

DNV's research and expertise dealing with offshore pipeline facilities, they are located on the Web and can be reached at <http://exchange.dnv.com>.

Grant of Waiver

For the reasons explained above and in Notice 1, and in light of the equivalent level of safety provided by the alternative risk control activities, RSPA/OPS finds that the request for waiver is consistent with pipeline safety. Therefore, GTFS's request for waiver of compliance with 49 CFR 192.619(a)(2)(ii), 192.503, and 192.505 is granted subject to GTFS compliance with the following conditions:

1. Utilize thick wall, high strength, and high quality DSAW pipe;
2. Perform a pipe mill hydrotest on each pipe joint equivalent to 95% specified minimum yield strength (SMYS) to detect defects in the seam weld and prevent the deployment of defective pipe joints;
3. Perform extensive inspection and quality control during the line pipe manufacture, transport, fabrication, and installation to prevent pipe damage;
4. Utilize Automated Ultrasonic Inspection (AUT) for inspection of offshore welds to improve defect detection in the girth weld and to improve the weld quality during the pipeline and steel catenary riser fabrication;
5. Subject all buckle arrestors to complete radiographic and magnetic particle inspection, including radiographic inspection of all buckle arrestor to line pipe welds;
6. Perform complete radiographic inspection and hydrotesting of all welds connecting subsea valves and assemblies to the pipeline;
7. Perform a leak test of the pipeline's subsea tie-in flange that connects to the VR 397 riser flange; and
8. Perform factory acceptance hydrotests of all subsea "wye", tee, ball valve, and check valve assemblies.

Issued in Washington, DC, on June 24, 2004.

William H. Gute,

Acting Deputy Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.

[FR Doc. 04-14726 Filed 6-28-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 216X)]

Union Pacific Railroad Company— Abandonment Exemption—in Weld County, CO

On June 15, 2004, Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) filed with the Board a petition¹ under 49 U.S.C. 10502 for exemption from the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 10903 to abandon a 1.12-mile portion of its Monfort Industrial Lead between milepost 141.12 and milepost 140.00 near Kersey, in Weld County, CO.² The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Code 80644 and includes no stations.

The line contains both federally granted rights-of-way and fee title property. Any documentation in UP's possession will be made available promptly to those requesting it.

The interest of railroad employees will be protected by the conditions set forth in *Oregon Short Line R. Co.—Abandonment—Goshen*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979).

By issuance of this notice, the Board is instituting an exemption proceeding pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10502(b). A final decision will be issued by October 1, 2004.

Any offer of financial assistance (OFA) under 49 CFR 1152.27(b)(2) will be due no later than 10 days after service of a decision granting the petition for exemption. Each OFA must be accompanied by a \$1,100 filing fee. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

All interested persons should be aware that, following abandonment of rail service and salvage of the line, the line may be suitable for other public use, including interim trail use. Any request for a public use condition under 49 CFR 1152.28 or for trail use/rail banking under 49 CFR 1152.29 will be due no later than July 22, 2004. Each trail use request must be accompanied by a \$200 filing fee. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(27).

All filings in response to this notice must refer to STB Docket No. AB-33

¹ The petition was initially received on May 28, 2004, but contained conflicting information regarding ownership of the right-of-way. On June 15, 2004, a supplemental filing was received correcting the draft notice to indicate that the line contains both federally granted rights-of-way and fee title property. Accordingly, June 15, 2004, is considered to be the actual filing date and the due dates in this notice are based on that date.

² UP states that after abandonment the track and right-of-way will be sold to ConAgra Foods, the only shipper on the line. The shipper will then reconfigure its facility to receive larger, more efficient unit shuttle trains of grain, and the line will be converted to an industry track.

(Sub-No. 216X) and must be sent to: (1) Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001; and (2) Mack H. Shumate, Jr., 101 North Wacker Drive, Room 1920, Chicago, IL 60606. Replies to the UP petition are due on or before July 22, 2004.

Persons seeking further information concerning abandonment procedures may contact the Board's Office of Public Services at (202) 565-1592 or refer to the full abandonment or discontinuance regulations at 49 CFR part 1152.

Questions concerning environmental issues may be directed to the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) at (202) 565-1539. [Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.]

An environmental assessment (EA) (or environmental impact statement (EIS), if necessary) prepared by SEA will be served upon all parties of record and upon any agencies or other persons who commented during its preparation. Other interested persons may contact SEA to obtain a copy of the EA (or EIS). EAs in these abandonment proceedings normally will be made available within 60 days of the filing of the petition.

The deadline for submission of comments on the EA will generally be within 30 days of its service.

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

Decided: June 18, 2004.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Fiscal Service

Renegotiation Board Interest Rate; Prompt Payment Interest Rate; Contract Disputes Act

AGENCY: Bureau of the Public Debt, Fiscal Service, Treasury.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: For the period beginning July 1, 2004 and ending on December 31, 2004, the prompt payment interest rate is 4.500 per centum per annum.

ADDRESSES: Comments or inquiries may be mailed to Mitzie Johnson, Acting Team Leader, Borrowings Accounting Team, Division of Accounting Operations, Office of Public Debt