

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-1148 Filed 1-16-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 34302]

Washington County Railroad Company—Acquisition and Operation Exemption—Certain Rights of Newport and Richford Railroad Company, Northern Vermont Railroad Company Incorporated and Canadian American Railroad Company

The Washington County Railroad Company (WCRC) has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.41 to acquire from the Estates of Newport and Richford Railroad Company (N&R), Northern Vermont Railroad Company Incorporated (NVT) and Canadian American Railroad Company (CDAC) (collectively, the Sellers),¹ an exclusive operating easement on a 61.58-mile rail line, extending between milepost 63.58 in Newbury (Wells River) and milepost 2.0 in Newport, in Orange, Caledonia and Orleans Counties, VT (the Wells River-Newport Line).² WCRC also seeks to acquire from CDAC, by assignment, an exclusive operating easement over a connecting 40-mile line of railroad extending between approximately milepost 123 in Hartford (White River Junction) and milepost 163 in Newbury (Wells River), VT (the White River Junction-Wells River Line).³ As a result

¹ The Sellers are railroads in the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad Company (BAR) rail system. On August 15, 2001, an involuntary petition for bankruptcy under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Act was filed against BAR before the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Maine (Court). On May 14, 2002, the Sellers, filed voluntary petitions for relief under chapter 11 before the Court.

² In a related matter, the State of Vermont (Vermont) has contemporaneously filed a notice of exemption in *State of Vermont—Acquisition—Certain Assets of Newport and Richford Railroad Company, Northern Vermont Railroad Company Incorporated and Canadian American Railroad Company*, STB Finance Docket No. 34294, to acquire the Sellers' rights, title and ownership interest in the right-of-way, trackage and other physical assets on the Wells River-Newport Line. Vermont simultaneously filed a motion to dismiss that notice of exemption. The motion will be handled in a separate decision.

³ The Wells River-Newport Line connects with the White River Junction-Wells River Line at Wells River (despite the difference in milepost designations, which is the result of different milepost systems). Vermont already owns the White River Junction-Wells River Line. See *State of*

of these transactions, WCRC will have the right and obligation to provide common carrier service on a combined 101.58-mile rail line between Hartford and Newport, VT pursuant to the exclusive operating easements.

Consummation of the transaction was expected to occur on December 26, 2002 (7 days after the exemption was filed), but not before Montreal, Maine & Atlantic Railway, Ltd. has consummated its acquisition of certain other rail assets belonging to the BAR rail system in Vermont and Maine.⁴

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. 34302, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on David W. Wulfson, Washington County Railroad Company, One Railway Lane, Burlington, VT 05401-5290.

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

Decided: January 13, 2003.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-1149 Filed 1-16-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

Vermont—Acquisition Exemption—Certain Assets of Boston and Maine Corporation, STB Finance Docket No. 33830 (STB served Dec. 20, 1999).

⁴ In *Montreal, Maine & Atlantic Railway LLC—Acquisition and Operation Exemption—Bangor & Aroostook Railroad Company, Canadian American Railroad Company, the Northern Vermont Railroad Company Incorporated, Newport & Richford Railroad Company and Van Buren Bridge Company*, STB Finance Docket No. 34110 (STB served Sept. 19, 2002), Montreal, Maine & Atlantic Railway LLC (MM&A) was authorized to acquire and operate, among other things, certain rail lines and other assets of the Seller in Maine and Vermont not including the Subject Line. In a subsequent decision served on December 18, 2002, the Board granted a motion to substitute Montreal, Maine & Atlantic Railway, Ltd. as the party that may acquire and operate the BAR system assets in lieu of Montreal Maine & Atlantic Railway LLC.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 34300]

Jeffrey L. Sutch and Leonard J. Smolsky—Intracorporate Family Transaction Exemption

Jeffrey L. Sutch and Leonard J. Smolsky (Applicants), have filed a verified notice of exemption to merge Penn-Jersey Lines, Inc. (PJRL) into SMS Rail Service, Inc. (SLRS) with SLRS as the surviving entity.¹

The transaction was scheduled to be consummated on or after December 27, 2002, the effective date of the exemption (7 days after the notice was filed).

The proposed merger transaction will eliminate the administrative expense of maintaining two separate organizations, thus reducing the operating costs of each. The merger will permit the consolidation of the railroads' equipment, their locomotives and cars, thus resulting in improved service to the shippers served by the two railroads.

This is a transaction within a corporate family of the type specifically exempted from prior review and approval under 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(3). The Applicants state that the transaction will not result in adverse changes in service levels, significant operational changes, or a change in the competitive balance with carriers outside the corporate family.

Under 49 U.S.C. 10502(g), the Board may not use its exemption authority to relieve a rail carrier of its statutory 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 railroad carriers. Because this transaction involves Class III rail carriers only, the Board, under that statute, may not impose labor protective conditions for this transaction.

If the verified 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.

¹ See *Penn-Jersey Rail Lines Inc.—Acquisition and Operations Exemption—WMI Properties, Inc.*, STB Finance Docket No. 33414 (STB served June 24, 1997); *SMS Rail Service, Inc.—Lease and Operate Exemption—Pureland Association, Inc.*, STB Finance Docket No. 32494 (STB served May 26, 1994); and Jeffrey L. Sutch and Leonard J. Smolsky—*Continuance in Control Exemption—Penn-Jersey Rail Lines, Inc.*, STB Finance Docket No. 33415 (STB served June 24, 1997).

