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Kathy A. Weiner,

Director, Office of Information Technology and Support Systems, Federal Railroad Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 34396]

Norfolk Southern Railway Company—Corporate Family Transaction Exemption—Atlantic and East Carolina Railway Company

Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSR)¹ and Atlantic and East Carolina Railway Company (AEC),² have filed a verified notice of exemption under the Board's corporate family class exemption at 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(3) to merge AEC into NSR, with NSR as the surviving entity. Under the agreement and plan of merger, all of AEC's assets, rights, obligations and responsibilities will be in the name of NSR.

Although the parties state that the transaction was scheduled to be consummated on or as soon as practicable after August 31, 2003, the earliest the transaction could be consummated was October 6, 2003 (7 days after filing under 49 CFR 1180.4(g)).

The purpose of the transaction is to eliminate AEC as a separate corporate entity, thereby furthering the goal of corporate simplification. It is anticipated that this action will eliminate costs associated with separate accounting, tax, bookkeeping and reporting functions.

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 parties 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.

As a condition to the use of this exemption, any employees adversely affected by this transaction will be protected by the conditions set forth in

¹ NSR is a Class I carrier; together with its railroad subsidiaries, it owns or operates approximately 21,500 miles of railroad located in 22 states, the District of Columbia, and the Province of Ontario, Canada. NSR is controlled through stock ownership by Norfolk Southern Corporation, a noncarrier holding company.

² AEC has been controlled by NSR or its predecessors through stock ownership since 1989.

New York Dock Ry.—Control—Brooklyn Eastern Dist., 360 I.C.C. 60 (1979).

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. 34396 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 Maquiling B. Parkerson, Norfolk Southern Corporation, Three Commercial Place, Norfolk, VA 23510-9241.

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

Decided: October 22, 2003.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-27139 Filed 10-27-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Community Development Financial Institutions Fund

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, Pub. L. 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (the "Fund"), within the Department of the Treasury, is soliciting comments concerning the Native American CDFI Assistance (NACA) Program Application.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before December 29, 2003 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESS: Direct all written comments to Linda G. Davenport, Deputy Director for Policy and Programs, Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, U.S. Department of the Treasury, 601 13th Street NW., Suite 200 South,

Washington, DC 20005, Facsimile Number (202) 622-7754.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: A copy of the draft NACA Program Application or requests for additional information may be obtained by contacting: Margaret Nilson, Manager (Native American Initiative), Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, U.S. Department of the Treasury, 601 13th Street NW., Suite 200 South, Washington, DC 20005; or by phone to (202) 622-8662.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Native American CDFI Assistance (NACA) Program Application

Abstract: The Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4701 *et seq.*) (the "Act") authorizes the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (the "Fund") of the U.S. Department of the Treasury to promote economic revitalization and community development through investment in and assistance to Fund-certified community development financial institutions ("CDFIs") through the CDFI Program. In addition, the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2002 (Pub. L. 107-73) authorizes the Fund to provide technical assistance grants to benefit Native American, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian communities (hereafter referred to as "Native American Communities") by building the capacity of CDFIs that serve those communities (hereafter referred to as "Native American CDFIs"). Further, the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003 (Pub. L. 108-7) authorizes the Fund to provide financial assistance and technical assistance to benefit Native American Communities, with such benefit being provided primarily through qualified community development lender organizations with experience and expertise in community development banking and lending in Indian country, Native American organizations, Tribes and tribal organizations and other suitable providers.

Through the NACA Program, the Fund provides (i) FA and/or TA awards to Native American CDFIs and entities that can be certified as Native American CDFIs at time of award; and (ii) TA awards to entities that propose to become Native American CDFIs within two years and "Sponsoring Entities" (e.g., Native American organizations, Tribes, Tribal organizations) that propose to create separate legal entities