

lines traverse U.S. Postal Zip Codes 07302, 07303, 07306, 07407, and 07087.

CSXT acquired the right to operate over these lines under the North Jersey Shared Assets Areas Operating Agreement approved by the Board in *CSX Corp.—Control and Operating Leases/Agreements—Conrail Inc.*, STB Finance Docket No. 33388 (Decision No. 89) (STB served July 23, 1998), *clarified and modified* (Decision No. 96) (STB served Oct. 19, 1998), *petitions for review pending sub nom. Erie Niagara Rail Steering Committee v. STB*, Nos. 98-4285, *et al.* (2d Cir. filed July 31, 1998).⁴ Pursuant to that agreement, CSXT does not conduct freight operations over the River Line. CSXT publishes rates and maintains stations for the River Line's shippers,⁵ and Conrail conducts the actual train operations in CSXT's name.

The lines do not contain federally granted rights-of-way. A large part of the real estate and track is owned by the New Jersey Transit Corporation (NJT), and the remainder is owned by Conrail.⁶ Any documentation in CSXT's possession will be made available promptly to those requesting it.

The interest of railroad employees will be protected by the conditions set

Harismus Branch at CP "Waldo" in Jersey City (approximately MP 0.00) to the south side of Clifton Road in Weehawken (approximately MP 4.7), including the River Yard; and (2) from (a) the south side of Clifton Road in Weehawken (approximately MP 0.00) to the northwest side of Tonnelle Avenue (excluding the portion of line, associated track, and underlying right-of-way necessary to retain access and continue service to Durkee Foods) in North Bergen (approximately MP 1.53); (b) the National Docks Secondary in Jersey City from its connection with the River Line at CP "Nave" to the east side of Newark Avenue (approximately 1,350 feet); and (c) the Weehawken Branch (Chicken Yard) in Weehawken, from its connection with the River Line on the east side of Willow Avenue to the end of the track (approximately 2,450 feet).

⁴ Norfolk Southern Railway Company also acquired the same rights with respect to the River Line and filed a similar petition for exemption on November 14, 2000. See *Norfolk Southern Railway Company—Discontinuance Exemption—in Hudson County, NJ*, STB Docket No. AB-290 (Sub-No. 212X).

⁵ Two shippers, Cognis Chemical Company and Dykes Lumber Company, are being served.

⁶ The River Line's real estate and track was transferred to NJT on or about October 24, 1995, pursuant to the Freight Relocation and River Line Acquisition Agreement that Conrail and NJT entered into on June 8, 1989. Conrail retained a free and exclusive easement for the operation and maintenance of rail freight service.

NJT will reconstruct the River Line and dedicate it to light rail commuter passenger service. The River Line's freight operations will be transferred to Conrail's Northern Branch, which will be reconstructed to accommodate through train service and to remove "at-grade" highway and street crossings. Conrail will not terminate freight operations or consummate the abandonment of the River Line, and CSXT will not exercise the discontinuance authority, until the Northern Branch has been reconstructed.

forth in *Oregon Short Line R. Co.—Abandonment—Goshen*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979).

By issuing this notice, the Board is instituting an exemption proceeding pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10502(b). A final decision will be issued by March 9, 2001.⁷

Any OFA with respect to the lines should be filed in the pertinent Conrail application proceeding under section 308(d) of the 3-R Act and 49 CFR 1152.27. Each OFA must be accompanied by a \$1,000 filing fee. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

All filings in response to this notice must refer to STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 584X) and must be sent to: (1) Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001; and (2) Natalie Rosenberg, CSX Transportation, Inc., 500 Water Street, Jacksonville, FL 32202. Replies to the CSXT petition are due on or before December 28, 2000.

Persons seeking further information concerning abandonment and discontinuance procedures may contact the Board's Office of Public Services at (202) 565-1592 or refer to the full abandonment or discontinuance regulations at 49 CFR part 1152.

