

4. Acceleration and deceleration lanes would be lengthened at all access locations if needed;

5. The median width could be reduced.

In addition to the proposed project and No-Build Alternative, alternatives, including upgrade to freeway, that will meet the project purpose and need will be evaluated during the EIS process. Alternatives with substantially higher cost or with extensive environmental impacts will be considered infeasible and not be considered for further study.

Letters describing the proposed action and soliciting comments will be sent to appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies, and to private organizations and citizens who have previously expressed or are known to have an interest in this proposal. A scoping meeting is scheduled from 5 to 8 pm on September 20, 2001 at the Eureka Public Marina Wharfinger Building #1 Marina Way, in Eureka, CA.

Public notice will be given of the time and place of the scoping meeting. To ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposed action are addressed and all significant issues identified, comments and suggestion are invited from all interested parties. The views of agencies which may have knowledge about historic resources potentially affected by the proposal or interest in the effects of the proposal on historic properties are specifically solicited. Comments or question concerning this proposed action and the EIS should be directed to the FHWA at the address provided above by October 30, 2001.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway Research, Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation Federal programs and activities apply to this program.

Issued on: August 13, 2001.

**R. Clayton Slovensky,**

*Acting Program Delivery Team Leader, North Sacramento, California.*

[FR Doc. 01-22028 Filed 8-30-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-22-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Maritime Administration

[Docket Number: MARAD-2001-10507]

### Requested Administrative Waiver of the Coastwise Trade Laws

**AGENCY:** Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation.

**ACTION:** Invitation for public comments on a requested administrative waiver of the Coastwise Trade Laws for the vessel RAVEN.

**SUMMARY:** As authorized by Pub. L. 105-383, the Secretary of Transportation, as represented by the Maritime Administration (MARAD), is authorized to grant waivers of the U.S.-build requirement of the coastwise laws under certain circumstances. A request for such a waiver has been received by MARAD. The vessel, and a description of the proposed service, is listed below. Interested parties may comment on the effect this action may have on U.S. vessel builders or businesses in the U.S. that use U.S.-flag vessels. If MARAD determines that in accordance with Pub. L. 105-383 and MARAD's regulations at 46 CFR part 388 (65 FR 6905; February 11, 2000) that the issuance of the waiver will have an unduly adverse effect on a U.S.-vessel builder or a business that uses U.S.-flag vessels, a waiver will not be granted.

**DATES:** Submit comments on or before October 1, 2001.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should refer to docket number MARAD-2001-10507. Written comments may be submitted by hand or by mail to the Docket Clerk, U.S. DOT Dockets, Room PL-401, Department of Transportation, 400 7th St., SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001. You may also send comments electronically via the Internet at <http://dmses.dot.gov/submit/>. All comments will become part of this docket and will be available for inspection and copying at the above address between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., E.T., Monday through Friday, except federal holidays. An electronic version of this document and all documents entered into this docket is available on the World Wide Web at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kathleen Dunn, U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, MAR-832 Room 7201, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Telephone 202-366-2307.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Title V of Pub. L. 105-383 provides authority to the Secretary of Transportation to administratively waive the U.S.-build requirements of the Jones Act, and other statutes, for small commercial passenger vessels (no more than 12 passengers). This authority has been delegated to the Maritime Administration per 49 CFR 1.66, Delegations to the Maritime Administrator, as amended. By this notice, MARAD is publishing information on a vessel for which a request for a U.S.-build waiver has been

received, and for which MARAD requests comments from interested parties. Comments should refer to the docket number of this notice and the vessel name in order for MARAD to properly consider the comments. Comments should also state the commenter's interest in the waiver application, and address the waiver criteria given in § 388.4 of MARAD'S regulations at 46 CFR part 388.

### Vessel Proposed for Waiver of the U.S.-build Requirement

(1) Name of vessel and owner for which waiver is requested. Name of vessel: RAVEN. Owner: Alexander Mann.

(2) Size, capacity and tonnage of vessel. According to the applicant: "37.8' LOA; 20.7' Beam; 3.1' Draft; 20 Gross Tons (Certificate of Documentation U.S.C.G.); 16 Net Tons (Certificate of Documentation U.S.C.G.)"

(3) Intended use for vessel, including geographic region of intended operation and trade. According to the applicant: "The intended use for this sailing vessel is to provide 3 hour to five-day sightseeing charters\* \* \* for twelve or fewer passengers." "Operating from the Florida coast, including the Florida Keys, and Gulf of Mexico coastline."

(4) Date and Place of construction and (if applicable) rebuilding. Date of construction: 1996. Place of construction: France.

