

Issued at Washington, DC on November 29, 1999.

**Marc C. Owen,**

*Advisory Board Liaison.*

[FR Doc. 99-31273 Filed 11-29-99; 4:15 pm]

BILLING CODE 4910-61-P

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33826]

#### **North Carolina Ports Railway Commission d/b/a Beaufort & Morehead Railway—Acquisition and Operation Exemption—Beaufort & Morehead Railway, Inc.**

North Carolina Ports Railway Commission d/b/a Beaufort & Morehead Railway (NCPRC), a state agency which is a non-operating railroad, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.41 to acquire the railroad franchise and business of Beaufort & Morehead Railway, Inc. (BMRI), an entity it already controls. BMRI will assign its lease of a line<sup>1</sup> of railroad extending from milepost 0.0 to milepost 0.87, a distance of .87 miles in Carteret County, NC, to NCPRC. BMRI will cease being a railroad, and NCPRC will become the operator of the line.

The transaction is scheduled to be consummated on or after November 26, 1999.

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 revoke will not automatically stay the transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 33826, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on Fritz R. Kahn, Esq., 1100 New York Avenue, NW Suite 750 West, Washington, DC 20036.

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

Decided: November 24, 1999.

<sup>1</sup> See *Beaufort & Morehead Railway, Inc.—Lease and Operation Exemption—Beaufort & Morehead Railroad Company*, Finance Docket No. 31833 (ICC served Feb. 21, 1991).

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

*Vernon A. Williams,*

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 99-31173 Filed 12-1-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-391 (Sub-No. 7X)]

#### **Red River Valley & Western Railroad Company—Abandonment Exemption—in McLean, Sheridan and Wells Counties, ND**

Red River Valley & Western Railroad Company (RRVW) has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR part 1152 subpart F—*Exempt Abandonments* to abandon approximately 56.34 miles of rail line from milepost 29.16 west of Bowdon and to milepost 85.5, at the end of the track, west of Turtle Lake, in McLean, Sheridan and Wells Counties, ND. The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Codes 58575, 58559, 58463, 58444 and 58451.

RRVW has certified that: (1) No local traffic has moved over the line for at least 2 years; (2) there is no overhead traffic moving over 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 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 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 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 January 1, 2000, unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay that do not involve

environmental issues,<sup>1</sup> formal expressions of intent to file an OFA under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2),<sup>2</sup> and trail use/rail banking requests under 49 CFR 1152.29 must be filed by December 13, 1999. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by December 22, 1999 with: Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20423.

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to applicant's representative: Rose-Michele Weinryb, Esq., Weiner, Brodsky, Sidman & Kider, P.C., 1350 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 800, Washington, DC 20005-4797.

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

RRVW 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 December 7, 1999. 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), RRVW 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 RRVW's filing of a notice of consummation by December 2, 2000, and there are no legal or regulatory barriers to consummation, the authority to abandon will automatically expire.

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

Decided: November 22, 1999.

<sup>1</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>2</sup> Each offer of financial assistance must be accompanied by the filing fee, which currently is set at \$1000. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

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

Vernon A. Williams,  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-30911 Filed 12-1-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Financial Crimes Enforcement Network

#### Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Request for Research Form

**AGENCY:** Financial Crimes Enforcement  
Network, Treasury.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for  
comments.

**SUMMARY:** As part of its continuing effort  
to reduce paperwork and respondent  
burden, the Financial Crimes  
Enforcement Network ("FinCEN")  
invites the general public and other  
governmental agencies to comment on  
its proposal to revise the collection of  
information through its Request for  
Research form that is used by  
governmental officials when utilizing  
FinCEN's services.

**DATES:** Written comments should be  
received on or before January 31, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments  
to: Office of Chief Counsel, Financial  
Crimes Enforcement Network,  
Department of the Treasury, Suite 200,  
2070 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna, VA  
22182-2536, *Attention:* PRA  
Comments—Request for Research form.  
Comments also may be submitted by  
electronic mail to the following Internet  
address:

"regcomments@fincen.treas.gov" with  
the caption in the body of the text,  
"*Attention:* PRA Comments—Request  
for Research form."

