

Attendance is open to the interested public, but will be limited to the space available. The public must make arrangements by April 2, 1998 to present oral statements at the meeting. The public may present written statements to the committee at any time by providing 25 copies to the Assistant Executive Director for Transport Airplane and Engine Issues or by providing copies at the meeting. In addition, sign and oral interpretation can be made available at the meeting, as well as listening devices, if requested 10 calendar days before the meeting.

The Structures Harmonization Working Group is requesting a vote to accept a draft notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM), regulatory evaluation, and advisory circular concerning Revised Material Strength Properties and Design Values for Transport Airplanes. Also, the Ice Protection Harmonization Working Group is requesting a vote to accept a Statement of Work to develop and recommend appropriate changes to the Federal Aviation Regulations, Joint Aviation Authorities Regulations, and any associated advisory material related to ice protection features in transport category airplanes.

Arrangements may be made to present statements, request sign, oral interpretation, or listening devices, and request copies of the documents to be voted upon by contacting the person listed under the heading **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Issued in Washington, DC, on March 18, 1998.

**Jean Casciano,**

*Acting Executive Director, Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee.*

[FR Doc. 98-7604 Filed 3-23-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-M

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA), DOT

[Docket No. RSPA-97-3224; Notice 12]

#### Pipeline Safety: Shell Pipe Line Corporation Approved for Pipeline Risk Management Demonstration Program

**AGENCY:** Office of Pipeline Safety, DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of risk demonstration project approval and finding of no significant impact.

**SUMMARY:** The Research and Special Programs Administration's (RSPA) Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) has issued a Risk Management Demonstration Project Order authorizing Shell Pipe Line Corporation

(SPLC) to participate in the Pipeline Risk Management Demonstration Program. OPS has also made a finding that SPLC's demonstration project will have no significant impacts on the environment.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments on this or any other demonstration project will be accepted in the Docket throughout the 4-year demonstration period. Comments should be sent to the Dockets Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, Plaza 401, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590-0001, or you can E-Mail your comments to [ops.comments@rspa.dot.gov](mailto:ops.comments@rspa.dot.gov). Comments should identify the docket number RSPA-97-3224. Persons should submit the original comment document and one (1) copy. Persons wishing to receive confirmation of receipt of their comments must include a self-addressed stamped postcard. The Dockets Facility is located on the plaza level of the Nassif Building in Room 401, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC. The Dockets Facility is open from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on Federal holidays.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Elizabeth Callsen, OPS, (202) 366-4572, regarding the subject matter of this document. Contact the Dockets Unit, (202) 366-5046, for docket material.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Project Authorization

On March 18, 1998, OPS, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 60126, issued SPLC a Risk Management Demonstration Project Order authorizing SPLC to conduct a risk management project on two segments of the SPLC-operated pipeline system. OPS has determined, after a comprehensive review of SPLC's demonstration project, that the project is expected to provide superior safety.

More detailed descriptions of all aspects of the SPLC demonstration project, including the OPS rationale for approving the project, are available in the following documents:

(1) 62 FR 67932, "Pipeline Safety: Intent To Approve Shell Pipe Line Corporation for the Pipeline Risk Management Demonstration Program", December 30, 1997.

(2) "Demonstration Project Prospectus: Shell Pipe Line Corporation", available by contacting Elizabeth M. Callsen at 202-366-4572. Includes maps of the demonstration segments.

(3) "Shell Pipe Line Corporation—Application for DOT-OPS Risk Management Demonstration Program", available in Docket No. RSPA-97-3224 at the Dockets Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, Plaza 401, 400

Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590-0001, (202) 366-5046.

(4) 63 FR 7500, "Pipeline Safety: Environmental Assessment for Risk Management Demonstration Project—Shell Pipe Line Corporation", February 13, 1998.

(5) "OPS Project Review Team Evaluation of Shell Demonstration Project".

(6) "Risk Management Demonstration Project Order" for Shell Pipe Line Corporation, March 18, 1998.

These documents and other information pertaining to the SPLC project are accessible to the public via the Pipeline Risk Management Information System (PRIMIS), at <http://www.cycla.com/opsdemo>.

#### Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

OPS has reviewed SPLC's project for conformity with section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332), the Council on Environmental Quality implementing regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), and Department of Transportation Order 5610.1c, Procedures for Considering Environmental Impacts. OPS conducted an Environmental Assessment of SPLC's project (63 FR 7500, "Pipeline Safety: Environmental Assessment for Risk Management Demonstration Project—Shell Pipe Line Corporation," February 13, 1998).

OPS received no public comment on the Environmental Assessment.

