

Issued in Washington, DC, on the 10th day of February, 2012.

Deborah Johnson,

Acting Deputy Director, Bureau of Transportation Statistics.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[Docket No. AB 55 (Sub-No. 714X)]

CSX Transportation, Inc.— Abandonment Exemption—in Vermillion County, IL.

CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT), has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR part 1152 subpart F—*Exempt Abandonments* to abandon an approximately 0.4-mile rail line on its Northern Region, Chicago Division, Woodland Subdivision, between mileposts QSK 3.6 and QSK 4.0 at the end of the track, in Danville, Vermillion County, IL. The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Code 61832.

CSXT has certified that: (1) No local traffic has moved over the line for at least 2 years; (2) there is no overhead traffic on the line; (3) no formal complaint filed by a user of rail service on the line (or by a state or local government entity acting on behalf of such user) regarding cessation of service over the line either is pending with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) or with any U.S. District Court or has been decided in favor of complainant within the 2-year period; and (4) the requirements at 49 CFR 1105.7(c) (environmental report), 49 CFR 1105.11 (transmittal letter), 49 CFR 1105.12 (newspaper publication), and 49 CFR 1152.50(d)(1) (notice to governmental agencies) have been met.

As a condition to this exemption, any employee adversely affected by the abandonment shall be protected under *Oregon Short Line Railroad—Abandonment Portion Goshen Branch Between Firth & Ammon, in Bingham & Bonneville Counties, Idaho*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979). To address whether this condition adequately protects affected employees, a petition for partial revocation under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) must be filed.

Provided no formal expression of intent to file an offer of financial assistance (OFA) has been received, this exemption will be effective on March 23, 2012, unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay that do

not involve environmental issues,¹ formal expressions of intent to file an OFA under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2),² and trail use/rail banking requests under 49 CFR 1152.29 must be filed by March 5, 2012. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by March 13, 2012, with the Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street, SW., Washington, DC 20423-0001.

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to CSXT's representative: Louis E. Gitomer, 600 Baltimore Ave., Suite 301, Towson, MD 21204.

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*.

CSXT has filed a combined environmental and historic report which addresses the effects, if any, of the abandonment on the environment and historic resources. OEA will issue an environmental assessment (EA) by February 27, 2012. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA by writing to OEA (Room 1100, Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423-0001) or by calling OEA at (202) 245-0305. Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339. Comments on environmental and historic preservation matters must be filed within 15 days after the EA becomes available to the public.

Environmental, historic preservation, public use, or trail use/rail banking conditions will be imposed, where appropriate, in a subsequent decision.

Pursuant to the provisions of 49 CFR 1152.29(e)(2), CSXT shall file a notice of consummation with the Board to signify that it has exercised the authority granted and fully abandoned the line. If consummation has not been effected by CSXT's filing of a notice of consummation by February 22, 2013, and there are no legal or regulatory barriers to consummation, the authority to abandon will automatically expire.

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

Decided: February 13, 2012.

¹ The Board will grant a stay if an informed decision on environmental issues (whether raised by a party or by the Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) in its independent investigation) cannot be made before the exemption's effective date. *See Exemption of Out-of-Serv. Rail Lines*, 5 I.C.C.2d 377 (1989). Any request for a stay should be filed as soon as possible so that the Board may take appropriate action before the exemption's effective date.

² Each OFA must be accompanied by the filing fee, which is currently set at \$1,500. *See* 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

By the Board, Rachel D. Campbell, Director, Office of Proceedings.

Jeffrey Herzig,

Clearance Clerk.

[FR Doc. 2012-3915 Filed 2-21-12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[Docket No. FD 35595]

Wellsboro & Corning Railroad, LLC— Acquisition and Operation Exemption—Wellsboro & Corning Railroad Company

Wellsboro & Corning Railroad, LLC (WCLLC), a noncarrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.31 to acquire from Wellsboro & Corning Railroad Company and to operate approximately 35.5 miles of rail line between milepost 109.90 at Wellsboro, Pa., and milepost 74.70 at Erwin, NY, in Tioga County, PA, and Steuben County, NY.

WCLLC states that it intends to interchange traffic with Norfolk Southern Railway Company and Canadian Pacific Railway Company.

The transaction is scheduled to be consummated on or after March 7, 2012 (30 days after the notice of exemption was filed).

WCLLC certifies that its projected annual revenues as a result of this transaction will not result in its becoming a Class II or Class I rail carrier and will not exceed \$5 million.

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 February 29, 2012 (at least 7 days before the exemption becomes effective).

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to Docket No. FD 35595, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street, SW., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on Louis E. Gitomer, 600 Baltimore Ave., Suite 301, Towson, MD 21204.

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

Decided: February 13, 2012.

By the Board, Rachel D. Campbell, Director, Office of Proceedings.

Jeffrey Herzig,
Clearance Clerk.

[FR Doc. 2012-3944 Filed 2-21-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[Docket No. FD 35594]

Eric Temple—Control Exemption—Portland Vancouver Junction Railroad, LLC

Eric Temple (applicant), a noncarrier individual, has filed a verified notice of exemption to acquire direct control of Portland Vancouver Junction Railroad, LLC (PVJR), a wholly owned subsidiary of Columbia Basin Railroad Company, Inc. (CBRW), upon his acquiring 100% of the membership interest in PVJR.