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information or  
for a copy of the form should be  
directed to: Christine Schuetz, Attorney-  
Advisor, FinCEN at (703) 905-3644, or  
Penny Perry-Jackson, Program  
Management Specialist, FinCEN, at  
(703) 905-3540.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Pursuant  
to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995,  
Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C.  
3506(c)(2)(A)), FinCEN is soliciting  
comments on the collection of  
information described below.

*Title:* Request for Research form.

*OMB Number:* 1505-0139.

*Form Number:* TDF90-22.45.

*Abstract:* FinCEN provides  
investigative support for federal, state

and local law enforcement. The Request  
for Research form is a vehicle used to  
verify the identity of authorized  
personnel, and to enter information  
about such personnel into FinCEN's  
automated data base. It provides  
FinCEN with the means to ensure that  
law enforcement and other sensitive  
information is disclosed only to  
authorized personnel in accordance  
with FinCEN security requirements.

*Current Actions:* The Request for  
Research form is being revised to clarify  
some of the questions on the form and  
to request the submission of additional  
identifying information about the  
requestor and the subject(s) of the  
request. A new question also is being  
added to part C of the form that seeks  
the permission of the requestor for  
FinCEN to notify another agency that it  
and the requestor have made requests  
for research on the same subject(s).

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

*Affected Public:* Federal Government/  
State and Local Government.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:*  
7000.

*Estimated Time Per Respondent:* 30  
minutes.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden  
Hours:* 3500.

*Request for Comments:* Comments  
submitted in response to this notice will  
be summarized and/or included in the  
request for Office of Management and  
Budget approval. All comments will  
become a matter of public record.  
Comments are invited on: (1) Whether  
the collection of information is  
necessary for the proper performance 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  
quality, utility, and clarity of the  
information to be collected; (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; and (e) estimates of capital  
or start-up costs and costs of operation,  
maintenance and purchase of services to  
provide information.

Dated: November 22, 1999.

James F. Sloan,

Director, Financial Crimes Enforcement  
Network.

[FR Doc. 99-31297 Filed 12-1-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4820-03-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

November 24, 1999

The Department of Treasury has  
submitted the following public  
information collection requirement(s) to  
OMB for review and clearance under the  
Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995,  
Public Law 104-13. Copies of the  
submission(s) may be obtained by  
calling the Treasury Bureau Clearance  
Officer listed. Comments regarding this  
information collection should be  
addressed to the OMB reviewer listed  
and to the Treasury Department  
Clearance Officer, Department of the  
Treasury, Room 2110, 1425 New York  
Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20220.

**DATES:** Written comments should be  
received on or before January 31, 2000,  
to be assured of consideration.

#### Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

*OMB Number:* 1545-1509.

*Form Number:* IRS Form 941 TeleFile.

*Type of Review:* Extension.

*Title:* Employer's Quarterly Federal  
Tax Return.

*Description:* Form 941 TeleFile is  
used by employers to report by phone  
payments made to employees subject to  
income and social security and  
Medicare taxes and the amounts of these  
taxes.

*Respondents:* Business or other for-  
profit, Not-for-profit institutions, State,  
Local or Tribal Government.

*Estimated Number of Respondents/  
Recordkeepers:* 230,000.

*Estimated Burden Hours Per  
Respondent/Recordkeeper:*

Recordkeeping: 4 hr., 32 min.

Learning about the law or the form: 18  
min.

Preparing the Tax Record: 23 min.

TeleFile phone call: 11 min.

*Frequency of Response:* Quarterly.

*Estimated Total Reporting/  
Recordkeeping Burden:* 4,968,000 hours.

*OMB Number:* 1545-1514.

*Regulation Project Number:* REG-  
209040-88 NPRM.

*Type of Review:* Extension.

*Title:* Qualified Electing Fund  
Elections.

*Description:* The regulations permit  
certain shareholders to make a special  
section 1295 election with respect to  
certain preferred shares of a PFIC.  
Taxpayers must indicate the election on  
a Form 8621 and attach a statement  
containing certain information and  
representations. Form 8621 must be filed  
annually. The shareholder also must  
obtain and retain a copy of, a statement  
from the corporation as to its status as  
a PFIC.