

Kevin M. Sheys, Oppenheimer Wolff & Donnelly, 1020 Nineteenth Street, N.W., Suite 400, Washington, DC 20036-6015.

Decided: May 14, 1996.

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

Vernon A. Williams, Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-12828 Filed 5-21-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

## Surface Transportation Board<sup>1</sup>

[STB Finance Docket No. 32891]

### Norfolk Southern Railway Company—Corporate Family Transaction Exemption—Southern Railway-Carolina Division

Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSR), a Class I common carrier by railroad, and Southern Railway-Carolina Division (SRCD), a Class III common carrier railroad, have jointly filed a verified notice of exemption. The exempt transaction is a merger of SRCD with and into NSR.<sup>2</sup>

The transaction is expected to be consummated on or after June 1, 1996.

The proposed merger will eliminate SRCD as a separate corporate entity, thereby simplifying the corporate structure of NSR and the NSR system, and eliminating costs associated with separate accounting, tax, bookkeeping and reporting functions.

This is a transaction within a corporate family of the type specifically exempted from prior review and approval under 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(3). The parties state that the transaction will not result in adverse changes in service levels, significant operational changes, or a change in the competitive balance with carriers outside the corporate family.

As a condition to this exemption, any employees adversely affected by the transaction will be protected by the conditions set forth in *New York Dock Ry.—Control—Brooklyn Eastern Dist.*, 360 I.C.C. 60 (1979).

<sup>1</sup> The ICC Termination Act of 1995, Pub. L. No. 104-88, 109 Stat. 803, which was enacted on December 29, 1995, and took effect on January 1, 1996, abolished the Interstate Commerce Commission and transferred certain functions to the Surface Transportation Board (Board). This notice relates to functions that are subject to Board jurisdiction pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 11323-24.

<sup>2</sup> SRCD is a wholly owned, direct subsidiary of NSR with authorized capital stock of 77,987 shares of Common Stock, 41,762 of which are issued and outstanding and owned by NSR. NSR has leased and operated the properties of SRCD since approximately 1902. The proposed agreement and plan of merger states that any outstanding shares of SRCD's capital stock will be canceled and retired, and no consideration will be paid in respect of such shares.

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*. Petitions to reopen the proceeding to revoke the exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) may be filed at any time. The filing of a petition to reopen will not automatically stay the transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 32891, 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 James A. Squires, Norfolk Southern Corporation, Three Commercial Place, Norfolk, VA 23510-2191.

Decided: May 16, 1996.

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

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-12831 Filed 5-21-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

## Surface Transportation Board<sup>1</sup>

[STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 529X)]

### CSX Transportation, Inc.—Abandonment Exemption—in Cincinnati, Hamilton County, OH

CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT) filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F—*Exempt Abandonments* to abandon approximately 1.5 miles of its line of railroad between Valuation Station 1+82.8 near Smith Street and Valuation Station 81+12 near Mill Creek, in Cincinnati, Hamilton County, OH.

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 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

<sup>1</sup> The ICC Termination Act of 1995, Pub. L. No. 104-88, 109 Stat. 803, which was enacted on December 29, 1995, and took effect on January 1, 1996, abolished the Interstate Commerce Commission and transferred certain functions to the Surface Transportation Board (Board). This notice relates to functions that are subject to the Board's jurisdiction pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10903.

49 CFR 1152.50(d)(1) (notice to governmental agencies) have been met.

As a condition to use of 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 June 21, 1996, unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay that do not involve environmental issues,<sup>2</sup> formal expressions of intent to file an OFA under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2),<sup>3</sup> and trail use/rail banking requests under 49 CFR 1152.29<sup>4</sup> must be filed by June 3, 1996. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by June 11, 1996, 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: Charles M. Rosenberger, Senior Counsel, 500 Water Street J150, Jacksonville, FL 32202.

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

CSXT 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 May 24, 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> See *Exempt. of Rail Abandonment—Offers of Finan. Assist.*, 4 I.C.C.2d 164 (1987).

<sup>4</sup> The Board will accept late-filed trail use requests so long as the abandonment has not been consummated and the abandoning railroad is willing to negotiate an agreement.

