

review, such MOUs should be updated as needed.

Either the local FTA or FHWA office will be responsible for project administration. In cases where the project is clearly related to transit, FTA will determine the project's eligibility and administer the project. Similarly, traffic flow improvements that improve air quality through operational improvements of the road system are be administered by FHWA. For projects that include both traffic flow and transit elements, such as park-and-ride lots and intermodal projects, the administering agency will be decided on a case-by-case basis. Following initial review by the administering agency and consultation with EPA, the administering agency makes the final determination on whether the project or program is likely to contribute to attainment of a NAAQS and is eligible for CMAQ funding. The consultation process should provide for timely review and handling of CMAQ funding proposals.

State and MPO Responsibilities

Decisions over which projects and programs to fund under CMAQ should be made through the appropriate metropolitan and/or statewide planning process which would include the involvement of State and local air quality agencies. This process serves to develop a pool of potential CMAQ projects to be considered for funding in a State's nonattainment and maintenance areas. States, MPOs and transit agencies, in consultation with air quality agencies, are encouraged to cooperatively develop criteria for selection of CMAQ projects. The programming of CMAQ projects should be consistent with the appropriate metropolitan plan.

Projects to be funded with CMAQ funds must be included in the plans and TIPs that are developed by the MPOs in cooperation with the State and transit operators. Under the metropolitan planning regulations (23 CFR 450.300), TIPs must contain a priority list of projects to be carried out in the 3-year period following adoption. As a minimum, projects must be identified by year and proposed funding source. For projects targeting CMAQ funds, priority in the TIP should be based on the projects' estimated air quality benefits.

Since the TIPs must be consistent with available funding, it is important that the State advise the MPOs of the estimated amount of CMAQ funds in a timely manner. Once CMAQ projects are included in a TIP (approved by the MPO and the Governor), and included in a

FHWA/FTA-approved statewide TIP, those projects in the first year may be implemented. Projects in the second or third year of the TIP could be advanced for implementation using the specified project selection procedures in the planning regulation.

It is the State's responsibility to manage its obligation authority made pursuant to title 23 to ensure that CMAQ (and other Federal-aid) funds are obligated in a timely fashion and do not lapse. Other provisions affecting the overall Federal-aid program, such as advance construction authority, apply to the CMAQ program as well.

Close coordination is needed between the State and MPO to assure that CMAQ funds are used appropriately and to maximize their effectiveness in meeting the CAA requirements. States and MPOs must fulfill this responsibility so that nonattainment and maintenance areas are able to make good-faith efforts to attain and maintain the NAAQS by the prescribed deadlines. State DOTs and MPOs should consult with State and local air quality agencies to develop an appropriate project list of CMAQ programming priorities which will have the greatest impact on air quality.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket Number FRA-1999-6252]

CSX Transportation, Inc.; Cancellation of Public Hearing

On January 21, 2000, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) published a notice in the **Federal Register** (65 FR 3529) announcing that a public hearing will be held on February 23, 2000, based upon CSX Transportation, Inc.'s (CSXT) request to obtain a temporary waiver of compliance from certain provisions of the Railroad Locomotive Safety Standards, title 49, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), part 229. CSXT has requested that the public hearing be postponed for a period of at least 30 days in order to provide time for all interested parties to resolve differences regarding the petition. FRA is therefore canceling the February 23 hearing.

All parties expressing an interest in this proceeding have been notified of this request and have concurred in this action. Depending on the results of discussions among the interested parties, a hearing may or may not be scheduled in the future. If a hearing is

rescheduled, a notice will be published in the **Federal Register**.

Issued in Washington, DC on February 18, 2000.

Michael T. Haley,

Deputy Chief Counsel, Federal Railroad Administration.

[FR Doc. 00-4348 Filed 2-22-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33849]

Colorado Central Railroad Company, Operation Exemption, Yreka Western Railroad Company

Colorado Central Railroad Company (Colorado), a noncarrier, newly created to become a Class III railroad, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.31 to operate approximately 8.9 miles of rail line currently owned by Yreka Western Railroad Company (Yreka), between milepost 0.0 in Montague and milepost 8.9 near Yreka, in Siskiyou County, CA.¹

Colorado indicates that it has executed an agreement with Yreka to provide common carrier freight service as well as excursion passenger service.²

The transaction was scheduled to be consummated on or after January 31, 2000.

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. 33849, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20423-

¹ Colorado states that the Surface Transportation Board (Board) had previously authorized abandonment by Yreka of its entire 8.9 miles of rail line. See *Yreka Western Railroad Company—Abandonment Exemption—in Siskiyou County, CA*, STB Finance Docket No. AB-246 (Sub-No. 2X) (STB served May 4, 1999). Colorado further states that, as of the January 24, 2000 filing of the verified notice of exemption, the abandonment had not been consummated.

Colorado certifies that its annual revenues will not exceed those that would qualify it as a Class III rail carrier and that its revenues are not projected to exceed \$5 million.

² Colorado asserts that intrastate excursion rail passenger service is not subject to the Board's regulatory jurisdiction, citing *Napa Valley Wine Train, Inc.-Pet. for Declaratory Order*, 7 I.C.C.2d 954, 960-65 (1991) and cases discussed therein and *Magner-O'Hara Scenic Ry. v. I.C.C.*, 692 F.2d 441 (6th Cir. 1982).

