

[STB Finance Docket No. 33309]**RailTex, Inc.—Continuance in Control Exemption—Pittsburgh Industrial Railroad, Inc.**

Railtex, Inc. (RailTex), a noncarrier holding company, has filed a notice of exemption to continue in control of Pittsburgh Industrial Railroad, Inc. (PIR), upon PIR's becoming a Class III railroad. The transaction is scheduled to be consummated on December 6, 1996.

The transaction is related to STB Finance Docket No. 33308, *Pittsburgh Industrial Railroad, Inc.—Acquisition Operation Exemption—Consolidated Rail Corporation and the Pittsburgh, Chartiers and Youghiogheny Railway Company*, wherein PIR seeks to acquire 32.7 miles of rail line from Consolidated Rail Corporation and 16.0 miles of rail line from the Pittsburgh, Chartiers and Youghiogheny Railway Company.

RailTex controls 21 Class III common carriers and three carriers that operate in Canada by rail: San Diego & Imperial Valley Railroad Company, Inc., operating in California; North Carolina & Virginia Railroad Company, Inc. (including Virginia Southern Division), operating in North Carolina and Virginia; South Carolina Central Railroad Company, Inc. (including Carolina Piedmont Division, operating in South Carolina; Mid-Michigan Railroad, Inc. (including Northeast Kansas & Missouri Division and Texas Northeastern Division, operating in Texas, Kansas, Missouri and Michigan; Chesapeake & Albemarle Railroad Company, Inc., operating in Virginia and North Carolina; Michigan Shore Railroad Company, Inc., operating in Michigan; New Orleans Lower Coast Railroad Company, Inc., operating in Louisiana; Dallas, Garland & Northeastern Railroad, Inc., operating in Texas; Indiana Southern Railroad, Inc., operating in Indiana; Missouri & Northern Arkansas Railroad Company, Inc., operating in Kansas, Missouri and Arkansas; Salt Lake City Southern Railroad Company, Inc., operating in Utah; Grand Rapids Eastern Railroad, Inc., operating in Michigan; Central Oregon & Pacific Railroad, Inc., operating in Oregon and California; New England Central Railroad, Inc., operating in Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Connecticut; Georgia Southwestern Railroad Company, Inc. (including Georgia & Alabama Division and Georgia Southwestern Division, operating in Alabama and Georgia; Austin & Northwestern Railroad Company, Inc. (including Texas-New Mexico Division),

operating in Texas and New Mexico; Cincinnati Terminal Railway Company, operating in Ohio; Indiana and Ohio Railroad, Inc., operating in Indiana and Ohio; Indiana & Ohio Railway Company, operating in Ohio; Indiana & Ohio Central Railroad, Inc., operating in Ohio; and Connecticut Southern Railroad, Inc., operating in Connecticut and Massachusetts.

RailTex states that: (1) the railroads will not connect with each other or any railroad in their corporate family; (ii) the acquisition is not part of a series of anticipated transactions that would connect the twenty one railroads with each other or any railroad in their corporate family; and (iii) 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 sections 11324 and 11325 that involve only Class III rail carriers. Because this transaction involves Class II rail carriers only, the Board, under the statute, may not impose labor protective conditions for this transaction.

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 transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 33309, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Branch, 1201 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20423. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on Karl Morell, Esq., Ball Janik LLP, Suite 225, 1455 F Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005.

Decided: December 20, 1996.

By the Board, David M. Konschnik,
Director, Office of Proceedings.
Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-32960 Filed 12-26-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

[STB Docket No. AB-167 (Sub-No. 1168X)]**Consolidated Rail Corporation—Abandonment Exemption—in Brooke and Hancock Counties, WV**

Consolidated Rail Corporation (Conrail) has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F—*Exempt Abandonments* to abandon a 4.00-mile portion of its line of railroad known as the Weirton Secondary Track between milepost 35.70 and milepost 39.70 in Brooke and Hancock Counties, WV.

Conrail 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 (environmental reports), 49 CFR 1105.8 (historic reports), 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 R. Co.—Abandonment—Goshen*, 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 January 26, 1997, 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 1152.29³ must be filed by January

¹ The Board will grant a stay if an informed decision on environmental issues (whether raised by a party or by the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis in its independent investigation) cannot be made before the exemption's effective date. See *Exemption of Out-of-Service 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 See *Exempt. of Rail Abandonment—Offers of Finan. Assist.*, 4 I.C.C.2d 164 (1987).

