

Compress, and Attebury Grain) with either PYCO itself or a rail carrier of PYCO's choosing, it would not result in more than eight additional trains per day or an increase of 100% in rail traffic volume on these lines. Accordingly, we find that PYCO's proposed operations do not exceed the Board's thresholds for environmental review, and that no environmental documentation is required.

#### V. Schedule

Our regulations set forth time periods that apply for submitting competing applications, verified statements and comments addressing feeder line applications and any competing applications, and replies, unless otherwise provided. In light of the expiration date for alternative rail service to PYCO, October 23, 2006, we shall provide a shortened schedule for the submission of these pleadings in this case, as set forth below. Although our regulations provide that extensions of filing dates may be granted for good cause, 49 CFR 1151.2(k), the parties should be aware that, to facilitate prompt resolution of this application, we will disfavor requests for extensions of filing dates in this proceeding except in the most extraordinary circumstances.

In summary, PYCO has submitted sufficient information in its new application for Alternative Two to meet the requirements of 49 CFR 1151.3. The Board will rule on the merits of the application when the record is complete.

*It is ordered:*

1. PYCO's appeal of the order rejecting its original application is denied.

2. SAW's renewed petition to reject the application for Alternative Two and motion to reject the new application are denied.

3. PYCO's new application for Alternative Two is accepted. Notice will be published in the **Federal Register** on July 14, 2006.

4. Competing applications by any person seeking to acquire the rail lines comprising Alternative Two must be filed by July 18, 2006.

5. Verified statements and comments addressing the initial and/or any competing application(s) must be filed by August 2, 2006.

6. Any amendment by PYCO to its valuation of the rail lines, based upon discovery responses, must be filed by 7 days after it receives the discovery responses. If the resulting filing date falls after the submission of the verified statements and comments in paragraph 5, the parties that filed such statements

and comments shall have 7 days after the filing of the amended valuations to file any verified statements and comments concerning the amended valuations.

7. Verified replies by applicants and other interested parties must be filed by August 14, 2006, unless parties have filed any verified statements and comments concerning the amendment to valuations referred to in paragraph 6. In the event of such filings, applicants and other interested parties shall have 15 days after the filing of such verified statements and comments to file replies.

8. This decision is effective on July 14, 2006.

9. A copy of this decision will be served on BNSF.

Decided: July 3, 2006.

By the Board, Chairman Buttrey and Vice Chairman Mulvey.

**Vernon A. Williams,**

*Secretary.*

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**BILLING CODE 4915-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 439X)]

#### BNSF Railway Company— Abandonment Exemption—in Bottineau County, ND

BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR Part 1152 Subpart F—*Exempt Abandonments* to abandon approximately 11.90 miles of rail line, extending from milepost 40.10, near Bottineau, to milepost 52.00, near Souris, in Bottineau County, ND. The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Codes 58783 and 58318.

BNSF has certified that: (1) No local traffic has moved over the line for at least 2 years; (2) there is no overhead traffic on the line to be rerouted; (3) no formal complaint filed by a user of rail service on the line (or by a state or local government entity acting on behalf of such user) regarding cessation of service over the line either is pending with the Surface Transportation Board or with any U.S. District Court or has been decided in favor of complainant within the 2-year period; and (4) the requirements at 49 CFR 1105.7 (environmental reports), 49 CFR 1105.8 (historic reports), 49 CFR 1105.11 (transmittal letter), 49 CFR 1105.12 (newspaper publication), and 49 CFR 1152.50(d)(1) (notice to governmental agencies) have been met.

As a condition to this exemption, any employee adversely affected by the abandonment shall be protected under *Oregon Short Line R. Co.—Abandonment—Goshen*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979). To address whether this condition adequately protects affected employees, a petition for partial revocation under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) must be filed.

Provided no formal expression of intent to file an offer of financial assistance (OFA) has been received, this exemption will be effective on August 15, 2006, unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay that do not involve environmental issues,<sup>1</sup> formal expressions of intent to file an OFA under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2),<sup>2</sup> and trail use/rail banking requests under 49 CFR 1152.29 must be filed by July 24, 2006. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by August 3, 2006, with the Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001.

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to BNSF's representative: Sidney L. Strickland, Jr., Sidney Strickland and Associates, PLLC, 3050 K Street, NW., Suite 101, Washington, DC 20007.

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*.

BNSF has filed a combined environmental and historic report which addresses the effects, if any, of the abandonment on the environment and historic resources. SEA will issue an environmental assessment (EA) by July 21, 2006. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA by writing to SEA (Room 500, Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423-0001) or by calling SEA, at (202) 565-1539. [Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.] Comments on environmental and historic preservation matters must be filed within 15 days after the EA becomes available to the public.

<sup>1</sup> The Board will grant a stay if an informed decision on environmental issues (whether raised by a party or by the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) in its independent investigation) cannot be made before the exemption's effective date. See *Exemption of Out-of-Service Rail Lines*, 5 I.C.C.2d 377 (1989). Any request for a stay should be filed as soon as possible so that the Board may take appropriate action before the exemption's effective date.

<sup>2</sup> Each OFA must be accompanied by the filing fee, which was increased to \$1,300 effective on April 19, 2006. See *Regulations Governing Fees for Services Performed in Connection with Licensing and Related Services—2006 Update*, STB Ex Parte No. 542 (Sub-No. 13) (STB served Mar. 20, 2006).

Environmental, historic preservation, public use, or trail use/rail banking conditions will be imposed, where appropriate, in a subsequent decision.

Pursuant to the provisions of 49 CFR 1152.29(e)(2), BNSF shall file a notice of consummation with the Board to signify that it has exercised the authority granted and fully abandoned the line. If consummation has not been effected by BNSF's filing of a notice of consummation by July 14, 2007, and there are no legal or regulatory barriers to consummation, the authority to abandon will automatically expire.

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

Decided: July 7, 2006.

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

**Vernon A. Williams,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. E6-11030 Filed 7-13-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4915-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### United States Mint

#### Notification of American Eagle Gold Proof Coin Price Decrease

*Summary:* The recent drop in the price of gold requires that the United States Mint reduce the prices on its 2006 American Eagle Gold Proof Coins.

Pursuant to the authority that 31 U.S.C. 5112(i) and 5111(a)(3) grant the Secretary of the Treasury to mint and issue gold coins, and to prepare and distribute numismatic items, the United States Mint mints and issues American Eagle Gold Proof Coins in four denominations: One-ounce, one-half ounce, one-quarter ounce, one-tenth ounce, and a four-coin set that contains one coin of each denomination. In accordance with 31 U.S.C. 9701(b)(2)(B), the United States Mint is changing the price of these coins to reflect the decrease in value of the underlying precious metal content of the coins—the

result of recent decreases in the market price of gold. Accordingly, effective July 12, 2006, the United States Mint will commence selling these gold proof coins according to the following price schedule: one-ounce gold proof coin (Sold Out), one-half ounce gold proof coin (\$420.00), one-quarter ounce gold proof coin (\$215.00), one-tenth ounce gold proof coin (\$105.00), and four-coin gold proof set (\$1,495.00).

*For Further Information Contact:* Gloria Eskridge, Associate Director for Sales and Marketing, United States Mint, 801 Ninth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20220; or call 202-354-7500.

**Authority:** 31 U.S.C. 5111, 5112 & 9701.

Dated: July 11, 2006.

**David A. Lebryk,**

*Acting Director, United States Mint.*

[FR Doc. E6-11096 Filed 7-13-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4810-37-P**