

program have been delegated to the Federal Railroad Administration.

Funding: The Transportation, Treasury, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2004 provides \$4,970,000 and directs FRA to award one or more grants to demonstrate Compliant DMU vehicles. It is anticipated that the available funding will support one or two demonstrations. If two grants are awarded, FRA may choose not to award the grants in equal amounts. Additional funding for this or related work may be available in subsequent fiscal years.

Schedule for Demonstration Program: As directed by the Congress, FRA anticipates beginning demonstration in calendar 2004. It is anticipated that evaluation of the demonstration operation will continue for up to two years beyond the initial funding year. FRA anticipates that the eligible participant(s) will, where necessary, contract or otherwise enter into partnerships with developers and manufacturers of Compliant DMUs to accomplish the demonstration.

Eligible Participants: Any United States public transportation agency or combination of such agencies is eligible to apply for funding under this Notice. For state applicants, if the proposed demonstration territory is in more than one state, a single state agency should apply on behalf of all of the participating states.

Eligible Technology Demonstrations: Eligible projects must demonstrate a Compliant DMU vehicle in daily revenue passenger service beginning during calendar year 2004.

Requirements for Statements of Interest: The following points describe minimum content which will be required in Statements of Interest. Each Statement of Interest will:

1. Describe the proposed demonstration in detail, including the location and transportation service to be provided, the anticipated start date and duration of the demonstration, anticipated schedules, passenger service facilities to be employed, anticipated passenger utilization of the demonstration service, and how necessary maintenance and support operations will be conducted. Describe the scope of the demonstration proposed with Federal funding in the amount of \$4,970,500 and with Federal funding in the amount of \$2,485,250. Note that FRA may choose to award grants for any amount up to and including \$4,970,500.

2. Describe the types of DMU technology that the public agency is considering and how the Compliant

DMU used in the proposed demonstration will be selected.

3. Describe the rail line on which the proposed demonstration will be conducted, including any discussions the public agency has had with the owner of the rail line in connection with the proposed demonstration.

4. Describe the traffic types (including ownership of trains), volumes, and speeds presently involved in operation on the demonstration track segment(s), the planned Compliant DMU demonstration service volumes and speeds, and the estimated potential corridor service volumes and speeds.

5. Specify the quantities and ownerships of operating vehicles anticipated to be utilized to accomplish the demonstration.

6. Show how the demonstration system initially will operate in relation to existing service, both passenger and freight.

7. Show the estimated total cost and time for accomplishing each task for implementing the demonstration, including estimates broken out, at a minimum, into the following categories: demonstration planning and installation, Compliant DMU equipment acquisition, and operating and maintenance schedules and costs. Specify sources of proposed funding, clearly indicating sources for the required non-Federal dollar-for-dollar cash match.

8. Specify which organizations will supply and install key components of the demonstration system and, to the extent available, provide letters of commitment supporting the proposed activities, schedules, and non-Federal cost sharing. Letters of support from the railroad whose tracks and facilities are to be used for the demonstration should be included.

9. Discuss the systematic operational recording, monitoring, analysis, and reporting procedures to be followed during the demonstration.

10. Discuss plans for training and familiarization of operating and maintenance personnel for the demonstration system.

Format: Statements of Interest may not exceed twenty-five pages in length.

Selection Criteria: The following will be considered to be positive selection factors in evaluating Statements of Interest for this demonstration:

1. The timeliness of the initiation of the demonstration and the availability of the Compliant DMU technology to be demonstrated. Applicants must be able to begin revenue service during calendar year 2004.

2. The extent to which the demonstration will assist in

understanding the state-of-the-art in Compliant DMU technology in areas of desired advancement, including safety, reliability, efficiency, operational flexibility, maintainability, capital costs and/or operating costs of the corridor operation, as a whole, as well as of the Compliant DMU equipment itself.

3. The extent to which the demonstration will involve an innovative Compliant DMU technology available for commercial development, as opposed to modification of equipment previously in service but currently not produced.

4. The technological risk associated with successfully demonstrating Compliant DMU technology on the schedule proposed.

5. The compliance of the technology with other Federal requirements, including the Americans with Disabilities Act and relevant diesel emission standards of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

6. The contribution the demonstration might have to the development or expansion of the domestic passenger rail car manufacturing industry.

7. The extent to which the demonstration will have ongoing transportation benefits after the end of the scheduled demonstration.

8. The ability of the Compliant DMU technology to be readily and economically expanded to respond to increased speed, volume, and complexity of traffic.

9. The extent of non-Federal contributions to the demonstration.

Issued in Washington, DC, on March 1, 2004.

