

SUMMARY: The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that an Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared for a proposed highway project in Centre County, Pennsylvania.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

David W. Cough, P.E. Director of Operations, Federal Highway Administration, Pennsylvania Division Office, 228 Walnut Street, Room 536, Harrisburg, PA 17101-1720, Telephone: (717) 221-3411 or Steven Fantechi, P.E., Project Manager, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, District 2-0, 1924-30 Daisy Street, PO Box 342, Clearfield, Pennsylvania, 16830, Telephone: (814) 765-0677.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FHWA, in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to identify and evaluate alternatives for transportation improvement which address identified transportation problems within South Central Centre County, Pennsylvania. The study includes U.S. Route 322, PA 144, PA 45, PA 192 and various local roadways. The initial stage of the project is for scoping, documentation of project need and development of conceptual alignment corridors. A range of conceptual alignment corridors will be developed within the context of the identified project needs, environmental constraints and public input. Possible alternatives include upgrade of existing facilities, no-build, construction on new alignment, Transportation System Management strategies, or a combination of alternatives. A complete public involvement program is part of the project.

Letters describing the proposed actions 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 interest in this proposal. Public meetings will be held in the area throughout the study process. Public involvement and agency coordination will be maintained throughout the development of the EIS.

To ensure that the full range of issues related to the proposed action are addressed and all significant issues are identified, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments or questions concerning this proposed action and the EIS should be directed to FHWA or PennDOT at the addresses provided above.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway Planning and Construction. The regulations

implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation on Federal programs and activities apply to this program)

Issued on: June 2, 1999.

Ronald W. Carmichael,

FHWA Division Administrator, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket Number FRA-1999-5429]

Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Public Hearing

The Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (BNSF) has petitioned the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) seeking a permanent waiver of compliance with the Locomotive Safety Standards, Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), § 229.21, which requires each locomotive in use shall be inspected once during each calendar day. BNSF seeks this waiver for locomotives utilized to haul loaded coal trains through Alliance, Nebraska. BNSF states that these locomotives are inspected prior to hauling empty coal trains to the mines for loading.

This proceeding is identified as FRA-1999-5429. FRA has issued a public notice seeking comments of interested parties and has conducted a field investigation in this matter. After examining the carrier's proposal and letters of protest, FRA determined that a public hearing is necessary before a final decision is made on this proposal.

Accordingly, a public hearing is hereby set for 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, July 7, 1999, at the Porter House Restaurant located at 117 Box Butte Avenue, Alliance, Nebraska. Interested parties are invited to present oral statements at the hearing.

The hearing will be an informal one and will be conducted in accordance with Rule 25 of the FRA Rules of Practice (49 CFR § 211.25) by a representative designated by FRA.

The hearing will be a non-adversary proceeding and, therefore, there will be no cross-examination of persons presenting statements. The FRA representative will make an opening statement outlining the scope of the hearing. After all initial statements have been completed, those persons wishing to make brief rebuttal statements will be given the opportunity to do so in the same order in which they made their initial statements. Additional procedures, if necessary for the conduct

of the hearing, will be announced at the hearing.

Issued in Washington, DC on June 1, 1999.

Grady C. Cothen, Jr.,

Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Standards and Program Development.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket Nos. AB-425 (Sub-No. 1X) and AB-426 (Sub-No. 1X)]

Lone Star Railroad, Inc.— Abandonment Exemption—in Taylor and Jones Counties, TX

Southern Switching Company— Discontinuance of Service Exemption—in Taylor and Jones Counties, TX

On May 20, 1999, Lone Star Railroad, Inc. (LSRI), and Southern Switching Company (SSC) jointly filed with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) a petition under 49 U.S.C. 10502 for exemptions from the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 10903 for LSRI to abandon, and SSC to discontinue service over, a 4.5-mile line of railroad, known as the North Abilene Line, extending from milepost 147.3 at or near Abilene to milepost 142.8 at or near North Abilene, in Taylor and Jones Counties, TX.¹ The line traverses U.S. Postal Service Zip Code 79601 and includes the station of North Abilene.

The line does not contain federally granted rights-of-way. Any documentation in LSRI's and SSC'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 exemption proceedings pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10502(b). A final decision will be issued by September 7, 1999.

Any offer of financial assistance under 49 CFR 1152.27(b)(2) will be due no later than 10 days after service of a decision granting the exemptions. Each offer 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

¹ LSRI owns the line and SSC operates it pursuant to a contract with LSRI.

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 June 29, 1999. 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 Nos. AB-425 (Sub-No. 1X) and AB-426 (Sub-No. 1X) and must be sent to: (1) Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001; and (2) Thomas F. McFarland, Jr., McFarland & Herman, 20 North Wacker Drive, Suite 1330, Chicago, IL 60606-2902. Replies are due June 29, 1999.

Persons seeking further information concerning abandonment and discontinuance procedures may contact the Board's Office of Public Services at (202) 565-1592 or refer to the full abandonment and 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 (202) 565-1695.]

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."

Decided: May 26, 1999.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

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