Based on the analysis and conclusions reached in the Environmental Assessment and the analyses conducted in the above-listed documents, OPS has found that there are no significant impacts on the environment associated with this action. The Environmental Assessment and the other above-listed documents are incorporated by reference into this FONSI. To summarize, the reasons that the project will not have a significant effect on the human environment are:

(1) The portfolio of activities SPLC will undertake to prevent pipeline releases from the demonstration segments provide superior protection by appropriately addressing the greatest risks. The company will conduct state-of-the-art inspections to decide if there is past, unknown third party damage, while simultaneously carrying out an aggressive damage prevention program to prevent future damage. Also included are community involvement activities which include spill modeling and emergency response drills.

(2) The commodities transported by the two

demonstration segments (carbon dioxide and ethylene) can have little impact on the human environment, should a release occur. These reasons are further discussed in the Environmental Assessment referenced above.

Issued in Washington, DC on March 19, 1998.

**Richard B. Felder,**

*Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.*

[FR Doc. 98-7605 Filed 3-23-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-60-P

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33520]

#### **Consolidated Rail Corporation— Trackage Rights Exemption—The Wheeling and Lake Erie Railway Company**

The Wheeling and Lake Erie Railway Company (W&LE) has agreed to grant local trackage rights to Consolidated Rail Corporation (Conrail) over certain railroad trackage, being a portion of W&LE's River Line, and more particularly described as follows: (1) initial rights for a period of 6 months from the date Conrail begins operations under the trackage rights agreement, or for such extensions of time as may be mutually agreed, shall begin at the connection between Conrail and W&LE at Shannon Run, OH, in the vicinity of W&LE milepost R-1.5±, and shall extend to the American Electric Power (AEP) Cardinal Plant at Brilliant, OH, in the vicinity of W&LE R-5.0±; and (2) permanent rights, after the term of the initial rights, shall begin at a new connection to be constructed between Conrail's River Line at milepost 26.40± and W&LE's River Branch at milepost R-3.0±, thence extending on W&LE's River Branch to the AEP Cardinal Plant at Brilliant, OH, in the vicinity of W&LE milepost R-5.0±.

The trackage rights exemption will be effective on March 19, 1998. The actual commencement of operations by Conrail pursuant to the trackage rights will depend upon Conrail's commercial arrangements with AEP, but will not take place before the March 19, 1998 effective date.

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 automatically stay the transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 33520, 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 each pleading must be served on: John J. Paylor, Associate General Counsel, Consolidated Rail Corporation, 2001 Market Street, 16A, Philadelphia, PA 19101-1416.

Decided: March 17, 1998.

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

**Vernon A. Williams,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 98-7617 Filed 3-23-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33553]

#### **Ventura County Transportation Commission—Acquisition Exemption—Southern Pacific Transportation Company**

Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC), a Class III carrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.41 to acquire approximately 31.73 miles of rail line from Southern Pacific Transportation Company (SP) between milepost 435.07 and milepost 403.34 at Montalvo Station near Ventura, CA, where the line connects with the SP Coast Line (the Santa Paula Branch Line).<sup>1</sup>

VCTC entered into an agreement with SP to purchase the line, and consummated the transaction on October 27, 1995, apparently without appropriate authority from the Board. Under the agreement, SP retained the right to continue to provide freight common carrier service over a portion of the line, but, according to VCTC, VCTC became a carrier at the time of the purchase in 1995. VCTC did not file its verified notice of exemption, as amended, with the Board until February 27, 1998. VCTC has acknowledged that the effective date of the exemption was

<sup>1</sup> This notice of exemption amends and supersedes the earlier notice of exemption that VCTC had filed, pursuant to 49 CFR 1150.31, on February 10, 1998.

March 6, 1998 (7 days after the amended notice of exemption was filed).

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 automatically stay the transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 33553, 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 each pleading must be served on: Charles A. Spitulnik, Hopkins & Sutter, 888 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20006.

Decided: March 17, 1998.

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

**Vernon A. Williams,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 98-7618 Filed 3-23-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 119X)]

#### **Union Pacific Railroad Company— Abandonment Exemption—In Rock, Green and Dane Counties, WI**

On March 4, 1998, Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) 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 and discontinue service on a line of railroad known as the Harvard Subdivision, extending from railroad milepost 119.0 near Evansville to railroad milepost 134.0 near "MX" (a crossing of Wisconsin & Southern Railroad Company near Madison), a distance of 15.0 miles in Rock, Green and Dane Counties, WI. The line traverses U.S. Postal Service Zip Codes 53536, 53575 and Area 537 (near Madison), and includes the non-agency rail station of Oregon at milepost 128.1.

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

The interest of railroad employees will be protected by the conditions set forth in *Oregon Short Line R. Co.—Abandonment—Goshen*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979).

By issuance of this notice, the Board is instituting an exemption proceeding