

of the lease between CMSL and NJT is for approximately 30 years, from May 21, 1999, to July 31, 2029.

The line connects with the Conrail Shared Assets Operation at milepost 51.87 at Tuckahoe, NJ, providing customers with access to both CSX Transportation, Inc. and Norfolk Southern Railroad Company. CMSL will initially provide freight service over the line on an as-needed basis, and will expand this service as conditions warrant.

The rail segment qualifies for a modified certificate of public convenience and necessity. See *Common Carrier Status of States, State Agencies and Instrumentalities and Political Subdivision*, Finance Docket No. 28990F (ICC served July 16, 1981).

CMSL indicates that no subsidy is involved, that there are no preconditions for shippers to meet in order to receive rail service, and that it has obtained liability insurance coverage.

This notice will be served on the Association of American Railroads (Car Service Division) as agent for all railroads subscribing to the car-service and car-hire agreement: Association of American Railroads, 50 F Street NW, Washington, DC 20001; and on the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association: American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association, 1120 G Street NW, Suite 520, Washington, DC 20005.

Decided: November 7, 2001.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 01-28658 Filed 11-16-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33407]

Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern Railroad Corporation Construction Into the Powder River Basin

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of availability of final environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern Railroad Corporation (DM&E) filed an application in 1998 with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) for authority to construct and operate new rail line facilities in east-central Wyoming, southwest South Dakota, and

south-central Minnesota. This project, known as the Powder River Basin (PRB) Expansion Project, would involve construction of approximately 280 miles of new rail line to extend DM&E's existing rail line from Wall, South Dakota west to coal mines in Wyoming's Powder River Basin. Reconstruction of another approximately 600 miles of DM&E's existing rail would allow operation of unit coal trains along the new and reconstructed route.

In addition to the Board's authorization, the project would require actions by five other Federal agencies: the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service; the U.S. Department of Interior Bureaus of Land Management and Reclamation; the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; and the U.S. Coast Guard. In conducting the necessary environmental review, the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA), in cooperation with these five Federal agencies, published a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) on September 27, 2001. This was followed by a 152-day comment period and 12 public meetings, which produced more than 8,600 comments on the Draft EIS. As required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), SEA has reviewed and evaluated all comments, prepared responses, and undertaken additional research and analysis, as appropriate.

The Final EIS reflects SEA's independent analysis and incorporates input from agencies, elected officials, Tribes, communities, organizations, businesses, and members of the public. In addition to presenting the results of SEA's additional analysis, and responses to Draft EIS comments, the Final EIS includes SEA's final recommendations to the Board for mitigating, to the extent possible, the potentially significant adverse environmental impacts associated with the proposed project, if the Board decides to give final approval to DM&E's proposal. The Final EIS recommends far-reaching and extensive environmental mitigation—147 conditions in all. The Final EIS also contains information on the anticipated cost of SEA's recommended environmental mitigation and the mitigation that may be required by the five cooperating agencies.

On December 10, 1998, the Board issued a decision finding that DM&E's application satisfies the transportation-related requirements of 49 U.S.C. 10901. The Board made it clear that it would issue a subsequent decision on the entire proposed project after completion of the environmental review process required by NEPA.

Issuance of this Final EIS terminates the Board's environmental review process. SEA has determined that neither a supplement to the Draft EIS nor an additional comment period on this Final EIS is warranted. The Board will now issue a final decision, based on the entire environmental record, including public comments, the Draft EIS, the Final EIS, and SEA's recommended environmental mitigation. In its final decision, the Board will grant, deny, or grant with conditions the proposed PRB Expansion Project. The cooperating agencies will also issue decisions under their own governing statutes, based on the EIS and various applications submitted by DM&E.

DM&E cannot begin construction of its new rail line until the Board issues a final decision approving DM&E's application and the decision has become effective. Under the regulations of the President's Council on Environmental Quality implementing NEPA, no decision of the Board or cooperating agency on DM&E's proposal may be made until 30 days after the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency publishes a Notice of Availability of the Final EIS in the **Federal Register** (anticipated on November 30, 2001).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Victoria Rutson, Environmental Project Director, Section of Environmental Analysis, Surface Transportation Board, Powder River Basin Expansion Project, 1-877-404-3044; U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service: Wendy Schmitzer, (307) 358-4690; U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management: Bill Carson, (307) 746-6607; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: Chandler Peter, (307) 772-2300 (Omaha District) and Timothy Fell, (651) 290-5360 (St. Paul District); U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation: Kenneth Parr, (605) 394-9757; U.S. Coast Guard: Bruce McLaren, (314) 539-3724. [TDD/TDY for hearing impaired: 1-800-877-8339.]

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Public Availability: The entire Final EIS has been mailed to key reviewing agencies, Governors, elected officials, and appropriate county officers, as well as the parties of record. It is also available to all interested persons for review at over 80 public libraries. For information on where to view a copy of the Final EIS, please call SEA's toll-free Environmental Hotline at 1-877-404-3044. The entire document is also available on the Board's Web site (<http://www.stb.dot.gov>), under "Decisions & Notices," listed as "Environmental Review" by Service

Date (November 19, 2001), Docket Number (FD 33407), or Docket Prefix (FD). Finally, a printed copy of the Final EIS may be obtained for a fee by contacting Da-2-Da Legal, Room 405, 1925 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006, telephone (202) 293-7776 or via http://Da_to_Da@hotmail.com.

By the Board, Victoria J. Rutson, Chief,
Section of Environmental Analysis.

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 01-28843 Filed 11-16-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 34115]

Tecumseh Branch Connecting Railroad Company—Acquisition and Operation Exemption—Norfolk Southern Railway Company

Tecumseh Branch Connecting Railroad Company (TBCR), a noncarrier, has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.31 to acquire from Norfolk Southern Railway Company and to operate approximately 2.1 miles of rail line (known as the Tecumseh Branch). The rail line is a portion of the former Detroit, Toledo & Ironton Railroad located in the City of Adrian and Township of Madison, Lenawee County, MI, and extends between milepost 44.2

in Madison Township and milepost 46.3 in Adrian. TBCR certifies that its projected revenues as a result of this transaction will not result in the creation of a Class II or Class I rail carrier, and that its projected annual revenues will not exceed \$5 million.

The transaction was scheduled to be consummated on or after November 1, 2001.

If the 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 transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 34115, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on Kenneth J. Bisdorf, 2301 West Big Beaver Road, Suite 600, Troy, MI 48084-3329.

Board decisions and notices are available on our web site at www.stb.dot.gov.

Decided: November 8, 2001.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 01-28659 Filed 11-16-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Office of Thrift Supervision

[AC-09: OTS Nos. H-3797 and 00386]

Michigan City Savings and Loan Association, Michigan City, IN; Approval of Conversion

Notice is hereby given that on November 13, 2001, the Director, Examination Policy, Office of Thrift Supervision ("OTS"), or her designee, acting pursuant to delegated authority, approved the application of Michigan City Savings and Loan Association, Michigan City, Indiana, to convert to the stock form of organization. Copies of the application are available for inspection by appointment (phone number: 202-906-5922 or e-mail:

Public.Info@OTS.Treas.gov) at the Public Reading Room, OTS, 1700 G Street, NW, Washington, DC 20552, and the OTS Central Regional Office, 1 South Wacker Drive, Suite 2000, Chicago, Illinois 60606.

Dated: November 14, 2001.

By the Office of Thrift Supervision.

Nadine Y. Washington,

Corporate Secretary.

[FR Doc. 01-28840 Filed 11-16-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6720-01-M