(5) A statement on the impact this waiver will have on other commercial passenger vessel operators. According to the applicant: "We would like to begin operating in Marco Island Florida. The population triples in the winter and demand appears to be excellent (one of the corporations operating an inspected vessel added an additional craft). Approval of this waiver will have minimal impact on other operators because of the very large market available. This vessel would be the only owner-operated sailboat in the area. We are dedicated to providing customers with an intimate and fun adventure in the beautiful waters and atmosphere, which surrounds the Ten Thousand, Islands. Our 38-foot cruising catamaran is equipped to provide great hospitality and the capacity to tailor every trip to the needs of our passengers. We are able to offer Eco-trips in the backwaters and are determined to provide the most personal sailing experience on the Gulf of Mexico."

(6) A statement on the impact this waiver will have on U.S. shipyards. According to the applicant: "This vessel will have only a positive impact on U.S. shipyards. The vessel will be upgraded and maintained by U.S. yards."

Dated: August 27, 2001.

By order of the Maritime Administrator.

**Joel C. Richard,**

*Secretary, Maritime Administration.*

[FR Doc. 01-21984 Filed 8-30-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-81-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-472 (Sub-No. 1X)]

#### **Dakota Rail, Inc.—Abandonment Exemption—in McLeod, Carver, and Hennepin Counties, MN**

On August 13, 2001, Dakota Rail, Inc. (Dakota Rail), 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 rail line from milepost 24.6, near Wayzata, to the end of the line at milepost 68.5, in Hutchinson, a distance of approximately 43.9 miles, in McLeod, Carver, and Hennepin Counties, MN. The line traverses U.S. Postal Service Zip Codes 55323, 55350, 55354, 55356, 55360, 55361, 55364, 55367, 55375, 55381, 55384, 55387, and 55391, and includes the stations of Wayzata at milepost 24.6, Crystal Bay at milepost 27.5, Minnetonka Beach at milepost 29.0, Spring Park at milepost 30.6, Mound at milepost 32.5, St. Bonifacius at milepost 37.0, Mayer at milepost 45.0, New Germany at milepost 48.7, Lester Prairie at milepost 52.5, Silver Lake at milepost 60.2, and Hutchinson at milepost 68.5.

In addition to an exemption from 49 U.S.C. 10903, petitioner seeks exemption from 49 U.S.C. 10904 (offer of financial assistance (OFA) procedures) and 49 U.S.C. 10905 (public use conditions). In support, Dakota Rail contends that the exemption from these provisions is necessary to avoid delay in the sale of Dakota Rail's stock to McKnight Rail Road, L.L.C. (McKnight),<sup>1</sup> and the anticipated donation by McKnight of portions of the line to various localities. In addition, Dakota Rail states that the town of Mound, located at milepost 32.5, intends to use a portion of the line for highway construction and that this road project would be delayed, if not thwarted, by the OFA process in a case where there is no overriding public need here for continued rail service.

These requests will be addressed in the final decision.

The line does contain federally granted rights-of-way. Any documentation in Dakota Rail's possession will be made available promptly to those requesting it.

In this proceeding, Dakota Rail 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 will be imposed.

By issuing this notice, the Board is instituting an exemption proceeding pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10502(b). A final decision will be issued by November 30, 2001.

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 OFA 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 September 20, 2001. 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-472 (Sub-No. 1X) 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) Louis E. Gitomer, 1455 F Street, NW., Suite 225, Washington, DC 20005. Replies to the Dakota Rail petition are due on or before September 20, 2001.

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 (SEA) at (202) 565-1545. [TDD for the

hearing impaired is available at 1-800-877-8339.]

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](http://www.stb.dot.gov).

Decided: August 24, 2001.

By the Board, Joseph H. Dettmar, Acting Director, Office of Proceedings.

**Vernon A. Williams,**  
*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 01-21948 Filed 8-30-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4915-00-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Bureau of Transportation Statistics

#### **Agency Information Collection; Activity Under OMB Review; Reporting the Causes of Airline Cancellations and Delays**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13, the BTS invites the general public, industry and other governmental parties to comment on air carriers voluntarily reporting on the causes of cancellations and delays of domestic scheduled passenger flights. The voluntary data submission would be used to identify specific problem areas within the national aviation system. By classifying causes of delays into four categories and causes of cancellations into three categories, the Department of Transportation (DOT) would be able to readily identify problem areas within the air transport system. With this knowledge, the DOT should be able to address the airline delays and cancellations within its control.

The DOT is in the process of submitting an emergency request to OMB to allow BTS to collect the voluntary causal data. BTS estimates that participating air carriers will be ready to begin voluntary reporting in early November, thus BTS is seeking

<sup>1</sup> According to Dakota Rail, McKnight is to be formed Illinois Limited Liability Corporation that is the acquisition vehicle for MidAmerica Development & Management Corporation and ELM Investments, L.L.C.