The transaction is expected to be consummated on or after March 7, 2012.

Applicant and Nicholas B. Temple directly control CBRW and Central Washington Railroad Company (CWA), and they indirectly control PVJR.¹ CBRW, CWA and PVJR are all Class III rail carriers that lease and operate rail lines between specified points within the State of Washington.²

Applicant states that: (1) PVJR does not connect with any rail lines of CBRW or CWA; (2) the transaction is not part of a series of anticipated transactions that would connect these rail lines with each other; and (3) the transaction does not involve a Class I rail carrier. Therefore, the transaction is exempt from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 11323. See 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. Section 11326(c), however, does not provide for labor protection for transactions under §§ 11324 and 11325 that involve only Class III rail carriers. Accordingly, the Board may not impose labor protective conditions here, because all of the carriers involved are Class III carriers.

If the notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption

¹ Applicant states that Nicholas B. Temple and he each have a 50% ownership interest in CBRW and a 45% ownership interest in CWA.

² See *Nicholas B. Temple, Eric Temple, Columbia Basin R.R., Cent. Wash. R.R. and Portland Vancouver Junction R.R.—Corporate Family Transaction Exemption*, FD 35210 (STB served Jan. 16, 2009); and *Nicholas B. Temple and Eric Temple—Control Exemption—Cent. Wash. R.R.*, FD 34641 (STB served Jan. 21, 2005).

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 February 29, 2012 (at least 7 days before the exemption becomes effective).

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to Docket No. FD 35594, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street, SW., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on Rose-Michele Nardi, Weiner Brodsky Sidman Kider PC, 1300 19th St. NW., Fifth Floor, Washington, DC 20036-1609.

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

Decided: February 13, 2012.

By the Board, Rachel D. Campbell, Director, Office of Proceedings.

Jeffrey Herzig,
Clearance Clerk.

[FR Doc. 2012-3941 Filed 2-21-12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[Docket No. FD 33506]

Western Coal Traffic League—Petition for Declaratory Order

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of public hearing.

SUMMARY: The Surface Transportation Board (Board) instituted a declaratory order proceeding on September 28, 2011, *Western Coal Traffic League—Petition for Declaratory Order*, FD 35506 (STB served Sept. 28, 2011), and will hold a public hearing to explore the effect of the price that Berkshire Hathaway, Inc. (Berkshire) paid to acquire BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) in 2010 on the Board's annual Uniform Rail Costing System (URCS) and revenue adequacy determinations, with respect to BNSF.

DATES: The hearing will begin at 9:30 a.m., on Thursday, March 22, 2012, in the Board's hearing room at the Board's headquarters located at 395 E Street SW., Washington, DC. The hearing will be open for public observation. Anyone wishing to participate at the hearing shall file with the Board a notice of intent to participate (identifying the party, the proposed speaker, and the time requested), and a summary of the

intended testimony (not to exceed 3 pages), no later than Tuesday, March 6, 2012. All witnesses are encouraged to use their hearing time to call attention to the points they believe are particularly important. Witnesses should present a short oral statement of their comments and be prepared to answer questions from the Board.

ADDRESSES: All filings may be submitted either via the Board's e-filing format or in the traditional paper format. Any person using e-filing should attach a document and otherwise comply with the instructions at the "E-FILING" link on the Board's www.stb.dot.gov Web site. Any person submitting a filing in the traditional paper format should send an original and 10 copies of the filing to: Surface Transportation Board, Attn: Docket No. FD 35506, 395 E Street SW., Washington, DC 20423-0001.

Copies of written submissions will be posted to the Board's Web site and will be available for viewing and self-copying in the Board's public docket room, Suite 131. Copies of the submissions will also be available (for a fee) by contacting the Board's Chief Records Officer at (202) 245-0238 or 395 E Street SW., Washington, DC 20423-0001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Valerie Quinn at (202) 245-0382. Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at (800) 877-8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In this proceeding, the Western Coal Traffic League (WCTL), and other parties,¹ argue that the Class I Railroad Annual Report submitted by BNSF to the Board for the year ending December 31, 2010 (2010 R-1), produces a write-up in BNSF's net investment base for URCS costing purposes equal to \$8.1 billion² and a decrease in BNSF's 2010 annual depreciation calculations by \$128 million, both based on the \$43 billion that Berkshire paid to acquire BNSF. WCTL also argues that the \$8.1 billion write-up increases BNSF's variable costs, and raises the quantitative jurisdictional threshold for rate reasonableness proceedings, thus decreasing the number of shippers that could pursue rate cases before the Board, as well as decreasing the

¹ For convenience, in this decision we will refer to the arguments made by WCTL, and other supporting parties, largely within the context of WCTL's pleadings.

² In its opening evidence filed on October 28, 2011, WCTL states that it initially calculated the acquisition premium as \$7.625 billion, but based on new information received from BNSF, WCTL has revised this figure to \$8.1 billion. See WCTL Opening 2 n.1.