

allows. You may contact the individual under the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** heading for additional instructions if you want to file a written statement.

Issued in Washington, DC, on December 16, 2004.

Brenda Courtney,

Acting Director, Office of Rulemaking.

[FR Doc. 04-28007 Filed 12-21-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 34614]¹

Permian Basin Railways, Inc.— Acquisition of Control Exemption— Arizona Eastern Railway Company, Inc.

Permian Basin Railways, Inc. (Permian),² a noncarrier and short line railroad holding company, has filed a verified notice of exemption to acquire control through purchase of 100% of the outstanding stock of Arizona Eastern Railway Company, Inc. (AERC),³ a Class III short line railroad.

The transaction was scheduled to be consummated on or about December 1, 2004.

Permian states that: (i) The railroads do not connect; (ii) the transaction is not part of a series of anticipated transactions that would connect these railroads with each other or any railroad in their corporate family; and (iii) the transaction does not involve a Class I carrier. Therefore, the transaction is exempt from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 11323. *See* 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(2).

Under 49 U.S.C. 10502(g), the Board may not use its exemption authority to relieve a rail carrier of its statutory obligation to protect the interests of its employees. Section 11326(c), however, does not provide for labor protection for transactions under sections 11324 and 11325 that involve only Class III rail carriers. Accordingly, the Board may not impose labor protective conditions here,

¹ Simultaneously with this filing, in STB Finance Docket No. 34613, Permian filed a verified notice of exemption to acquire control of West Texas and Lubbock Railroad Company, Inc., a Class III short line railroad.

² Permian owns the stock of two Class III short line railroads, West Texas and Lubbock Railway Company, Inc. and the Austin & Northwestern Railway Company, Inc., d/b/a Texas New Mexican Railroad.

³ AERC is currently owned by Kyle Railways, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of RailAmerica Transportation Corp., a short line railroad holding company.

because all of the carriers involved are Class III rail carriers.

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. 34614, 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: December 13, 2004.

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

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 04-27860 Filed 12-21-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 34613]¹

Permian Basin Railways, Inc.— Acquisition of Control Exemption— West Texas and Lubbock Railroad Company, Inc.

Permian Basin Railways, Inc. (Permian),² a noncarrier and short line railroad holding company, has filed a verified notice of exemption to acquire control through purchase of 100% of the outstanding stock of West Texas and Lubbock Railroad Company, Inc. (WTLRR),³ a nonoperating⁴ Class III short line railroad.

The transaction was scheduled to be consummated on or about December 1, 2004.

Permian states that: (i) The railroads do not connect; (ii) the transaction is not part of a series of anticipated transactions that would connect these

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² Permian owns the stock of two Class III short line railroads, West Texas and Lubbock Railway Company, Inc. (WTLR) and the Austin & Northwestern Railway Company, Inc., d/b/a Texas New Mexican Railroad.

³ WTLRR is currently owned by RailAmerica Transportation Corp., a short line railroad holding company.

⁴ WTLRR leases its tracks and facilities to WTLR.

railroads with each other or any railroad in their corporate family; and (iii) the transaction does not involve a Class I carrier. Therefore, the transaction is exempt from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 11323. *See* 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(2).

Under 49 U.S.C. 10502(g), the Board may not use its exemption authority to relieve a rail carrier of its statutory obligation to protect the interests of its employees. Section 11326(c), however, does not provide for labor protection for transactions under sections 11324 and 11325 that involve only Class III rail carriers. Accordingly, the Board may not impose labor protective conditions here, because all of the carriers involved are Class III rail carriers.

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. 34613, 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: December 13, 2004.

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

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 04-27976 Filed 12-21-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Reports, Forms and Recordkeeping Requirements; Activity Under OMB Review; Airline Service Quality Performance

AGENCY: Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS), DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that the Information Collection Request (ICR) abstracted below has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for extension of currently approved collections. The ICR describes the

nature of the information collection and its expected burden. The **Federal Register** notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on the following collection of information was published on October 14, 2004 (69 FR 61079).

