (202) 366-9324. You may visit the docket room to inspect and copy comments at the above address between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., EST, Monday through Friday, except holidays. An electronic version of this document is

available on the World Wide Web at <http://dms.dot.gov>. Comments must be received no later than the close of business on (15 days from publication), 2000.

This notice is published as a matter of discretion, and the fact of its publication should in no way be considered a favorable or unfavorable decision on the application, as filed, or as may be amended. MARAD will consider any comments timely submitted, and take such action with respect thereto as may be deemed appropriate.

By Order of the Maritime Administration.

Dated: December 27, 1999.

Joel C. Richard,

Secretary, Maritime Administration.

[FR Doc. 99-33934 Filed 12-29-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-81-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33837]

CSX Transportation, Inc.—Trackage Rights Exemption—Norfolk Southern Railway Company

Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NS) has agreed to grant overhead trackage rights to CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT), to operate its trains, locomotives, cars and equipment with CSXT's own crews over NS's Track #A1 at Petersburg, VA, from the connection between CSXT and NS at or near milepost P004.85 to the connection with the industrial trackage of Chaparral Steel Corporation (CSC).

The transaction is scheduled to be consummated on or shortly after December 27, 1999.

The purpose of the trackage rights is to allow CSC to have two rail carriers serve its Petersburg facility. CSXT's trackage rights will be restricted to service to CSC, its existing and future subsidiary companies, or other supporting companies located on the industrial trackage of CSC, and the successor and assigns of those companies.

As a condition to this exemption, any employees affected by the trackage rights will be protected by the conditions imposed in *Norfolk and Western Ry. Co.—Trackage Rights—BN*, 354 I.C.C. 605 (1978), as modified in *Mendocino Coast Ry., Inc.—Lease and Operate*, 360 I.C.C. 653 (1980).

This notice is filed under 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(7). If it contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*. Petitions to revoke the exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d)