

because there was no requirement that one be done when the EIS in *Tongue River I* was prepared.

B. Update biological assessment information based on consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

C. In consultation with the Montana State Historic Preservation Office, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, BLM, MT DNRC, the Corps, and TRRC finalize and implement an appropriate Programmatic Agreement which will apply to the entire line from Miles City to Decker, MT.

D. As requested by MT DNRC, the Northern Cheyenne, and the Northern Plains Resource Council, provide a limited additional analysis of water quality to include a discussion of the designation of Otter Creek, and the upper and lower Tongue River as impaired water bodies by the state of Montana.

E. Evaluate effects on BLM property in the areas of wildlife habitat; vegetation; riparian/wetlands; livestock grazing; soil, water, and air; cultural resources; recreation; socioeconomic; access; wilderness; and, environmental justice.

F. Include an analysis of potential impacts to the Sturgeon Chub, and the Sicklefins Chub, and include mitigation to avoid construction during spawning/incubation periods.

G. Include additional analysis related to the proposed changes in the alignment that may result in potential impacts to the Miles City Fish Hatchery.

Tongue River II

TRRC sought in *Tongue River II* to extend the rail line approved in *Tongue River I* another 41 miles from Ashland to Decker, MT. In 1996, the Board approved *Tongue River II* via the Four Mile Creek Alternative.

The Supplement will:

A. Based on consultation with the Corps, update the existing wetland delineation and functional analysis information for all creek and river crossings to the extent necessary in connection with the Corps' permitting process.

B. Based on consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, update biological assessment information to the extent deemed necessary.

C. In consultation with the Montana State Historic Preservation Office, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, BLM, MT DNRC, the Corps, and TRRC, finalize and implement an appropriate Programmatic Agreement which will apply to the entire line from Miles City to Decker, MT.

D. As requested by the MT DNRC, the Northern Cheyenne, and the Northern Plains Resource Council, provide a limited analysis of water quality to include a discussion of the designation of Hanging Woman Creek, and the upper and lower Tongue River as impaired water bodies by the state of Montana.

E. Include additional analysis as required of potential environmental justice effects from construction and operation of *Tongue River II* on *Tongue River III* and the Four Mile Creek Alternative, particularly focused on impacts to Native Americans, including the Northern Cheyenne.

Section III

Cumulative Effects

Cumulative effects of the construction and operation of the entire line from Miles City to Decker, MT will be discussed. This cumulative impacts discussion will update the previous information contained in *Tongue River I* and *Tongue River II* to include Custer Forest timber sales projections, as well as a discussion of reasonably foreseeable developments. In addition, more general information will be provided regarding future coal mine development in the Ashland, MT area and the air quality effects of the use of low sulfur coal in power production. Impacts to Native Americans will also be addressed.

By the Board, Elaine K. Kaiser, Chief,
Section of Environmental Analysis.

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-2557 Filed 2-2-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-246 (Sub-No. 2X)]¹

Yreka Western Railroad Company— Abandonment Exemption—in Siskiyou County, CA

On January 14, 1999, Yreka Western Railroad Company (YW) filed with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) a petition under 49 U.S.C. 10502 for exemption from the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 10903 to abandon its entire 8.9-mile line of railroad extending between milepost 0.0 in Montague and milepost

8.9 near Yreka, in Siskiyou County, CA. The line traverses U.S. Postal Service Zip Codes 96064 and 96097 and includes no stations.

The line does not contain federally granted rights-of-way. Any documentation in YW's possession will be made available promptly to those requesting it.

In this proceeding, YW is proposing to abandon a line that constitutes its entire rail system. When issuing abandonment authority for a railroad line that constitutes the carrier's entire system, the Board does not impose labor protection, except in specifically enumerated circumstances. See *Northampton and Bath R. Co.—Abandonment*, 354 I.C.C. 784, 785-86 (1978) (*Northampton*). Therefore, if the Board grants the petition for exemption, in the absence of a showing that one or more of the exceptions articulated in *Northampton* are present, no labor protective conditions would be imposed.

By issuance of this notice, the Board is instituting an exemption proceeding pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10502(b). A final decision will be issued by May 4, 1999.

