

EMPLOYER STATUS DETERMINATION

BCD 2025-24

Waterloo Railroad, LLC (WTRL)

B.A. No. 5632

April 23, 2025

This is a decision of the Railroad Retirement Board concerning Waterloo Railroad, LLC's (WTRL) status as an employer under the Railroad Retirement Act (RRA) and the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act (RUIA) (collectively, the Acts). RRA, 45 U.S.C. § 231 *et seq.*; RUIA, 45 U.S.C. §351 *et seq.*

Mr. Stuart Towner, Chief Executive Officer, provided information regarding WTRL. WTRL is a wholly owned subsidiary of Jaguar Rail Holdings, LLC, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Jaguar Transport Holdings, LLC.

On September 9, 2024, WTRL began operating approximately 6.9 miles of rail line owned by Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) (B.A. 1713), between milepost 325.1 and milepost 332.0, in Black Hawk County, Iowa (the Line), pursuant to a lease agreement. WTRL replaced the Line's operator, Iowa Northern Railway Company (B.A. 3643). WTRL interchanges with UP and Canadian National Railroad Inc. (B.A. 1103). WTRL employees began employment on August 22, 2024, and were first compensated on August 30, 2024.

In Surface Transportation Board (STB) Finance Docket No. 36798, WTRL filed a verified notice of exemption to lease and operate the Line as the exclusive common carrier service provider. *Waterloo Railroad, LLC-Change of Operator Exemption with Interchange Commitment-Union Pacific Railroad Company*, 2024 STB Fin. Dkt. 36798. In its decision, effective September 6, 2024, the STB approved the change in operator.

Under section 1(a)(1)(i) of the RRA, insofar as relevant here, a covered employer is defined as "any carrier by railroad subject to the jurisdiction of the Surface Transportation Board under Part A of subtitle IV of title 49, United States Code." RRA § 1(a)(1)(i), 45 U.S.C. § 231(a)(1)(i). Section 1 of the RUIA and section 3231(a) of the Railroad Retirement Tax Act (RRTA) contain substantially similar definitions. RUIA § 1, 45 U.S.C. § 351; RRTA, 26 U.S.C. § 3231.

Here, the record establishes that WTRL is a rail carrier operating in interstate commerce subject to the STB's jurisdiction. Accordingly, it is determined that Waterloo Railroad, LLC, became an employer within the meaning of the Acts effective on August 22, 2024, the date its employees began their employment.

FOR THE BOARD

Stephanie Hillyard

Secretary to the Board