

The public is invited to attend without prior notification.

Dated: September 5, 2001.

Robert A. McGuire,

Associate Administrator for Hazardous Materials Safety.

[FR Doc. 01-22657 Filed 9-7-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-60-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 34084]

New Hampshire Central Railroad, Inc.—Operation Exemption—Certain Lines of the State of New Hampshire

New Hampshire Central Railroad, Inc. (NHCR), a Class III rail carrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.41 to operate approximately 36.1 miles of certain rail lines owned by the State of New Hampshire by and through the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT).¹ The subject lines consist of railroad lines lying in Grafton and Coos Counties, NH, comprising a portion of railroad rights-of-way known as the Berlin Branch and Groveton Branch as follows: (a) From milepost 113.0 in Littleton, NH, to milepost 125.0 in Whitefield, NH; (b) from milepost 125.0 in Whitefield to milepost 130.9 in Jefferson (Waumbec Junction), NH; and (c) from milepost 130.9 in Jefferson (Waumbec Junction), to a point in Groveton (Northumberland), NH, at the Whistle Post located south of the West Street crossing, that point being the point of intersection with tracks of the St. Lawrence & Atlantic Railroad Company.

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

The transaction is scheduled to be consummated on August 31, 2001.

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

¹ The parties state that NHCR and the State of New Hampshire, by its Department of Transportation, entered into an operating agreement on December 1, 2000, providing for NHCR's operation of the subject line.

NHCR will replace New Hampshire and Vermont Railroad Company, which had operated under an agreement with NHDOT that was terminated effective December 31, 2000. See *New Hampshire and Vermont Railroad Company Operation Exemption—Certain Lines of the State of New Hampshire*, STB Finance Docket No. 33727 (STB served Apr. 16, 1999).

a petition to revoke will not automatically stay the transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 34084, 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 Richard A. Currier, P. O. Box 248, Colebrook, NH 03576.

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

Decided: August 30, 2001.

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

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 01-22485 Filed 9-7-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket Nos. AB-589X¹; AB-295 (Sub-No. 4X)]

Monon Rail Preservation Corporation—Abandonment Exemption and the Indiana Rail Road Company—Discontinuance of Service Exemption; Monroe County, IN

On August 21, 2001, Monon Rail Preservation Corporation (Monon) and The Indiana Rail Road Company (INRD) (collectively, petitioners) jointly filed with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) a petition under 49 U.S.C. 10502 for exemption from the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 10903 for Monon to abandon and for INRD to discontinue service over a 1,500-foot segment of Monon's Ellettsville Line,² extending from the end of the line at milepost Q213.41 to milepost Q213.69, in Monroe County, IN. The line traverses U.S. Postal Service Zip Code 47429. There are no stations on the line.

The line does not contain federally granted rights-of-way. Any

¹ The docket numbers of the parties were transposed in the petition for exemption.

² INRD was granted local trackage rights over the entire Ellettsville Line in *The Indiana Rail Road Company—Trackage Rights Exemption—Monon Rail Preservation Corporation*, STB Finance Docket No. 33669 (STB served Oct. 16, 1998). Subsequently, INRD was authorized to operate the Ellettsville Line in *The Indiana Rail Road Company—Operation Exemption—Monon Rail Preservation Corporation*, STB Finance Docket No. 33670 (STB served Feb. 21, 2001). Although petitioners characterize INRD's transaction as a discontinuance of trackage rights, they are technically seeking, with respect to the 1,500-foot segment, discontinuance of INRD's service under the operating agreement, which superseded the trackage rights.

documentation in Monon's possession will be made available promptly to those requesting it.

The interest of railroad employees will be protected by the conditions set forth in *Oregon Short Line R. Co.—Abandonment—Goshen*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979).

By issuance of this notice, the Board is instituting an exemption proceeding pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10502(b). A final decision will be issued by December 7, 2001.

Any offer of financial assistance (OFA) under 49 CFR 1152.27(b)(2) will be due no later than 10 days after service of a decision granting the petition for exemption. Each OFA must be accompanied by a \$1,000 filing fee. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

All interested persons should be aware that, following abandonment of rail service and salvage of the line, the line may be suitable for other public use, including interim trail use. Any request for a public use condition under 49 CFR 1152.28 or for trail use/rail banking under 49 CFR 1152.29 will be due no later than October 1, 2001. Each trail use request must be accompanied by a \$150 filing fee. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(27).

All filings in response to this notice must refer to STB Docket Nos. AB-589X and AB-295 (Sub-No. 4X) 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) John Broadley, 1054 31st Street NW., Suite 200, Washington, DC 20007. Replies to the petition are due on or before October 1, 2001.

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. Questions concerning environmental issues may be directed to the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) at (202) 565-1545. (TDD for the hearing impaired is available at 1-800-877-8339.)

An environmental assessment (EA) (or environmental impact statement (EIS), if necessary) prepared by SEA will be served upon all parties of record and upon any agencies or other persons who commented during its preparation. Other interested persons may contact SEA to obtain a copy of the EA (or EIS). EAs in these abandonment proceedings normally will be made available within 60 days of the filing of the petition. The deadline for submission of comments on