

[FR Doc. 04-25888 Filed 11-22-04; 8:45 am]
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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Research and Special Programs Administration

[Docket No. RSPA-04-18975; Notice No. 04-07]

Safety Advisory: Unauthorized Marking of Compressed Gas Cylinders

AGENCY: Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA), DOT.

ACTION: Safety advisory notice.

SUMMARY: This is to notify the public that RSPA is investigating the unauthorized marking of DOT specification high-pressure carbon dioxide fire extinguishers serviced by Statewide Fire Equipment, Inc. (Statewide), West Buxton, ME. Note that non-DOT specification dry chemical fire extinguishers are not at issue. RSPA has evidence that suggests Statewide marked, certified and returned to service numerous high-pressure DOT specification carbon dioxide fire extinguishers when the cylinders had not been properly requalified in accordance with the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR). In addition, the evidence suggests that Statewide used the Retester Identification Numbers (RINs) of several other licensed retest facilities without the permission or knowledge of these facilities.

A hydrostatic retest and visual inspection are used to verify the structural integrity of compressed gas cylinders. If a hydrostatic retest and visual inspection are not performed within the time period required by the HMR, cylinders with compromised structural integrity may be returned to service when they should be condemned. Extensive property damage, serious personal injury, or death could result from rupture of a cylinder.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Through its investigation, RSPA believes that Statewide marked, certified and returned to service an undetermined number of high-pressure carbon dioxide fire extinguishers without the authority to perform such servicing or without ensuring that the cylinders were properly requalified by an authorized retest facility. The cylinders are owned by municipal school systems, fire departments, and a yet to be determined number of other customers in southern Maine. The HMR require that a cylinder requalification facility hold a current RIN issued by RSPA. Statewide has

never applied for or received a RIN; therefore it is not an authorized cylinder requalification facility. Cylinders serviced by Statewide were found to be marked with the RINs of four different authorized requalification facilities. The facilities and RIN numbers are: RIN A803 issued to AAA Fire Extinguisher Co., Inc. (AAA Fire Extinguisher), 328 Rodman Road, Auburn, ME, (207) 784-8306; RIN A887 issued to Simplex Grinnell LP (Simplex Grinnell), 20 Thomas Drive, Westbrook, ME, (207) 842-6440; RIN A813 issued to J. N. Johnson Sales & Service, Inc., (J. N. Johnson), 4200 West 76th Street, Edina, MN, (952) 835-4600; and RIN A857 issued to Orange County Fire Protection (Orange County Fire), 137 West Bristol Lane, Orange, CA, (714) 974-9025.

RSPA has reviewed the retester records from these four companies from 1995 to the present, and has determined that none of these companies have performed any cylinder requalification for Statewide. Although AAA Fire Extinguisher of Auburn, ME requalified DOT specification high pressure carbon dioxide fire extinguishers for Statewide until approximately 1995, it has not performed any services for Statewide since then. In addition to the four RIN numbers mentioned above, RSPA believes that Statewide may have marked cylinders with other unauthorized RINs. The RIN and date of retest are marked on the shoulders of cylinders in the following pattern:

A 8

M Y

30

M is the month of retest (e.g., 10), and Y is the year of the retest (e.g., 04).

This safety advisory covers all high-pressure DOT specification fire extinguishers that have been marked and certified as having been requalified while in the custody of Statewide. These cylinders may pose a safety risk to the public and should be considered unsafe for use in hazardous materials service until requalified by an authorized retest facility. Furthermore, cylinders described in this safety advisory must not be filled with a hazardous material unless the cylinders are first properly retested by an authorized retest facility. A list of authorized requalification facilities sorted by state or by RIN number may be obtained at RSPA's Web site: http://hazmat.dot.gov/files/approvals/hydro/hydro_retesters.htm.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Anthony Lima, Senior Hazardous Materials Enforcement Specialist, Eastern Region, Office of Hazardous Materials Enforcement, Research and Special Programs Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, 820 Bear Tavern Road, Suite 306, West Trenton, NJ 08628. Telephone: (609) 989-2252.

RSPA requests that any person possessing a high pressure DOT specification fire extinguisher serviced by Statewide since 1995 contact inspector Anthony Lima with the following information for each cylinder: (1) The DOT specification number and service pressure, (2) the serial number which should be marked in association with the specification number and service pressure, (3) the RIN number and the month and year of the last marked requalification, (4) invoices from Statewide that have the line item, "Hydrostatic Tests" completed, and (5) the customer name, address, contact person and telephone number so the inspector may contact you if necessary. Please provide the requested information via facsimile to: (775) 307-4971.

Issued in Washington, DC, on November 17, 2004.

