

**SUMMARY:** The Research and Special Programs Administration's (RSPA) Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) hereby gives notice that the Integrity Management Communication Team will meet to discuss the content and delivery of pipeline information to be conveyed to local officials and members of the public in or near high consequence areas.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on September 12, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Members of the public may attend the meeting at the Department of Transportation, Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Room 6200 Washington, DC 20590. An opportunity will be provided for the public to make short statements on the topics under discussion. Anyone wishing to make an oral statement or to participate by conference call should notify Mary Jo Cooney, (202) 366-4774, or Christina Sames, (202) 366-4561, no later than September 7, 2000. Those wishing to make an oral statement must notify OPS of the topic of the statement and the time requested for the presentation. Those wishing to participate by conference call will be notified of the call-in number prior to the meeting.

*Information on Services for Individuals With Disabilities:* For information on facilities or services for individuals with disabilities or to request special assistance during the telephone conference calls, contact Mary-Jo Cooney at (202) 366-4774.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mary Jo Cooney, OPS, (202) 366-4774, or Christina Sames, OPS, (202) 366-4561.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background Information**

In connection with the proposed rule on Pipeline Integrity Management in High Consequence Areas, OPS plans to propose related rules governing operator communications with local public officials and agencies. To assist in this effort, the OPS Technical Advisory Committees created an Integrity Management Communications Subcommittee to focus on communications issues and to report back to the full Advisory Committee. OPS expanded this Subcommittee to form a team with equal representation from the public, government agencies, and the pipeline industry, and to consolidate several related efforts.

The Team will provide feedback, insight, and information to the Advisory Committee on the content and delivery of information conveyed to local officials and the public about pipeline operations, systems, and the risks they

pose in or near high consequence areas. The Advisory Committee will provide pipeline communication recommendations to OPS for consideration in drafting the Integrity Management Communications rulemaking. The Team will also assist OPS in finalizing a primer to educate local officials on pipelines and their operations.

The topics for discussion for this meeting include discussions of the following: Information that is needed by various groups: landowners/tenants along pipeline rights-of-way; local and regional emergency response officials; excavators and the general public; review of existing materials used by pipeline operators for public education; results from a public awareness survey conducted by the American Petroleum Institute and focus groups sponsored by the Interstate Natural Gas Association of America; Office of Pipeline Safety website materials; information currently available under the Freedom of Information Act; and pending pipeline legislative proposals for community right-to-know.

Issued in Washington, DC on August 31, 2000.

**Jeffrey D. Wiese,**

*Manager, Program Development, Office of Pipeline Safety.*

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**BILLING CODE 4910-60-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**Surface Transportation Board**

[STB Finance Docket No. 33917]

**Canton Railroad Company—Trackage Rights Exemption—Norfolk Southern Railway Company**

Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NS) has agreed to grant overhead trackage rights to Canton Railroad Company (CTN) over approximately 150 feet of NS' track within its existing right-of-way, being four crossover tracks located between Stations 74+40 and 178+73, on the Southern Bear Creek Branch, and connecting CTN's East Main and West Main, in Baltimore City, MD.<sup>1</sup>

CTN reported that it intends to consummate the transaction on September 1, 2000, or as soon thereafter

<sup>1</sup> A redacted version of the trackage rights agreement between NS and CTN was filed with the notice of exemption. The full version of the agreement, as required by 49 CFR 1180.6(a)(7)(ii), was concurrently filed under seal along with a motion for a protective order. A protective order was served on August 30, 2000.

as the parties may agree or notices to labor may be effective.

The purpose of the trackage rights is to permit CTN to facilitate a more efficient operation of a coal exporting facility served by NS in Baltimore. CTN states that it currently operates over NS' right-of-way at this location pursuant to local operating agreements relating to the yard operations of both railroads. The trackage rights will also allow rail traffic to move more expeditiously in the eastern Maryland region.

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) 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. 33917, 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, one copy of each pleading must be served on Weston A. Park, P.O. Box 28364, 8424 Old Harford Road, Baltimore, MD 21234.

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

Decided: August 31, 2000.

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

**Vernon A. Williams,**  
*Secretary.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**Bureau of Transportation Statistics**

[Docket No. BTS-99-5889]

**Motor Carrier Financial and Operating Information; Requests for Exemptions From Public Release of Reports**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Transportation Statistics, DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Class I and Class II motor carriers of property and household goods are required to file annual and quarterly reports with the Bureau of