Any offer of financial assistance (OFA) under 49 CFR 1152.27(b)(2) will be due no later than 10 days after service of a decision granting the petition for exemption. Each offer must be accompanied by a \$1,000 filing fee. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

All interested persons should be aware that, following abandonment of rail service and salvage of the line, the line may be suitable for other public use, including interim trail use. Any request for a public use condition under 49 CFR 1152.28 or for trail use/rail banking under 49 CFR 1152.29 will be due no later than February 23, 1999. Each trail use request must be accompanied by a \$150 filing fee. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(27).

All filings in response to this notice must refer to STB Docket No. AB-246 (Sub-No. 2X) and must be sent to: (1) Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20423-0001, and (2) Fritz R. Kahn, Suite 750 West, 1100 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20005-3934. Replies to the YW petition are due on or before February 23, 1999.

Persons seeking further information concerning abandonment procedures may contact the Board's Office of Public Services at (202) 565-1592 or refer to the full abandonment or discontinuance regulations at 49 CFR part 1152. Questions concerning environmental issues may be directed to the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis

¹ This petition for exemption was originally docketed as AB-246 (Sub-No. 1X) and has been redocketed to AB-246 (Sub-No. 2X), same title. A previous YW abandonment application was denied in *Yreka Western Railroad Company—Abandonment—in Siskiyou County, CA*, Docket No. AB-246 (Sub-No. 1) (ICC served Nov. 6, 1987).

(SEA) at (202) 565-1545. [TDD for the hearing impaired is available at (202) 565-1695.]

An environmental assessment (EA) (or environmental impact statement (EIS), if necessary) prepared by SEA will be served upon all parties of record and upon any agencies or other persons who commented during its preparation. Other interested persons may contact SEA to obtain a copy of the EA (or EIS). EAs in these abandonment proceedings normally will be made available within 60 days of the filing of the petition. The deadline for submission of comments on the EA will generally be within 30 days of its service.

Board decisions and notices are available on our website at "WWW.STB.DOT.GOV."

Decided: January 27, 1999.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-2427 Filed 2-2-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Bureau of the Public Debt

Proposed Collection: Comment Request

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub. L. 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently the Bureau of the Public Debt within the Department of the Treasury is soliciting comments concerning the Special Form of Assignment for U.S. Registered Definitive Securities.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before April 7, 1999, to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Bureau of the Public Debt, Vicki S. Thorpe, 200 Third Street, Parkersburg, WV 26106-1328.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the form and instructions should be directed to Vicki S. Thorpe, Bureau of the Public Debt, 200 Third Street, Parkersburg, WV 26106-1328, (304) 480-6553.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Special Form of Assignment for U.S. Registered Securities.

OMB Number: 1535-0059.

Form Number: PD F 1832.

Abstract: The information is requested to complete transaction involving the assignment of U.S. Registered Definitive Securities.

Current Actions: None.

Type of Review: Extension.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 10,000.

Estimated Time Per Respondent: 15 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 2,500.

Request for Comments

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Dated: January 27, 1999.

Vicki S. Thorpe,

Manager, Graphics, Printing and Records Branch.

[FR Doc. 99-2459 Filed 2-2-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4810-39-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Bureau of the Public Debt

Proposed Collection: Comment Request

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information

collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub. L. 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently the Bureau of the Public Debt within the Department of the Treasury is soliciting comments concerning the Disclaimer and Consent with Respect to United States Savings Bonds/Notes.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before April 7, 1999, to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Bureau of the Public Debt, Vicki S. Thorpe, 200 Third Street, Parkersburg, WV 26106-1328.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information or copies of the form and instructions should be directed to Vicki S. Thorpe, Bureau of the Public Debt, 200 Third Street, Parkersburg, WV 26106-1328, (304) 480-6553.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Special Form of Assignment for U.S. Registered Securities.

OMB Number: 1535-0113.

Form Number: PD F 1849.

Abstract: The information is requested when the requested savings bonds/notes transaction would appear to affect the right, title or interest of some other person.

Current Actions: None.

Type of Review: Extension.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 7,000.

Estimated Time Per Respondent: 6 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 700.

Request for Comments

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.