0001. In addition, one copy of each pleading must be served on John D. Heffner, Rea, Cross & Auchincloss, 1707 L Street, N.W., Suite 570, Washington, DC 20036.

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

Decided: February 14, 2000.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-4101 Filed 2-22-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Customs Service

Announcement of a General Program Test: Procedure for Transfer of Accompanied (International) In-Transit Baggage

AGENCY: Customs Service, Department of the Treasury.

ACTION: General notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces Customs plan to conduct a test program that allows participating air carriers to electronically transmit information to Customs to transfer accompanied air passenger (checked) baggage from one aircraft entering the United States to another aircraft departing from the United States enroute to a foreign destination. For carriers participating in the test, this information filing procedure will replace the filing procedure for the air cargo manifest form (Customs Form (CF) 7509) currently provided for under the Customs Regulations and will permit more effective in-transit passenger and in-transit baggage processing procedures. The test covers arriving flights of air carriers participating at an acceptable performance level in the Advance Passenger Information System (APIS) program. This notice invites public comments concerning any aspect of the test, informs interested members of the public of the eligibility requirements for voluntary participation in the test, and describes the information transmission and baggage processing procedures required of those participating in the test.

EFFECTIVE DATES: The testing period will commence no earlier than March 24, 2000, and will run for approximately one year. Comments concerning this notice, including eligibility standards, application process, and information submission requirements, must be

received on or before March 24, 2000. To participate in the test, the necessary information, as set forth in this notice, must be filed with Customs on or before March 24, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Written comments regarding this notice should be addressed to Passenger Programs, U.S. Customs Service, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Room 5.4D, Washington, D.C. 20229. Air carriers that have entered into an agreement with the Government by signing an APIS Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) may request participation in the test program by providing written notification, to the port director with jurisdiction over the airport where the transfer of accompanied international in-transit baggage will occur, of their acceptance of all the conditions outlined in the "Conditions of Operation" section of this notice. Air carriers who wish to participate in the test can apply to participate in the APIS program by contacting Mike Cronin, Acting Associate Commissioner for Programs, U.S. Immigration & Naturalization Service, 425 I Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20536.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For operational or policy matters: Steve A. Gilbert, Office of Field Operations (202) 927-1391. For regulatory matters: Larry L. Burton, Office of Regulations and Rulings (202) 927-1287.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Customs recognizes that commercial air travel is a dynamic and ever changing industry. The establishment of new ways of operating within the industry, including gateway airports, air carrier hubs, and the advent of global alliances, fosters new working relationships between air carriers. Air carriers are continually looking to improve international passenger processing, one aspect of which is the efficient transfer of international in-transit baggage, a matter also of concern to Customs. The announced test is designed to test procedures for processing international in-transit baggage and for filing certain information in place of an air cargo manifest.

The announced test program pertains to passengers and their baggage arriving in the United States aboard one aircraft and departing from the United States aboard another aircraft. Thus, the test pertains to international in-transit passengers and their international in-transit baggage, i.e., in transit through the United States to a foreign destination.

The baggage referred to is checked baggage, not carry on baggage. Because checked baggage is stored below the passenger cabin in the baggage compartment of the aircraft, passengers do not have access to it during flights. Because the passengers are on board the same aircraft as their checked baggage, the baggage is considered accompanied baggage (as opposed to unaccompanied baggage).

Thus, to reiterate, the test program covers the following specific kind of baggage: accompanied, international, in-transit, checked baggage that arrives in the United States on board one aircraft and departs from the United States on board another aircraft. (Hereafter, this baggage will be referred to merely as in-transit baggage or baggage.)

The Air Cargo Manifest Requirement Under the Customs Regulations

Under § 122.48(a) of the Customs Regulations (19 CFR 122.48(a)), air carriers arriving in the United States from a foreign area must file an air cargo manifest (Customs Form (CF) 7509) for all cargo on board. (See 19 U.S.C. 1431(a) and 1644a(b)(1)(E).) This filing requirement can be met by manually submitting the manifest form (CF 7509) to Customs or by filing an electronic manifest under the Automated Manifest System (AMS). (See 19 U.S.C. 1431(b), 1431(d)(1), and 1644a(b)(1)(E).)

Section 122.48(e) of the Customs Regulations (19 CFR 122.48(e)) pertains specifically to accompanied baggage entering the United States in one aircraft and leaving the United States in another aircraft. It provides that when passengers do not have access to their baggage while in transit through the United States, the baggage is considered cargo and must be listed on the air cargo manifest. (See also § 122.101 of the Customs Regulations (19 CFR 122.101), which provides that such baggage must be listed on the air cargo manifest in accordance with § 122.48(e).)

Thus, the Customs Regulations require that in-transit baggage of the kind covered by the announced test program must be listed on an air cargo manifest submitted to Customs when passengers do not have access to their baggage while in transit through the United States (between flights).

Under the test program, in-transit passengers will not have access to their in-transit baggage between flights, but the ordinarily applicable air cargo manifest filing requirement under the Customs Regulations will be replaced by a procedure requiring the test participant, prior to the flight's arrival, to electronically file certain information via the Advanced Passenger Information