

the effective date of the exemption (7 days after the exemption was filed).

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.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 34328, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, one copy of each pleading must be served on Karl Morrell, Of Counsel, Ball Janik LLP, 1455 F Street, NW., Suite 225, Washington, DC 20005.

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

Decided: April 16, 2003.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-10035 Filed 4-23-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 34329]

Watco Companies, Inc.—Continuance in Control Exemption—Pennsylvania Southwestern Railroad, Inc.

Watco Companies, Inc. (Watco), a noncarrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption to continue in control of Pennsylvania Southwestern Railroad, Inc. (PSWR), upon PSWR's becoming a Class III railroad.

The transaction was expected to be consummated on or after April 1, 2003, the effective date of the exemption (7 days after the notice was filed).

This transaction is related to the concurrently filed verified notice of exemption in STB Finance Docket No. 34328, *Pennsylvania Southwestern Railroad, Inc.—Lease and Operation Exemption—Steel, LLC*, wherein PSWR seeks to lease and operate approximately 10.5 miles of rail line currently owned by J&L Specialty Steel, LLC.

At the time it filed this notice, Watco controlled six Class III railroads: the South Kansas and Oklahoma Railroad Company; Palouse River & Coulee City Railroad, Inc.; the Timber Rock Railroad, Inc.; the Stillwater Central Railroad; the Eastern Idaho Railroad, Inc.; and the Kansas & Oklahoma

Railroad, Inc., operating in the states of Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas and Washington.

Applicants state that: (1) The railroads do not connect with each other or any railroad in their corporate family; (2) the continuance in control is not part of a series of anticipated transactions that would connect the seven railroads with each other or any railroad in their corporate family; and (3) the transaction does not involve a Class I carrier. Therefore, the transaction is exempt from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 11323. See 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(2). The purpose of the transaction is to enable Watco to reduce overhead expenses; coordinate billing, maintenance, mechanical and personnel policies and practices of its rail carrier subsidiaries; and improve the overall efficiency of rail service provided by the seven railroads.

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 11324-25 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 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.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 34329, 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: Karl Morrell, Of Counsel, Ball Janik LLP, 1455 F Street, NW., Suite 225, Washington, DC 20005.

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Decided: April 16, 2003.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0227]

Agency Information Collection Activities Under OMB Review

AGENCY: Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995 (44 U.S.C., 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), Department of Veterans Affairs, has submitted the collection of information abstracted below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The PRA submission describes the nature of the information collection and its expected cost and burden; it includes the actual data collection instrument.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before May 27, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR A COPY OF THE SUBMISSION CONTACT: Denise McLamb, Records Management Service (005E3), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420, (202) 273-8030, FAX (202) 273-5981 or e-mail: denise.mclamb@mail.va.gov. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0227."

Send comments and recommendations concerning any aspect of the information collection to VA's OMB Desk Officer, OMB Human Resources and Housing Branch, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503 (202) 395-7316. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0227" in any correspondence.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Titles:

a. Prosthetics Care and Service, VA Form 10-0142b.

b. Experiences of Patients Recently Discharged Inpatient, VA Form 10-1465-1.

c. Experiences of Patients Ambulatory Care, VA Form 10-1465-3.

d. Nutritional and Food Service, VA Form 10-5387.

OMB Control Number: 2900-0227.

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: Executive Order 12862, Setting Customer Service Standards, requires Federal agencies and Departments to identify and survey its customers to determine the kind and quality of services they want and their level of satisfaction with existing service. VHA uses customer satisfaction surveys to gauge customer perceptions