programs; are of importance to the Social Security program or the Social Security beneficiaries; or are for an epidemiological project that relates to the Social Security program or beneficiaries. We will disclose information under this routine use pursuant only to a written agreement with us.

17. To State and local government agencies, in situations involving suspected abuse, neglect, or exploitation of minor children or vulnerable adults, to report suspected abuse or determine a victim's eligibility for services.

18. To a representative (current or former), the executor of a deceased representative's estate or individual recognized by the State as the representative of the estate, an individual who provided representational services, the entity with which the representative or individual is or was affiliated through registration, or an individual or entity to which the agency disbursed a fee payment, to the extent necessary to dispose of a fee petition or fee agreement or resolve other fee-related issues in claims-related matters, but not to include pre-decisional deliberative documents, such as analyses and recommendations prepared for the decision-maker.

19. Limited information to third parties as necessary to reach claimants, beneficiaries, and others SSA has a business need to reach related to records in this system.

20. To third parties when an individual involved with a request needs assistance to communicate because of a hearing impairment or a language barrier (*e.g.,* to interpreters, telecommunications relay system operators).

POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR STORAGE OF RECORDS:

We will maintain records in this system in paper and electronic form.

POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR RETRIEVAL OF RECORDS:

We will retrieve records by SSN, name, and folder number.

POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR RETENTION AND DISPOSAL OF RECORDS:

In accordance with NARA rules codified at 36 CFR 1225.16, we maintain records in accordance with agency-wide Leadership Bucket, DAA–0047–2024–0001, and agency-wide Legal Bucket, DAA–0047–2022–0003.

ADMINISTRATIVE, TECHNICAL, AND PHYSICAL SAFEGUARDS:

We retain electronic files containing personal identifiers in secure storage areas accessible only by authorized individuals, including our employees and contractors, who have a need for the information when performing their official duties. Security measures include, but are not limited to, the use of codes and profiles, personal identification numbers and passwords, and personal identification verification cards. We restrict access to specific correspondence within the system based on assigned roles and authorized users. We use audit mechanisms to record sensitive transactions as an additional measure to protect information from unauthorized disclosure or modification. We keep paper records in cabinets within secure areas, with access limited to only those employees who have an official need for access in order to perform their duties.

We annually provide authorized individuals, including our employees and contractors, with appropriate security awareness training that includes reminders about the need to protect PII and the criminal penalties that apply to unauthorized access to, or disclosure of, PII (5 U.S.C. 552a(i)(1)). Furthermore, authorized individuals with access to databases maintaining PII must annually sign a sanctions document that acknowledges their accountability for inappropriately accessing or disclosing such information.

RECORD ACCESS PROCEDURES:

Individuals may submit requests for information about whether this system contains a record about them by submitting a written request to the system manager at the above address, which includes their name, SSN, or other information that may be in this system of records that will identify them. Individuals requesting notification of, or access to, a record by mail must include: (1) a notarized statement to us to verify their identity; or (2) must certify in the request that they are the individual they claim to be and that they understand that the knowing and willful request for, or acquisition of, a record pertaining to another individual under false pretenses is a criminal offense.

Individuals requesting notification of, or access to, records in person must provide their name, SSN, or other information that may be in this system of records that will identify them, as well as provide an identity document, preferably with a photograph, such as a driver's license. Individuals lacking identification documents sufficient to establish their identity must certify in writing that they are the individual they claim to be and that they understand that the knowing and willful request for, or acquisition of, a record pertaining to another individual under false pretenses is a criminal offense.

These procedures are in accordance with our regulations at 20 CFR 401.40, 401.45, and 401.55.

CONTESTING RECORD PROCEDURES:

Same as record access procedures. Individuals should also reasonably identify the record, specify the information they are contesting, and state the corrective action sought and the reasons for the correction with supporting justification showing how the record is incomplete, untimely, inaccurate, or irrelevant. These procedures are in accordance with our regulations at 20 CFR 401.65(a).

NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES:

Same as record access procedures. These procedures are in accordance with our regulations at 20 CFR 401.40, 401.45, and 401.55.

EXEMPTIONS PROMULGATED FOR THE SYSTEM:

None.

