

Lease and Operating Agreement (Agreement) pursuant to which VESO will lease and operate the Line as a common carrier.<sup>1</sup>

VESO certifies that its projected annual revenues from this transaction will not result in its becoming a Class I or Class II rail carrier and will not exceed \$5 million. VESO also certifies that the Agreement does not include an interchange commitment.

The earliest this transaction may be consummated is February 6, 2022, 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 28, 2022 (at least seven days before the exemption becomes effective).

All pleadings, referring to Docket No. FD 36571, 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 VESO's representative, Bradon J. Smith, Fletcher & Sippel LLC, 29 North Wacker Drive, Suite 800, Chicago, IL 60606.

According to VESO, 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](http://www.stb.gov).

Decided: January 14, 2022.

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

**Jeffrey Herzig,**  
Clearance Clerk.

[FR Doc. 2022-01152 Filed 1-20-22; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4915-01-P**

## **SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

**[Docket No. FD 36572]**

### **Watco Holdings, Inc.—Continuance in Control Exemption—Verdigris Southern Railroad, L.L.C.**

Watco Holdings, Inc. (Watco), a noncarrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(2) to continue in control of Verdigris

Southern Railroad, L.L.C. (VESO), a noncarrier controlled by Watco, upon VESO's becoming a Class III rail carrier.

This transaction is related to a verified notice of exemption filed concurrently in *Verdigris Southern Railroad, L.L.C.—Lease and Operation Exemption—Track in Rogers County, Okla.*, Docket No. FD 36571, in which VESO seeks to lease from the City of Tulsa–Rogers County Port Authority (the Port), and to commence common carrier operations over, approximately 13,883 feet of track owned by the Port in Rogers County, Okla.

The transaction may be consummated on or after February 6, 2022, the effective date of the exemption (30 days after the verified notice was filed).

According to the verified notice of exemption, Watco currently controls indirectly 40 Class III railroads and one Class II railroad, collectively operating in 28 states. For a complete list of these rail carriers and the states in which they operate, see the Appendix to Watco's January 7, 2022 verified notice of exemption, available at [www.stb.gov](http://www.stb.gov).

Watco represents that: (1) The rail line to be operated by VESO does not connect with the rail lines of any of the rail carriers currently controlled by Watco; (2) this transaction is not part of a series of anticipated transactions that would connect VESO with any railroad in the Watco corporate family; and (3) the transaction does not involve a Class I rail carrier. The proposed transaction is therefore exempt from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 11323 pursuant to 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. Because the transaction involves the control of one Class II and one or more Class III rail carriers, the transaction is subject to the labor protection requirements of 49 U.S.C. 11326(b) and *Wisconsin Central Ltd.—Acquisition Exemption—Lines of Union Pacific Railroad*, 2 S.T.B. 218 (1997).

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 28, 2022 (at least seven days before the exemption becomes effective).

All pleadings, referring to Docket No. FD 36572, should be filed with the Surface Transportation Board via e-filing on the Board's website. In addition, one copy of each pleading

must be served on Watco's representative, Bradon J. Smith, Fletcher & Sippel LLC, 29 North Wacker Drive, Suite 800, Chicago, IL 60606.

According to Watco, this action is categorically excluded from environmental review under 49 CFR 1105.6(c) and from historic reporting requirements under 49 CFR 1105.8(b).

Board decisions and notices are available at [www.stb.gov](http://www.stb.gov).

Decided: January 14, 2022.

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

**Brendetta Jones,**  
Clearance Clerk.

[FR Doc. 2022-01154 Filed 1-20-22; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4915-01-P**

## **DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

### **Federal Aviation Administration**

#### **Notice of Request To Release Airport Property for Land Disposal**

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of request to rule on release of airport property for land disposal at the Ottumwa Regional Airport (OTM), Ottumwa, Iowa.

**SUMMARY:** The FAA proposes to rule and invites public comment on the release of land at the Ottumwa Regional Airport (OTM), Ottumwa, Iowa.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before February 22, 2022.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments on this application may be mailed or delivered to the FAA at the following address: Amy J. Walter, Airports Land Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Airports Division, ACE-620G, 901 Locust, Room 364, Kansas City, MO 64106.

In addition, one copy of any comments submitted to the FAA must be mailed or delivered to: Zach Simonson, Community Development Director, City of Ottumwa, 105 East Third Street, Ottumwa, Iowa 52501, (641) 683-0694.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Amy J. Walter, Airports Land Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Airports Division, ACE-620G, 901 Locust, Room 364, Kansas City, MO 64106, (816) 329-2603, [amy.walter@faa.gov](mailto:amy.walter@faa.gov). The request to release property may be reviewed, by appointment, in person at this same location.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The FAA invites public comment on the request to release two tracts of land: Parcel 64 is 4.51 acres and parcel 67 is 2.06 acres

<sup>1</sup> Public and confidential versions of the Agreement were filed with the verified notice. The confidential version was submitted under seal concurrently with a motion for protective order, which is addressed in a separate decision.