

Plaza, PO Box 2648, Houston, Texas, 77252, or by calling 713-241-0461.

5. Tennessee Gas Pipeline Corporation/East Tennessee Natural Gas Company (Tennessee/East Tennessee): Tennessee/East Tennessee are subsidiaries of El Paso Natural Gas Company of Houston, Texas. Tennessee Gas operates a total of 14,574 miles of both onshore and offshore pipeline, while East Tennessee Natural Gas operates 1,149 miles of onshore pipeline.

Tennessee/East Tennessee proposes to apply a risk management approach to its entire system. The company proposes modifying or eliminating compressor station relief valve testing and inspection under certain conditions, extending from 18 months to 24 months the time it is allowed to confirm or revise maximum allowable operating pressure due to class location changes, reducing the inspection frequency under certain conditions of certain emergency valves and regulators, and using new design criteria for increased system efficiency.

Tennessee/East Tennessee has also specified locations in western Pennsylvania, central Tennessee, and offshore Louisiana where it proposes altering maximum allowable operating pressure to suit local conditions.

The company believes superior safety can be achieved by enhanced damage prevention, increased patrolling, the use of internal inspection tools, and the reallocation of funds to re-habilitation projects on its higher risk pipeline segments.

OPS is interested in entering into consultations with Tennessee/East Tennessee because its risk management program has the potential to:

- Provide examples of data collection and analysis tools for supporting risk management; and
- Provide examples of how companies can use risk management to re-allocate resources to re-habilitation projects and other high value safety activities.

The proposed Tennessee/East Tennessee demonstration project also has the potential to help OPS examine the benefits of risk management as a regulatory alternative under a variety of conditions because of the following distinguishing features:

- Consideration of worker safety as well as public safety in risk assessment;
- Examination of the risk control potential of a number of existing regulations;
- The use of risk-based arguments for establishing MAOP; and
- The breadth of the demonstration site (which includes four OPS regions:

Southern, Eastern, Central, and Southwest; and 17 states).

Tennessee/East Tennessee's risk management program coordinator and point-of-contact is Daron Moore. He can be reached at Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, PO Box 2511, Houston, TX, 77252-2511, or by calling (713) 757-4023.

Issued in Washington, DC on July 22, 1997.

Cesar De Leon,

Deputy Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.

[FR Doc. 97-19664 Filed 7-24-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-60-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 378X)]

Burlington Northern Railroad Company—Abandonment Exemption—in Grays Harbor County, WA

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board.

ACTION: Notice of exemption.

SUMMARY: Under 49 U.S.C. 10502, the Board exempts from the requirements of 49 U.S.C. 10903 the abandonment by Burlington Northern Railroad Company¹ of a 1.18-mile line of railroad referred to as the South Aberdeen trackage between mileposts 1.82 and 3.00 in South Aberdeen, WA, subject to environmental conditions and standard labor protective conditions.

DATES: The exemption will be effective August 24, 1997 unless stayed or a statement of intent to file an offer of financial assistance (OFA) is filed. Statements of intent to file an OFA under 49 CFR 1152.27² and requests for interim trail use/rail banking under 49

¹ On December 31, 1996, The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company merged with and into Burlington Northern Railroad Company. The name of the surviving corporation is The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company. Because the petition for exemption was filed and the record was largely developed before the merger, we will continue to use Burlington Northern Railroad Company in the case title.

² See Exempt. Of Rail Abandonment—Offers of Finan. Assist., 4 I.C.C.2d 164 (1987), for regulations in effect at the time of filing of the exemption petition. We note that the ICC Termination Act of 1995 has made changes and additions to the previous law regarding the processing of abandonments and OFAs. To implement these changes, we have issued final rules in Abandonment and Discontinuance of Rail Lines and Rail Transportation Under 49 U.S.C. 10903, STB Ex Parte No. 537 (STB served Dec. 24, 1996) (effective on January 23, 1997), modified, STB served June 27, 1997 (to be effective July 27, 1997). Because we have processed the exemption petition under the former regulations, we will continue to use those regulations in this proceeding to process an OFA, if one is filed.

CFR 1152.29³ must be filed by August 4, 1997; petitions to stay must be filed by August 11, 1997; petitions to reopen must be filed by August 19, 1997.