HISTORY:

47 FR 45589 (October 13, 1982), Hearings and Appeals Case Control System.

48 FR 37526 (August 18, 1983), Hearings and Appeals Case Control System.

51 FR 8243 (March 10, 1986), Hearings and Appeals Case Control System.

52 FR 12084 (April 14, 1987), Hearings and Appeals Case Control System.

59 FR 46439 (September 8, 1994), Hearings and Appeals Case Control System.

65 FR 46997 (August 1, 2000), Hearings and Appeals Case Control System.

72 FR 69723 (December 10, 2007), Hearings and Appeals Case Control System.

83 FR 54969 (November 1, 2018), Hearings and Appeals Case Control System.

[FR Doc. 2026–00132 Filed 1–7–26; 8:45 am]

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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

[Docket No. FD 36901]

Smoky Ridge Railroad, L.L.C.—Acquisition and Operation Exemption—EnergySolutions, LLC

Smoky Ridge Railroad, L.L.C. (SMO), a noncarrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.31 to acquire a perpetual easement over and to operate approximately 7.07 miles of railroad track, extending from milepost 0, located at a switch on a main line of the Norfolk Southern Railway, near Blair, Tenn., to milepost 7.07, near Oak Ridge, Tenn., in Anderson and Roane Counties, Tenn (the Line).[1]

This transaction is related to a verified notice of exemption concurrently filed in *Watco Holdings, Inc.—Continuance in Control Exemption—Smoky Ridge Railroad, L.L.C.,* Docket No. FD 36902, in which Watco Holdings, Inc., seeks to continue in control of SMO upon SMO's becoming a Class III rail carrier.

According to SMO, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers built the Line and later conveyed it to the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE). SMO states that, in 2003, USDOE granted Heritage Railroad Corporation (HRRC) an easement to provide railroad freight service over the Line, and in 2009, EnergySolutions, LLC (EnergySolutions), acquired HRRC's easement. *See Heritage R.R.—Lease & Operation Exemption—Rail Line of U.S. Dep't of Energy,* FD 34372 (STB served July 23, 2003); *Energy Solutions, LLC—Acquis. & Operation Exemption—Heritage R.R.,* FD 35288 (STB served Sep. 3, 2009). SMO further states that EnergySolutions and SMO have reached an agreement, subject to the approval of USDOE, whereby EnergySolutions will convey its common carrier easement interest in the Line to SMO. According to the verified notice, upon consummation of the proposed transaction, SMO will provide all common carrier freight service on the Line, and EnergySolutions will have no further rights on the Line.

SMO certifies that the proposed transaction does not involve an interchange commitment. SMO also certifies that its projected annual revenues are not expected to exceed $5 million and that the proposed transaction will not result in SMO becoming a Class I or Class II rail carrier.

The earliest this transaction may be consummated is January 22, 2026, 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 15, 2026 (at least seven days before the exemption becomes effective).

All pleadings, referring to Docket No. FD 36901, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board either via e-filing on the Board's website or in writing addressed to 395 E Street SW, Washington, DC 20423–0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on SMO's representative, Stephen J. Foland, Fletcher & Sippel LLC, 29 North Wacker Drive, Suite 800, Chicago, IL 60606–3208.

According to SMO, 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.*

Decided: January 5, 2026.

By the Board, Anika S. Cooper, Chief Counsel, Office of Chief Counsel.

Tammy Lowery,

Clearance Clerk.

[FR Doc. 2026–00124 Filed 1–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915–01–P

[1] SMO will also operate over approximately 6.63 miles of spur track that connects to the Line.

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

[Docket No. FD 36902]

Watco Holdings, Inc.—Continuance in Control Exemption—Smoky Ridge 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 Smoky Ridge Railroad, L.L.C. (SMO), upon SMO's becoming a Class III rail carrier.

This transaction is related to a verified notice of exemption filed concurrently in *Smoky Ridge Railroad, L.L.C.—Acquisition & Operation Exemption—EnergySolutions, LLC,* Docket No. FD 36901, in which SMO seeks to acquire and operate as a common carrier over approximately 7.07 miles of railroad track (the Line), together with approximately 6.63 miles of spur track, in Anderson and Roane Counties, Tenn.

According to the verified notice, Watco currently controls 44 Class III rail carriers and one Class II rail carrier, collectively operating in 28 states and one Canadian province. For a complete list of these rail carriers and the states in which they operate, see the Appendix to Watco's December 23, 2025 verified notice of exemption, available at *www.stb.gov.*

The verified notice indicates that: (1) the Line does not connect with the rail lines of any of Watco's 45 existing rail carriers; (2) this transaction is not part of a series of anticipated transactions that would result in such a connection; and (3) the proposed transaction does not involve a Class I rail carrier. The proposed transaction therefore is exempt from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 11323. *See* 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(2).

The transaction may be consummated on or after January 22, 2026, the effective date of the exemption (30 days after the verified notice was filed).

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 to stay must be filed no later than January 15, 2026.

All pleadings, referring to Docket No. FD 36902, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board either via e-filing on the Board's website or in writing addressed to 395 E Street SW, Washington, DC 20423–0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on Watco's representative, Stephen J. Foland, Fletcher & Sippel LLC, 29 North Wacker Drive, Suite 800, Chicago, IL 60606–3208.

According to the verified notice, 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.*

Decided: January 5, 2026.

By the Board, Anika S. Cooper, Chief Counsel, Office of Chief Counsel.

Tammy Lowery,

Clearance Clerk.

[FR Doc. 2026–00125 Filed 1–7–26; 8:45 am]

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