

such meeting. The CIREN Centers will be presenting papers on a variety of research topics.

Should it be necessary to cancel the meeting due to inclement weather or to any other emergencies, a decision to cancel will be made as soon as possible and posted immediately on NHTSA's Web site <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/nhtsa/announce/meetings/>. If you do not have access to the Web site, you may call the contact listed below and leave your telephone or fax number. You will be called only if the meeting is postponed or canceled.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: NHTSA or the Baltimore CIREN Center.

NHTSA, Mark Scarboro, Office of Advanced Safety Research, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Room 6220, Washington, DC 20590, telephone: (202) 366-5932.

Or

Baltimore CIREN Center, Tim Kerns, National Study Center for Trauma/EMS, 701 West Pratt Street, Room 553, Baltimore, MD 21201.

Issued on: September 21, 2004.

Joseph N. Kaniathra,

Associate Administrator for Vehicle Safety Research, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-876X and AB-875X]

R.J. Corman Equipment Company, LLC—Abandonment Exemption—in Johnson, Magoffin and Breathitt Counties, KY; R.J. Corman Railroad Company/Bardstown Line—Discontinuance of Service Exemption—in Johnson, Magoffin and Breathitt Counties, KY

On September 7, 2004, (1) R.J. Corman Equipment Company, LLC (RJCE) and (2) R.J. Corman Railroad Company/Bardstown Line (RJCR) jointly filed with the Board a petition under 49 U.S.C. 10502 for exemption from the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 10903.¹ RJCE seeks to abandon and RJCR seeks to discontinue service on, a line of railroad known as the Dawkins Line, extending from milepost 0.05 at Dawkins, KY, to the end of the track at milepost 36.13 near Evanston, KY, a distance of approximately 36.08 miles in Johnson,

Magoffin and Breathitt Counties, KY. The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Codes 41240, 41260, 41222, 41465, and 41339 and includes the stations of Paintsville, Ivyton, Royalton, Magoffin and Skyline.

The line does not contain federally granted rights-of-way. Any documentation in the possession of RJCE and RJCR 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 issuing this notice, the Board is instituting an exemption proceeding pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10502(b). A final decision will be issued by December 23, 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 October 15, 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 Nos. AB-876X and AB-875X and must be sent to: (1) Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001, and (2) Thomas J. Litwiler, 29 North Wacker Drive, Suite 920, Chicago, IL 60606-2832. Replies to the petition are due on or before October 15, 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 the 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 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: September 21, 2004.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Advisory Committee on Former Prisoners of War; Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under Public Law 92-463 (Federal Advisory Committee Act) that a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Former Prisoners of War (FPOW) will be held on October 12-14, 2004, in the Basement Conference Room, at the VA Boston Healthcare System, 150 South Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA 02130. Each day, the meeting will convene at 9 a.m. and end at 4:30 p.m. The meeting is open to the public.

The purpose of the Committee is to advise the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on the administration of benefits under Title 38, United States Code, for veterans who are former prisoners of war and to make recommendations on the needs of such veterans for compensation, health care, and rehabilitation.

The agenda for October 12 consists of an introduction of Committee members, remarks from dignitaries, a review of Committee reports, an update of activities since the last meeting, and time for FPOW veterans and/or the public to address the committee. The Chairman of the FPOW presumptive workgroup will provide a status report on the recommendations made to the Secretary. The agenda for October 13 includes reports on the progress of the VA FPOW Case Management training and the progress of the Special FPOW Care and Benefits Teams. The Director of the Robert E. Mitchell Center for Prisoners of War Studies will provide an update on center activities. The Committee will discuss the VA's responses to the Committee's previous recommendations. The Committee will

¹ RJCE and RJCR are commonly controlled by Richard J. Corman and are part of the R.J. Corman family of railroads, which includes seven other Class III rail carriers in the eastern United States.