³ The Board will accept late-filed trail use requests as long as the abandonment has not been consummated and the abandoning railroad is willing to negotiate an agreement.

6, 1997. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by January 16, 1997, with: Office of the Secretary, Case Control Branch, Surface Transportation Board, 1201 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20423.

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to applicant's representative: John K. Enright, Associate General Counsel, Consolidated Rail Corporation, 2001 Market Street—16A, Philadelphia, PA 19101-1416.

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

Conrail has filed an environmental report which addresses the abandonment's effects, if any, on the environment and historic resources. The Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) will issue an environmental assessment (EA) by December 31, 1996. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA by writing to SEA (Room 3219, Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423) or by calling Elaine Kaiser, Chief of SEA, at (202) 927-6248. 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.

Decided: December 20, 1996.

By the Board, David M. Konschnik, Director, Office of Proceedings.
Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.
[FR Doc. 96-32961 Filed 12-26-96; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

December 16, 1996.

The Department of Treasury has submitted the following public information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling the Treasury Bureau Clearance Officer listed. Comments regarding this information collection should be addressed to the OMB reviewer listed and to the Treasury Department Clearance Officer, Department of the Treasury, Room 2110, 1425 New York Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20220.

Bureau of the Public Debt (BPD)

OMB Number: 1535-0052.

Form Number: PD F 1011.

Type of Review: Extension.

Title: Resolution Authorizing (1) Disposition of Securities Held by Organization, and (2) Executive and Delivery of Bonds of Indemnity.

Description: Form PD F 1011 is used by an organization to dispose of securities and/or execute bonds of indemnity.

Respondents: Business or other for-profit, Not-for-profit institutions.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 485.

Estimated Burden Hours Per Response: 30 minutes.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Estimated Total Reporting Burden: 243 hours.

Clearance Officer: Vicki S. Thorpe (304) 480-6553, Bureau of the Public Debt, 200 Third Street, Parkersburg, West VA 26106-1328.

OMB Reviewer: Alexander T. Hunt (202) 395-7860, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10226, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

Lois K. Holland,

Departmental Reports, Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 96-33006 Filed 12-26-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4810-40-U

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

December 12, 1996.

The Department of Treasury has submitted the following public information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling the Treasury Bureau Clearance Officer listed. Comments regarding this information collection should be addressed to the OMB reviewer listed and to the Treasury Department Clearance Officer, Department of the Treasury, Room 2110, 1425 New York Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20220.

SPECIAL REQUEST: In order to begin the surveys described below in January 1997, the Department of the Treasury is requesting that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) review and approve this information collection by December 26, 1996. To obtain a copy of this survey, please contact the IRS Clearance Officer at the address listed below.

Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

OMB Number: 1545-1349.

Project Number: SOI-023.

Type of Review: Revision.

Title: 1997 TeleFile Automated and Written Customer Satisfaction Surveys.

Description: These surveys are being conducted because IRS needs to be aware of the impact on taxpayers who will receive the 1997 TeleFile booklet in terms of acceptance, burden, frustrations, and questions they may have in using the system and/or choosing to obtain and file the paper forms.

Respondents: Individuals or households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 7,517.

Estimated Burden Hours Per Respondent:

Automated Survey—2 minutes

Written Survey—12 minutes

Frequency of Response: Other.

Estimated Total Reporting Burden: 1,723 hours

Clearance Officer: Garrick Shear (202) 622-3869, Internal Revenue Service, Room 5571, 1111 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20224.

OMB Reviewer: Alexander T. Hunt (202) 395-7860, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10202, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

Lois K. Holland,

Departmental Reports, Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 96-33007 Filed 12-26-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830-01-U

Customs Service

Customs Broker Licensure Examination

AGENCY: U.S. Customs, Department of the Treasury.

ACTION: General notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: This notice announces that the United States Customs Service has entered into an interagency agreement with the United States Office of Personnel Management to assist in the development and administration of the Customs Broker Licensure Examination. Customs invites the general public to comment on what areas the broker's examination should focus. Customs is also inviting the general public and Customs employees to generate multiple choice items to be used on the examination.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before January 31, 1997, to be assured of consideration.