ADDRESSES: An original and 10 copies of all pleadings referring to STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 378X) must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of all pleadings must be served on petitioner's representative: Sarah J. Whitley, 3800 Continental Plaza, 777 Main Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102-5384.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joseph H. Dettmar, (202) 565-1600. [TDD for the hearing impaired: (202) 565-1695.]

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Additional information is contained in the Board's decision. To purchase a copy of the full decision, write to, call, or pick up in person from: DC NEWS & DATA, INC., 1925 K St., N.W., Room 210, Washington, DC 20006. Telephone: (202) 289-4357. [Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through TDD services (202) 565-1695.]

Decided: July 15, 1997.

By the Board, Chairman Morgan and Vice Chairman Owen.

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-19652 Filed 7-24-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-468 (Sub-No. 2X)]

Paducah & Louisville Railway, Inc.; Abandonment Exemption; in White Plains and St. Charles, KY

Paducah & Louisville Railway, Inc. (P&L) has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR Part 1152 Subpart F—*Exempt Abandonments* to abandon approximately 8.50 miles of its line of railroad between milepost J-146.0 at White Plains and milepost J-154.5 near St. Charles, in Hopkins County, KY.¹

³ At the request of the City of Aberdeen, WA, a notice of interim trail use (NITU) will be issued under 49 CFR 1152.29. Also, a public use condition will be imposed on the transaction under 49 CFR 1152.28.

¹ Pursuant to 49 CFR 1152.50(d)(2), the railroad must file a verified notice with the Board at least 50 days before the abandonment or discontinuance is to be consummated. The applicant in its verified notice, indicated a proposed consummation date of August 25, 1997. However, because the verified notice was filed on July 7, 1997, consummation

Continued

The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Codes 42442 and 42464.

P&L has certified that: (1) No local traffic has moved over the line for at least 2 years; (2) any overhead traffic on the line can be rerouted; (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 of 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 August 26, 1997, unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay that do not involve environmental issues,² formal expressions of intent to file an OFA under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2),³ and trail use/rail banking requests under 49 CFR 1152.29⁴ must be filed by August 4, 1997. Petitions to reopen or requests

should not have been proposed to take place prior to August 26, 1997. Applicant's representative has been contacted and has confirmed that the correct consummation date is on or after August 26, 1997.

² 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.

³ Each offer of financial assistance must be accompanied by the filing fee, which currently is set at \$900. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

⁴ 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.

for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by August 14, 1997, with: Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20423.

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to applicant's representative: J. Thomas Garrett, E.V.P. & General Counsel, 1500 Kentucky Avenue, Paducah, KY 42003.

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

P&L 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 July 30, 1997. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA by writing to SEA (Room 500, Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423) or by calling SEA, at (202) 565-1545. 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), P&L 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 P&L's filing of a notice of consummation by July 25, 1998, and there are no legal or regulatory barriers to consummation, the authority to abandon will automatically expire.

Decided: July 17, 1997.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-19654 Filed 7-24-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33427]

The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company; Trackage Rights Exemption; Union Pacific Railroad Company

Union Pacific Railroad Company has agreed to grant local trackage rights to The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company over approximately 1 mile of rail line between milepost 601.5 and milepost 602.5 in Casper, WY, for the purpose of serving the facility of Black Hills Bentonite, LLC.

The transaction was expected to be consummated on July 21, 1997.¹

As a condition to this exemption, any employees affected by the trackage rights will be protected by the conditions imposed in *Norfolk and Western Ry. Co.—Trackage Rights—BN*, 354 I.C.C. 605 (1978), as modified in *Mendocino Coast Ry., Inc.—Lease and Operate*, 360 I.C.C. 653 (1980).

This notice is filed under 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(7). If the 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 stay the transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 33427, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001 and served on: Michael E. Roper, Senior General Attorney, The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company, P. O. Box 961039, Fort Worth, TX 76161-0039.

Decided: July 18, 1997.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-19653 Filed 7-24-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

¹ Under 49 CFR 1180.4(g)(1), a notice of exemption is effective 7 days after it is filed. Although applicant indicated that the proposed transaction would be consummated on July 21, 1997, because the notice was filed on July 15, 1997, the proposed transaction could not be consummated before the July 22, 1997 effective date.