DATES: Written comments should be submitted by January 21, 2005.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bernie Stankus, Office of Airline Information, K-14, Room 4125, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001, telephone number (202) 366-4387, fax number (202) 366-3383 or e-mail bernard.stankus@bts.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS)

Title: Airline Service Quality Performance—Part 234.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

OMB Control Number: 2138-0041.

Forms: BTS Form 251.

Affected Public: U.S. air carriers that provide scheduled passenger service.

Abstract: Part 234 gives air travelers information concerning their chances of on-time flights and the rate of mishandled baggage by the 19 largest scheduled domestic passenger carriers.

Estimated Annual Burden Hours: 3,021 hours.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725-17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503, Attention BTS Desk Officer.

Comments are invited on: whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Department concerning consumer protection. Comments should address whether the information will have practical utility; the accuracy of the Department's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Issued in Washington, DC, on December 15, 2004.

Donald W. Bright,

Assistant Director, Office of Airline Information.

[FR Doc. 04-28009 Filed 12-21-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-FE-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

Open Meeting of the Area 2 Taxpayer Advocacy Panel (Including the States of Delaware, North Carolina, South Carolina, New Jersey, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and the District of Columbia)

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: An open meeting of the Area 2 Taxpayer Advocacy Panel will be conducted (via teleconference). The Taxpayer Advocacy Panel is soliciting public comments, ideas, and suggestions on improving customer service at the Internal Revenue Service.

DATES: The meeting will be held Tuesday, January 18, 2005, from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. ET.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Inez E. De Jesus at 1-888-912-1227, or 954-423-7977.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given pursuant to section 10 (a) (2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. (1988) that an open meeting of the Area 2 Taxpayer Advocacy Panel will be held Tuesday, January 18, 2005 from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. ET via a telephone conference call. If you would like to have the TAP consider a written statement, please call 1-888-912-1227 or 954-423-7977, or write Inez E. De Jesus, TAP Office, 1000 South Pine Island Rd., Suite 340, Plantation, FL 33324. Due to limited conference lines, notification of intent to participate in the telephone conference call meeting must be made with Inez E. De Jesus. Ms. De Jesus can be reached at 1-888-912-1227 or 954-423-7977, or post comments to the Web site: <http://www.improveirs.org>.

The agenda will include the following: Various IRS issues.

Dated: December 17, 2004.

Bernard Coston,

Director, Taxpayer Advocacy Panel.

[FR Doc. 04-28014 Filed 12-21-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

Open Meeting of the Joint Committee of the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Treasury.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: An open meeting of the Joint Committee of the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel will be conducted via teleconference. The Taxpayer Advocacy Panel is soliciting public comment, ideas, and suggestions on improving customer service at the Internal Revenue Service.

DATES: The meeting will be held Wednesday, January 19, 2005, at 1 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Barbara Toy at 1-888-912-1227, or 414-297-1611.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. (1988) that an open meeting of the Joint Committee of the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel (TAP) will be held Wednesday, January 19, 2005, at 1 p.m. Eastern daylight time via a telephone conference call. If you would like to have the Joint Committee of TAP consider a written statement, please call 1-888-912-1227 or 414-297-1611, or write Barbara Toy, TAP Office, MS-1006-MIL, 310 West Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53203-2221, or FAX to 414-297-1623, or you can contact us at <http://www.improveirs.org>. Due to limited conference lines, notification of intent to participate in the telephone conference call meeting must be made with Barbara Toy. Ms. Toy can be reached at 1-888-912-1227 or 414-297-1611, or FAX 414-297-1623.

The agenda will include the following: monthly committee summary report, discussion of issues brought to the joint committee, office report, and discussion of next meeting.

Dated: December 17, 2004.

Bernard Coston,

Director, Taxpayer Advocacy Panel.

[FR Doc. 04-28015 Filed 12-21-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

Open Meeting of the Area 7 Taxpayer Advocacy Panel (Including the State of California)

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Treasury.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: An open meeting of the Area 7 committee of the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel will be conducted (via teleconference). The Taxpayer Advocacy Panel (TAP) is soliciting public comments, ideas, and