

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. 33904, 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 C. Sippel, Esq., Fletcher & Sippel LLC, Two Prudential Plaza, Suite 3125, 180 North Stetson Avenue, Chicago, IL 60601-6721.

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

Decided: July 19, 2000.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-18798 Filed 7-24-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33903]

Sunflour Railroad, Inc.—Acquisition and Operation Exemption—Soo Line Railroad Company

Sunflour Railroad, Inc. (SFR), a noncarrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.31 to acquire from Soo Line Railroad Company (Soo) and operate approximately 26.3 miles of rail line extending from a connection with Soo at milepost 210.0, near Rosholt, to the end of track at milepost 236.3, in Veblen, in Marshall and Roberts Counties, SD (Rosholt-Veblen line).¹

¹ According to the verified notice of exemption, Soo will withdraw its abandonment application for the eastern portion of the Rosholt-Veblen line, from Rosholt to west of Claire City, SD, now pending before the Board in STB Docket No. AB-57 (Sub-

The transaction is scheduled to be consummated on July 31, 2000.

This transaction is related to STB Finance Docket No. 33904, *Thomas Z. Mars—Continuance in Control Exemption—Sunflour Railroad, Inc.*, wherein Thomas Z. Mars has concurrently filed a verified notice to continue in control of SFR upon its becoming a Class III rail carrier.

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*. Petitions to reopen the proceeding 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. 33903, 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 C. Sippel, Esq., Fletcher & Sippel LLC, Two Prudential Plaza, Suite 3125, 180 North Stetson Avenue, Chicago, IL 60601-6721.

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

Decided: July 19, 2000.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Rehabilitation Research and Development Service Scientific Merit Review Board, Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs gives notice under Public Law 92-463 (Federal Advisory Committee Act) as amended, by section 5(c) of Public Law 94-409, that a meeting of the Rehabilitation Research and

No. 51), *Soo Line Railroad Company—Abandonment—in Roberts County, SD*. The abandonment of the western portion of the Rosholt-Veblen line from Claire City to Veblen was previously exempted by the Board in *Soo Line Railroad Company—Abandonment Exemption—in Marshall and Roberts Counties, SD*, STB Docket No. AB-57 (Sub-No. 50X) (STB served Jan. 11, 2000). The verified notice of exemption further indicates that Soo has not consummated that abandonment. Thus, Soo is now proposing to sell the Rosholt-Veblen line instead of abandoning it.

Development Service Scientific Merit Review Board will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 1001 14th Street, NW, Washington, DC on August 1, 2000 through August 2, 2000.

The sessions on August 1 and August 2, 2000, are scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at 6:30 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to review rehabilitation research and development applications for scientific and technical merit and to make recommendations to the Director, Rehabilitation Research and Development Service, regarding their funding.

The meeting will be open to the public for the August 1 session from 8:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. for the discussion of administrative matters, the general status of the program, and the administrative details of the review process. On August 1 from 9 a.m. through August 2, 2000, the meeting is closed during which the Board will be reviewing research and development applications.

This review involves oral comments, discussion of site visits, staff and consultant critiques of proposed research protocols, and similar analytical documents that necessitate the consideration of the personal qualifications, performance and competence of individual research investigators. Disclosure of such information would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. Disclosure would also reveal research proposals and research underway, which could lead to the loss of these projects to third parties and thereby frustrate future agency research efforts.

Thus, the closing is in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(6), and (c)(9)(B) and the determination of the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs under Section 10(d) of Public Law 92-463 as amended by Section 5(c) of Public Law 94-409.

Those who plan to attend the open sessions should write to Ms. Victoria Mongiardo, Program Analyst, Rehabilitation Research and Development Service (122P), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420 (Phone: 202-408-3684) at least five days before the meeting.

Dated: July 17, 2000.

By direction of the Secretary.

Marvin R. Eason,

Committee Management Officer.

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