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

Decided: May 15, 1996.

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

Vernon A. Williams,  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-12829 Filed 5-21-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Internal Revenue Service

#### Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Form 637

**AGENCY:** Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

**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, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the IRS is soliciting comments concerning Form 637, Application for Registration (For Certain Excise Tax Activities).

**DATES:** Written comments should be received on or before July 22, 1996 to be assured of consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Garrick R. Shear, Internal Revenue Service, room 5571, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the form(s) and instructions should be directed to Martha R. Brinson, (202) 622-3869, Internal Revenue Service, room 5571, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* Application for Registration (For Certain Excise Tax Activities).

*OMB Number:* 1545-0014.

*Form Number:* Form 637.

*Abstract:* Form 637 is used to apply for excise tax registration. The registration applies to a person required to be registered under Internal Revenue Code section 4101 for purposes of the federal excise tax on taxable fuel imposed under Code sections 4041 and 4081; and to certain manufacturers or sellers and purchasers that must register under Code section 4222 to be exempt

from the excise tax on taxable articles. The data is used to determine if the applicant qualifies for the exemption. Taxable fuel producers are required by Code section 4101 to register with the Service before incurring any tax liability.

*Current Actions:* Part III of Form 637 is revised and expanded to let taxpayers enter the required information directly on the form instead of on attachments. Lines 1 through 6 of Part III are for the general information required by all applicants. Lines 7 through 14 of Part III are generally for fuel applicants only. All of the information requested in Part III as revised was previously requested in the instructions of Form 637 and reported by taxpayers on attachments to the form.

*Type of Review:* Revision of a currently approved collection.

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit organizations and not-for-profit institutions.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 2,000.

*Estimated Time per Respondent:* 9 hrs. 22 min.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 18,720.

**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 the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (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.

Approved: May 15, 1996.

Garrick R. Shear,

*IRS Reports Clearance Officer.*

[FR Doc. 96-12752 Filed 5-21-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830-01-U

### Office of Thrift Supervision

[AC-32; OTS No. 3667]

#### Algiers Homestead Association, New Orleans, Louisiana; Approval of Conversion Application

Notice is hereby given that on May 13, 1996, the Director, Corporate Activities,

Office of Thrift Supervision, or her designee, acting pursuant to delegated authority, approved the application of Algiers Homestead Association, New Orleans, Louisiana, to convert to the stock form of organization. Copies of the application are available for inspection at the Dissemination Branch, Office of Thrift Supervision, 1700 G Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20552, and the Midwest Regional Office, Office of Thrift Supervision, 122 W. John Carpenter Freeway, Suite 600, Irving, Texas 75039-2010.

Dated: May 16, 1996.

By the Office of Thrift Supervision.

Nadine Y. Washington,

*Corporate Secretary.*

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BILLING CODE 6720-01-P

[AC-33; OTS No. 5201]

#### The Dime Savings Bank of Williamsburgh, Brooklyn, New York; Approval of Conversion Application

Notice is hereby given that on May 14, 1996, the Director, Corporate Activities, Office of Thrift Supervision, or her designee, acting pursuant to delegated authority, approved the application of The Dime Savings Bank of Williamsburgh, Brooklyn, New York, to convert to the stock form of organization. Copies of the application are available for inspection at the Dissemination Branch, Office of Thrift Supervision, 1700 G Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20552, and the Northeast Regional Office, Office of Thrift Supervision, 10 Exchange Place, 18th Floor, Jersey City, New Jersey 07302.

Dated: May 16, 1996.

By the Office of Thrift Supervision.

Nadine Y. Washington,

*Corporate Secretary.*

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BILLING CODE 6720-01-P

[AC-34; OTS No. 1437]

#### Ocean Federal Savings Bank, Brick, New Jersey; Approval of Conversion Application

Notice is hereby given that on May 14, 1996, the Director, Corporate Activities, Office of Thrift Supervision, or her designee, acting pursuant to delegated authority, approved the application of Ocean Federal Savings Bank, Brick, New Jersey, to convert to the stock form of organization. Copies of the application are available for inspection at the Dissemination Branch, Office of