

controls RTC. RTC directly controls SLRG.

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 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).

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. Because the transaction involves at least one Class II and one or more Class III rail carriers, the exemption is subject to the labor protection requirements of 49 U.S.C. 11326(b).

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. 34352, 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 Louis E. Gitomer, Esq., 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: July 11, 2003.

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

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 34350]

San Luis & Rio Grande Railroad Company—Acquisition and Operation Exemption—Union Pacific Railroad Company

San Luis & Rio Grande Railroad Company (SLRG), a noncarrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.31 to acquire and operate two

lines of the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP), as follows: (1) The Alamosa Subdivision from milepost 299.30 near Derrick, CO, to milepost 180.0 near Walsenburg, CO;¹ and (2) the Antonito Subdivision from the point where the two subdivisions connect at milepost 251.7 in Alamosa, CO, to milepost 281.78 in Antonito, CO, a total distance of 149.38 miles. In addition, UP will grant SLRG approximately 5 miles of incidental trackage rights in the vicinity of Walsenburg from milepost 180.0 to milepost 175.0.

SLRG certifies that its projected annual revenues will not exceed those that would qualify it as a Class III rail carrier and that its annual revenues are not projected to exceed \$5 million.²

The transaction was scheduled to be consummated on or after June 30, 2003.

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. 34350, 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 Louis E. Gitomer, Esq., Of Counsel, Ball Janik LLP, 1455 F Street, NW., Suite 225, Washington, DC 20005.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-490X]

Greenville County Economic Development Corporation—Discontinuance of Service Exemption—in Greenville County, SC

The Greenville County Economic Development Corporation (GCEDC) has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR part 1152, Subpart F—*Exempt Abandonments and Discontinuances of Service* to discontinue service over 11.8 miles of railroad, known as the Greenville and Northern Railroad Line, extending from milepost 0.0, in Greenville, to milepost 11.8, at the northern limits of Traveler's Rest, in Greenville County, SC (line).¹ The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Codes 29601, 29609, 29611, 29613, 29617, and 29690.

GCEDC has certified that: (1) No local traffic has moved over the line for at least 2 years; (2) there is no overhead traffic on the line; (3) no formal complaint filed by a user of rail service on the line (or by a state or local government entity acting on behalf of such user) regarding cessation of service over the line either is pending with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) or with any U.S. District Court or has been decided in favor of complainant within the 2-year period; and (4) the requirements at 49 CFR 1105.7 (environmental reports), 49 CFR 1105.8 (historic reports), 49 CFR 1105.11 (transmittal letter), 49 CFR 1105.12 (newspaper publication), and 49 CFR 1152.50(d)(1) (notice to governmental agencies) have been met.²

As a condition to this exemption, any employee adversely affected by the discontinuance shall be protected under *Oregon Short Line R. Co.—Abandonment—Goshen*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979). To address whether this condition adequately protects affected employees, a petition for partial revocation under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) must be filed.

Provided no formal expression of intent to file an offer of financial assistance (OFA) has been received, this exemption will be effective on August

¹ SLRG states that the beginning portion of the Alamosa Subdivision, from milepost 299.30 to milepost 270.0 at or near Monte Vista, is currently inactive.

² This proceeding is related to STB Finance Docket No. 34352, *RailAmerica, Inc., et al.—Continuance in Control Exemption—San Luis & Rio Grande Railroad Company*, wherein RailAmerica, Inc., Palm Beach Rail Holding, Inc., and RailAmerica Transportation Corp. have concurrently filed a notice of exemption to continue in control of SLRG, upon SLRG becoming a Class III rail carrier.

¹ South Carolina Central Railroad Company, Inc., d/b/a Carolina Piedmont Division was authorized to abandon the portion of the line between milepost 0.0 and milepost 2.0, in *South Carolina Central Railroad Company, Inc., d/b/a Carolina Piedmont Division—Abandonment Exemption—in Greenville County, SC*, STB Docket No. AB-312 (Sub-No. 2X) (STB served Apr. 1, 1998); however, it appears that the abandonment was never consummated.

² As discussed below, GCEDC has complied with or is exempt from these requirements.