SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

[Docket No. FD 36453]

SRC Railway LLC—Lease and Operation Exemption—Strasburg Rail Road Company

SRC Railway LLC (Railway LLC), a noncarrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption pursuant to 49 CFR 1150.31 to lease from Strasburg Rail Road Company (SRC) and operate approximately 4.25 miles of rail line known as the Strasburg Line in Lancaster County, Pa. (the Line). The Line extends from the interchange in connection with Norfolk Southern Railway Company and the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (NRPC milepost 56.8)), southwesterly to quarter-milepost 3 at East Strasburg. This transaction is related to a concurrently filed verified notice of exemption in Strasburg Rail Road Company—Continuance in Control Exemption—SRC Railway LLC, Docket No. FD 36454, in which SRC seeks to continue in control of Railway LLC upon Railway LLC’s becoming a Class III rail carrier.

Railway LLC states that it will shortly execute agreements with SRC pursuant to which it will lease the Line from SRC. According to Railway LLC, the proposed agreements do not contain any provision that would limit future interchange on the Line with a third-party connecting carrier.

Further, Railway LLC certifies that its projected annual revenue will not exceed $5 million and will not result in Railway LLC becoming a Class I or II rail carrier.

The earliest this transaction may be consummated is January 20, 2021, the effective date of the exemption (30 days after the verified notice was filed).

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 effectiveness of the exemption. Petitions for stay must be filed no later than January 12, 2021. All pleadings, referring to Docket No. FD 36453, should be filed with the Surface Transportation Board via e-filing on the Board’s website. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on Railway LLC’s representative, Bradon J. Smith, Fletcher & Sippel LLC, 29 North Wacker Drive, Suite 800, Chicago, IL 60606–3208. According to Railway LLC, this action is categorically excluded from environmental review under 49 CFR 1105.6(c) and from historic preservation reporting requirements under 49 CFR 1105.8(b).

Board decisions and notices are available at www.stb.gov.


By the Board, Scott M. Zimmerman, Acting Director, Office of Proceedings.

Jeffrey Herzig,
Clearance Clerk.

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A. Proceedings in the Investigation

On April 12, 2019, the U.S. Trade Representative announced the initiation of an investigation to enforce U.S. rights in the WTO dispute against the EU and certain EU member States addressed to subsidies on large civil aircraft. See 84 FR 15028 (April 12 notice). The April 12 notice contains background information on the investigation and the dispute settlement proceedings.

The April 12 notice solicited comments on a proposed determination that, inter alia, the EU and certain member States have denied U.S. rights under the WTO Agreement, and in particular, under Articles 5 and 6.3 of the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994, have failed to comply with the WTO Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) recommendations to bring the WTO-inconsistent subsidies into compliance with WTO obligations. The April 12 notice invited public comments on a proposed action in the form of an additional ad valorem duty of up to 100 percent on products of EU member States to be drawn from a list of 317 tariff subheadings and 9 statistical reporting numbers of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) included in the annex to that notice.

On July 5, 2019, USTR published a notice inviting public comments on a second list of products also being considered for an additional ad valorem duty of up to 100 percent. See 84 FR 32248.

On October 2, 2019, the WTO Arbitrator issued a report concluding that the appropriate level of countermeasures in response to the WTO-inconsistent launch aid provided by the EU or certain member States to their large civil aircraft domestic industry is approximately $7.5 billion annually.

On October 9, 2019, the U.S. Trade Representative published a determination that the EU and certain member States have denied U.S. rights under the WTO Agreement and have failed to implement DSB recommendations concerning certain subsidies to the EU large civil aircraft industry. The U.S. Trade Representative determined to take action in the form of additional duties on products of certain current or former member States of the EU, at levels of 10 or 25 percent ad valorem, effective October 18, 2019. See 84 FR 54245 (October 9, 2019) and 84 FR 55998 (October 18, 2019).

On December 12, 2019, the U.S. Trade Representative announced a review of