

regard to the 15 page limit. This limitation is intended to encourage commenters to detail their primary arguments in concise fashion.

If a commenter wishes to submit specified information under a claim of confidentiality, three copies of the complete submission, including purportedly confidential business information, should be submitted to the Chief Counsel, NHTSA, at the street address given above, and two copies from which the purportedly confidential information has been deleted should be submitted to the Docket Section. A request for confidentiality should be accompanied by a cover letter setting forth the information specified in the agency's confidential business information regulation, 49 CFR Part 512.

Comments on this notice will be available for inspection in the docket. NHTSA will continue to file relevant information as it becomes available in the docket after the closing date. Those persons desiring to be notified upon receipt of their written comments in the Docket Section should enclose, in the envelope with their comments, a self-addressed stamped postcard. Upon receipt, the docket supervisor will return the postcard by mail.

Issued on: May 4, 1999.

**L. Robert Shelton,**

*Associate Administrator for Safety Performance Standards.*

[FR Doc. 99-11545 Filed 5-6-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-59-P

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**Surface Transportation Board**

[STB Finance Docket No. 33733 (Sub-No. 1)]

**CSX Transportation, Inc.—Trackage Rights Exemption—Consolidated Rail Corporation**

**AGENCY:** Surface Transportation Board.

**ACTION:** Notice of exemption.

**SUMMARY:** The Board, under 49 U.S.C. 10502, exempts the trackage rights described in STB Finance Docket No. 33733 to permit the trackage rights to expire on the Split Date (as described in this decision) or June 30, 1999, whichever occurs first, in accordance with the agreement of the parties.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> On March 25, 1999, CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT) filed a notice of exemption under the Board's class exemption procedures at 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(7). The notice covered the agreement by Consolidated Rail Corporation (Conrail) to grant temporary overhead trackage rights to CSXT, to operate its trains, locomotives, cars and equipment with CSXT's own crews, over Conrail's Porter

The Conrail trackage that is the subject of the trackage rights is to be allocated to Conrail's subsidiary, New York Central Lines LLC, and operated by CSXT, after what is referred to as the "Split Date," or the date of the division of Conrail's assets, as authorized by the Board in *CSX Corporation and CSX Transportation, Inc., Norfolk Southern Corporation and Norfolk Southern Railway Company—Control and Operating Leases/Agreements—Conrail Inc., and Consolidated Rail Corporation*, STB Finance Docket No. 33388 (STB served July 23, 1998). CSXT states that it expects the Split Date to occur on June 1, 1999. The parties intend for the trackage rights to terminate on the Split Date, but if the Split Date does not occur before June 30, 1999, the parties' agreement provides for termination of the trackage rights on June 30, 1999.

**DATES:** This exemption will be effective on June 1, 1999.

Petitions to reopen must be filed by May 25, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** An original and 10 copies of all pleadings referring to STB Finance Docket No. 33733 (Sub-No. 1) must be filed with the Office of the Secretary, Surface Transportation Board, 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 Charles M. Rosenberger, Senior Counsel, CSX Transportation, Inc., 500 Water Street, J-150, Jacksonville, FL 32202.

**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., Suite 210, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20006. Telephone: (202) 289-4357. [Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through TDD services (202) 565-1695.]

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

Decided: May 3, 1999.

Branch between milepost 246.7± at Willow Creek, IN, and milepost 259.5± at Gibson, IN (CP Ivanhoe), a total distance of approximately 12.8 miles. See *CSX Transportation, Inc.—Trackage Rights Exemption—Consolidated Rail Corporation*, STB Finance Docket No. 33733 (STB served Apr. 13, 1999). The trackage rights operations under the exemption became effective on April 1, 1999, and are subject to standard labor protective conditions.

By the Board, Chairman Morgan, Vice Chairman Clyburn and Commissioner Burkes.

**Vernon A. Williams,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 99-11567 Filed 5-6-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans, Notice of Meeting**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), in accordance with Public Law 103-446, gives notice that a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans will be held from Wednesday, May 12 through Friday, May 14, 1999, in Washington, DC. The purpose of the Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans is to advise the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on the administration of VA benefits and services for minority veterans, to assess the needs of minority veterans and to evaluate whether VA compensation, medical and rehabilitation services, outreach, and other programs are meeting those needs. The Committee will make recommendations to the Secretary regarding such activities.

The meeting will convene in room 430, VA Central Office (VACO) Building, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. On May 12, the meeting will focus on the findings of the committee's site visit to VA facilities in the Caribbean. The Committee will also review reports of the four subcommittees. On Thursday, May 13, the Committee will concentrate on VA programs and facilities located in the mid-western states to include Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Iowa, and Kansas as well as receive a briefing from the Director, Center for Women Veterans. On Friday, May 14, the Committee will begin drafting the annual report for Fiscal Year 1999. These sessions will be open to the public. For those wishing to attend, please contact Mr. Anthony T. Hawkins, Department of Veterans Affairs at (202) 273-6708, prior to May 10, 1999. The Committee will accept written comments from interested parties on issues affecting minority veterans. Comments should be referred to the Committee at the following address: Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans, Center for Minority Veterans (OOM), U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420.

Dated: April 29, 1999.

By Direction of the Secretary.

**Heyward Bannister,**

*Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 99-11505 Filed 5-6-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-M

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Research and Development Cooperative Studies Evaluation Committee; Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs gives notice under Public Law 92-463 (Federal Advisory Committee Act) as amended, by section 5(c) of Pub. L. 94-409, that a meeting of the Research and Development Cooperative Studies Evaluation Committee will be held at the Marriott Residence Inn, 500 Army Navy Drive, Arlington, VA 22202, May 11-13, 1999. The session on May 11 will begin at 7:30 a.m. until 5:45 p.m., on May 12 from 7:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. and on May 13 from 7:30 a.m. until 12:00 noon. The meeting will be for the purpose of reviewing the following six new proposals: treatment of knee osteoarthritis, Type II Diabetes, statins in reducing the risk of stroke, Pallidal

procedure for Parkinson's disease, homocysteinemia in kidney and end stage renal disease, and genetic tissue banking in clinical research. The Committee will also review the progress of four on going studies on Antiarrhythmic Therapy, group treatment of PTSD, computer-assisted neuropsychological screening battery and Naltrexone treatment of alcoholism.

The Committee advises the Chief Research and Development Officer through the Chief of the Cooperative Studies Program on the relevance and feasibility of the studies, the adequacy of the protocols, and the scientific validity and propriety of technical details, including protection of human subjects.

The meeting will be open to the public from 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. on all three days to discuss the general status of the program. Those who plan to attend should contact Dr. Ping Huang, Coordinator, Research and Development Cooperative Studies Evaluation Committee, Department of Veterans Affairs, Washington, DC, (202-273-8295).

The meeting will be closed during the following portions: on May 11, from

8:15 a.m. until 5:45 p.m., on May 12, from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. and on May 13 from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. These portions of the meeting involve consideration of specific proposals in accordance with provisions set forth in section 10(d) of Pub. L. 92-463, as amended by Pub. L. 94-409, and 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(6) and (9)(B). During the closed sessions of the meeting, discussions and recommendations will deal with qualifications of personnel conducting the studies (the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy), as well as staff and consultant critiques of research protocols, and similar documents, and the medical records of patients who are study subjects (the premature disclosure of which would significantly frustrate implementation of proposed agency action regarding such research projects).

Dated: May 3, 1999.

By Direction of the Secretary.

**Heyward Bannister,**

*Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 99-11504 Filed 5-6-99; 8:45 am]

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