Robert A. McGuire,

Associate Administrator for Hazardous Materials Safety.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

Release of Waybill Data

The Surface Transportation Board has received a request from Harkins Cunningham on behalf of Canadian National Railway Company (WB525-9-11/9/2004), for permission to use certain data from the Board's Carload Waybill Samples. A copy of the request may be obtained from the Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis, and Administration.

The waybill sample contains confidential railroad and shipper data; therefore, if any parties object to these requests, they should file their objections with the Director of the Board's Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis, and Administration within 14 calendar days of the date of this notice. The rules for release of waybill data are codified at 49 CFR 1244.9.

Contact: Mac Frampton, (202) 565-1541.

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 04-25929 Filed 11-22-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

Release of Waybill Data

The Surface Transportation Board has received a request from Covington & Burling on behalf of Union Pacific Corporation (WB468-6-11/15/04), for permission to use certain data from the Board's Carload Waybill Samples. A copy of the request may be obtained from the Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis, and Administration.

The waybill sample contains confidential railroad and shipper data; therefore, if any parties object to these requests, they should file their objections with the Director of the Board's Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis, and Administration within 14 calendar days of the date of this notice. The rules for release of waybill data are codified at 49 CFR 1244.9.

Contact: Mac Frampton, (202) 565-1541.

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 04-25930 Filed 11-22-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 34512]

Nebraska, Kansas & Colorado Railnet, Inc.—Acquisition and Operation Exemption—The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company

Nebraska, Kansas & Colorado Railnet, Inc. (Nebraska), a Class III rail carrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.41 *et seq.* to acquire and operate two lines of railroad from The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF). The subject lines total 88.6 miles in length and are located in Harlan, Franklin, Hitchcock, Hayes, and Chase Counties, NE.

Specifically, Nebraska will: (1) Lease and operate BNSF's Imperial Subdivision between milepost 0.89 near Culbertson, NE., and milepost 49.1 near Imperial, NE.; and (2) purchase and

operate a portion of BNSF's Wymore Subdivision located between milepost 216.95 near Franklin, NE., and milepost 257.36 near Oxford Jct., NE.. In addition, BNSF will grant Nebraska incidental trackage rights for the purpose of interchange with BNSF over BNSF's line between milepost 236.0 near Oxford, NE, and milepost 257.36 near Oxford Jct.; between milepost 257.36 near Oxford Jct., and milepost 288.0 near McCook, NE; and between milepost 0.89 near Culbertson, and milepost 286.0 near McCook.

Nebraska certifies that its projected revenues as a result of this transaction will not result in the creation of a Class II or Class I rail carrier so as to require processing under 49 CFR 1150.45. Nebraska also states that on or about July 29, 2004, it posted and served notice to employees of the proposed transaction as required under 49 CFR 1150.42(e) and certified to the Board that it had done so on the same date. The transaction was scheduled to be consummated on or after November 12, 2004.

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. 34512, 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 John D. Heffner, 1920 N Street, NW., Suite 800, Washington, DC 20036.

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

Decided: November 15, 2004.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 04-25931 Filed 11-22-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Veterans' Advisory Committee on Environmental Hazards; Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under Pub. L. 92-463 (Federal Advisory Committee Act) that a meeting of the Veteran's Advisory Committee on Environmental Hazards

will be held on Thursday and Friday, January 6-7, 2005, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. The meeting will be held at 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Room 530, Washington, DC 20420. The meeting is open to the public.

The purpose of the Committee is to provide advice to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on adverse health effects that may be associated with exposure to ionizing radiation and to make recommendations on proposed standards and guidelines regarding VA benefit claims based upon exposure to ionizing radiation.

The major items on the agenda for both days will be discussions and analyses of medical and scientific papers concerning the health effects of exposure to ionizing radiation. On the basis of its analyses and discussions, the Committee may make recommendations to the Secretary concerning the relationship of certain diseases with exposure to ionizing radiation. On January 6 there will be presentations by VA's Public Health and Environmental Hazards Office, and by Specialists in Energy, Nuclear, and Environmental Sciences (SENES). The January 7 session will include planning future Committee activities and assignment of tasks among the members.

Those who wish to attend should contact Ms. Bernice Green of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Compensation and Pension Service, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420, by phone at (202) 273-7210, or by fax at (202) 275-1728. Members of the public may submit written questions or prepared statements for review by the Committee in advance of the meeting. Statements should be sent to Ms. Green's attention at least 5 days prior to the meeting at the address shown above. Those who submit material may be asked to clarify it prior to its consideration by the Committee.

An open forum for verbal statements from the public will also be available for 20 minutes during the morning and 20 minutes in the afternoon each day. Each person who wishes to make a verbal statement before the Committee will be accommodated on a first come, first served basis and will be provided three (3) minutes to present the statement.

Dated: November 15, 2004.

By Direction of the Secretary.

E. Philip Riggan,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 04-25916 Filed 11-22-04; 8:45 am]

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