Mark E. Yachmetz,

Associate Administrator for Railroad Development.

[FR Doc. 04-5023 Filed 3-4-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 34391]

New England Transrail, LLC, d/b/a Wilmington and Woburn Terminal Railroad Co.—Construction, Acquisition, and Operation Exemption—In Wilmington and Woburn, MA

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board.

ACTION: Notice of exemption.

SUMMARY: Under 49 U.S.C. 10502, the Board conditionally exempts from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 10901 the construction, acquisition, and operation by New England Transrail,

LLC, d/b/a Wilmington and Woburn Terminal Railroad Co. (W&WTR) of a combined total of 4,000 feet of trackage in Wilmington and Woburn, MA. W&WTR proposes to connect the line with two rail lines over which the Boston and Maine Corporation (B&M) provides rail common carrier service.

DATES: The exemption is subject to the Board's further consideration of the anticipated environmental impacts of the proposal and cannot become effective until the environmental review process is completed. Once that process is completed, the Board will issue a further decision addressing the environmental impacts and making the exemption effective at that time, if appropriate, subject to any necessary mitigation conditions. Petitions to reopen must be filed by March 25, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Send comments (an original and 10 copies) referring to STB Finance Docket No. 34391 to: Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, send one copy of comments to applicant's representative: John F. McHugh, 6 Water Street, Suite 4001, New York, NY 10004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joseph H. Dettmar, (202) 565-1600. (Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Additional information is contained in the Board's decision. To purchase a copy of the full decision, write to, call, or pick up in person from: ASAP Document Solutions, 9332 Annapolis Road, Suite 103, Lanham, MD 20706. Telephone: (301) 577-2600. (FIRS for the hearing impaired: 1-800-877-8339.)

Board decisions and notices are available on the Board's Web site at <http://www.stb.dot.gov>.

Decided: March 2, 2004.

By the Board, Chairman Nober.

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 04-4992 Filed 3-4-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 34477]

The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company—Temporary Trackage Rights Exemption—Union Pacific Railroad Company

Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) has agreed to grant temporary overhead

trackage rights to The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF) over UP's (1) Lake Charles Subdivision line between UP milepost 680.2 at Iowa Junction, LA, and UP milepost 660.6 at Kinder, LA, (2) Beaumont Subdivision line between UP milepost 544.5 at Kinder, LA, and UP milepost 621.0 at Livonia, LA, and (3) Livonia Subdivision line between UP milepost 114.8 at Livonia, LA, and UP milepost 14.4 at Live Oak, LA, a total distance of approximately 196.5 miles.

The transaction is scheduled to be consummated on March 1, 2004, and the trackage rights are scheduled to expire on June 24, 2004. The purpose of the temporary trackage rights is to allow BNSF to bridge its train service while its main lines are out of service due to certain programmed track, roadbed, and structural maintenance.

As a condition to this exemption, any employees affected by the temporary trackage rights will be protected by the conditions imposed in *Norfolk and Western Ry. Co.—Trackage Rights—BN*, 354 I.C.C. 605 (1978), as modified by *Mendocino Coast Ry., Inc.—Lease and Operate*, 360 I.C.C. 653 (1980), *aff'd sub nom. Railway Labor Executives' Ass'n v. United States*, 675 F.2d 1248 (D.C. Cir. 1982).

This notice is filed under 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(8). 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 stay the transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 34477, 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 Sarah W. Bailiff, 2500 Lou Menk Drive, P. O. Box 961039, Fort Worth, TX 76161-0039.

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

Decided: February 27, 2004.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 04-4850 Filed 3-4-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Form 8453-EO

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

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 IRS is soliciting comments concerning Form 8453-EO, Exempt Organization Declaration and Signature for Electronic Filing.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before May 4, 2004 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Glenn P. Kirkland, Internal Revenue Service, room 6411, 1111 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20224.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the form and instructions should be directed to Carol Savage at Internal Revenue Service, room 6407, 1111 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20224, or at (202) 622-3945, or through the Internet at CAROLA.SAVAGE@irs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Exempt Organization Declaration and Signature for Electronic Filing.

OMB Number: 1545-1879.

Form Number: 8453-EO.

Abstract: Form 8453-EO is used to enable the electronic filing of Forms 990, 990-EZ, or 1120-POL.

Current Actions: There are no changes being made to the form at this time.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Not-for-profit institutions.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 200.

Estimated Time Per Respondent: 4 hours, 47 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 956.

The following paragraph applies to all of the collections of information covered by this notice:

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to