An environmental assessment (or impact statement) is normally made available in abandonment or discontinuance proceedings, but under 49 CFR 1105.6(d), the Board may modify the environmental requirements in appropriate circumstances. The requirements are being modified here. CSXT has never conducted operations over the line apart from those Conrail conducted on CSXT's behalf. Granting a carrier authority to discontinue service it has never provided appears to have no environmental impact. The requirement that the carrier submit a report and that the Board prepare an analysis are therefore superfluous.

Board decisions and notices are available on our website at <http://www.stb.dot.gov>.

Decided: November 28, 2000.

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

Vernor A. Williams,
Secretary.

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⁷ CSXT has requested that its petition for exemption be granted with an effective date of February 12, 2001, to coincide with the anticipated effectiveness of the two related Conrail abandonment applications. This request will be considered by the Board when the petition for exemption is addressed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Bureau of the Public Debt

Proposed Collection: Comment Request

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently the Bureau of the Public Debt within the Department of the Treasury is soliciting comments concerning the Reinvestment Application.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before February 7, 2001, to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Bureau of the Public Debt, Vicki S. Thorpe, 200 Third Street, Parkersburg, WV 26106-1328.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the form and instructions should be directed to Vicki S. Thorpe, Bureau of the Public Debt, 200 Third Street, Parkersburg, WV 26106-1328, (304) 480-6553.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Reinvestment Application.
OMB Number: 1535-0096.
Form Number: PD F 1993.
Abstract: The information is requested to support a request that proceeds of matured Series H savings bonds be reinvested in Series HH bonds.

Current Actions: None.
Type of Review: Extension.
Affected Public: Individuals.
Estimated Number of Respondents: 20,000.

Estimated Time Per Respondent: 15 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 5,000.

Request for Comments: Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate

of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Dated: December 4, 2000.

Vicki S. Thorpe,

Manager, Graphics, Printing and Records Branch.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Allowance for Private Purchase of an Outer Burial Receptacle in Lieu of a Government-Furnished Graveliner for a Grave in a VA National Cemetery

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Public Law 104-275 was enacted on October 9, 1996. It allowed the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide a monetary allowance towards the private purchase of an outer burial receptacle for use in a VA national cemetery. Under VA regulation (38 CFR 1.629), the allowance is equal

to the average cost of Government-furnished graveliners minus any administrative costs to VA. The law continues to provide a veteran's survivors with the option of selecting a Government-furnished graveliner for use in a VA national cemetery where such use is authorized.

The purpose of this Notice is to notify interested parties of the average cost of Government-furnished graveliners, administrative costs that relate to processing a claim, and the amount of the allowance payable for qualifying interments which occurred during or prior to calendar year 2000, but after October 9, 1996.

DATES: The allowance rates are effective the date this notice appears in the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Deanna L. Wilson, Program Analyst, Communications Management Services (402B1), National Cemetery Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420. Telephone: 202-273-5154 (this is not a toll-free number).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under 38 U.S.C. 501(a) and Public Law 104-275, section 213, VA may provide a monetary allowance for the private purchase of an outer burial receptacle for use in a VA national cemetery where its use is authorized. The allowance for qualified interments which occur during or prior to calendar year 2000, but after

October 9, 1996, is the average cost of Government-furnished graveliners in fiscal year 1999, less the administrative costs incurred by VA in processing and paying the allowance in lieu of the Government-furnished graveliner.

The average cost of Government-furnished graveliners is determined by taking VA's total cost during a fiscal year for single-depth graveliners which were procured for placement at the time of interment and dividing it by the total number of such graveliners procured by VA during that fiscal year. The calculation excludes both graveliners procured and pre-placed in gravesites as part of cemetery gravesite development projects and all double-depth graveliners. Using this method of computation, the average cost was determined to be \$147.96 for fiscal year 1999.

The administrative costs incurred by VA consist of those costs that relate to processing and paying an allowance in lieu of the Government-furnished graveliner. These costs have been determined to be \$10.17 for calendar year 2000.

The net allowance payable for qualifying interments occurring during or before calendar year 2000, therefore, is \$137.79.

Approved: October 13, 2000.

Hershel W. Gober,

Acting Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

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