Both PJRL and SLRS are Class III carriers. PJRL's lines are in Pennsylvania. SLRS's lines are in New Jersey.

An original and ten copies of all pleadings referring to STB Finance Docket No. 34300, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on Fritz R. Kahn, 1920 N Street, NW., 8th Floor, Washington, DC 20036-1601.

Board decisions and notices are available on our Web site at www.stb.dot.gov.

Decided: January 10, 2003.

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

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-971 Filed 1-16-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Transportation Security Administration

Intercity Bus Security Grant Program; Application Notice Describing the Program Priorities and Establishing the Closing Date for Receipt of Applications Under the Intercity Bus Security Grant Program.

AGENCY: Transportation Security Administration, Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Notice inviting applications for the Intercity Bus Security Grant Program.

SUMMARY: The Intercity Bus Security Grant Program will improve security for operators and passengers by providing financial assistance to eligible applicants for intercity bus security enhancements and training.

The Intercity Bus Security Grant Program priorities are as follows: The order of listing does not indicate the level of priority. (1) Protecting or isolating the driver, (2) Monitoring, tracking, and communication technologies for over-the-road buses, (3) Implementing and operating passenger and baggage screening programs at terminals and over-the-road buses, (4) Developing an effective security assessment/security plan that identifies critical security needs and vulnerabilities; and (5) Training driver, dispatchers, ticket agents, and other personnel in recognizing and responding to criminal attacks and terrorists threats, evacuation procedures, passenger screening procedures, and baggage inspection.

Proposals that address other than these five programs priorities will be considered but preference will be given to proposals that address program

priorities. Applications may be submitted by private and public operators of over-the-road buses, bus associations and other associations related to the intercity bus industry. The Transportation Security Administration is coordinating with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration and Federal Transit Administration in this effort. Authority for this program is contained in the fiscal year 2002 Supplemental Appropriations Act for Further Recovery From and Response to Terrorist Attacks on the United States, Pub. L. 107-206, 116 Stat. 820.

DATES: The program announcement and application forms for the Intercity Bus Security Grant Program are expected to be available on or about January 17, 2003. Applications must be received on or before 4 p.m. EST, February 28, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Program Announcement #02MLPA0002 for the Intercity Bus Security Grant Program will be available through the TSA Internet at <http://www.tsa.dot.gov> under Business Opportunities.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Mary Heying, Transportation Security Administration, Office of Maritime and Land Security, 400 7th Street, SW., TSA-8, Washington, DC 20590, (202) 772-1118, e-mail: Mary.Heying@tsa.dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Total anticipated funding available for Intercity Bus Security Grant Program is \$14,850,000. Awards under this program are subject to availability of funds.

Dated: January 8, 2003.

J.M. Loy, ADM,

Under Secretary of Transportation for Security.

[FR Doc. 03-1142 Filed 1-16-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4110-62-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Departmental Offices; Debt Management Advisory Committee Meeting

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. App. 2, 10(a)(2), that a meeting will be held at the U.S. Treasury Department, 15th and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC, on February 4, 2003, of the following debt management advisory committee: The Bond Market Association Treasury Borrowing Advisory Committee.

The agenda for the meeting provides for a technical background briefing by Treasury staff, followed by a charge by the Secretary of the Treasury or his designate that the Committee discuss

particular issues, and a working session. Following the working session, the Committee will present a written report of its recommendations.

The background briefing by Treasury staff will be held at 9 a.m. Eastern time and will be open to the public. The remaining sessions and the committee's reporting session will be closed to the public, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. App. 2, 10(d) and Pub. L. 103-202, § 202(c)(1)(B) (31 U.S.C. 3121 note).

This notice shall constitute my determination, pursuant to the authority placed in heads of departments by 5 U.S.C. App. 2, § 10(d) and vested in me by Treasury Department Order No. 101-05, that the closed portions of the meeting are concerned with discussions of the issues presented to the Committee by the Secretary and recommendations of the Committee to the Secretary, pursuant to Pub. L. 103-102, § 202(c)(1)(B). Thus, this information is exempt from disclosure under that provision and 5 U.S.C. § 552b(c)(3)(B). In addition, the closed portions of the meeting are concerned with information that is exempt from disclosure under 5 U.S.C. § 552b(c)(9)(A). The public interest requires that such meetings be closed to the public because the Treasury Department requires frank and full advice from representatives of the financial community prior to making its final decision on major financing operations. Historically, this advice has been offered by debt management advisory committees established by the several major segments of the financial community. When so utilized, such a committee is recognized to be an advisory committee under 5 U.S.C. App. 2, § 3.

Although the Treasury's final announcement of financing plans may not reflect the recommendations provided in reports of the advisory committee, premature disclosure of the committee's deliberations and reports would be likely to lead to significant financial speculation in the securities market. Thus, these meetings fall within the exemption covered by 5 U.S.C. § 552b(c)(9)(A).

The Office of Financial Markets is responsible for maintaining records of debt management advisory committee meetings and for providing annual reports setting forth a summary of committee activities and such other matters as may be informative to the public consistent with the policy of 5 U.S.C. § 552b. The Designated Federal Officer or other responsible agency official who may be contacted for additional information is Paul Malvey, Director, Office of Market Finance at 202-622-2630.