

*Description of Relief Sought:* To permit Peninsula Airways, Inc. to operate its 10- to 19-passenger seat Metroliner aircraft in Alaska without an approved traffic alert and collision avoidance system (TCAS). *Denial, September 30, 1996, Exemption No. 6510*

*Docket No.:* 28655

*Petitioner:* United West Airlines, Inc.  
*Sections of the FAR Affected:* 14 CFR 135.143(c) (2)

*Description of Relief Sought:* To permit United West Airlines, Inc. to operate its Falcon 20 (Registration No. N500BG, Serial No. 121) and Learjet 25 (Registration No. N500DL, Serial No. 27) aircraft under part 135 without a TSO-C112 (Mode S) transponder installed. *Grant, September 30, 1996, Exemption No. 6512*

*Docket No.:* 28651

*Petitioner:* R.L. Olsonoski

*Sections of the FAR Affected:* 14 CFR 121.383(c)

*Description of Relief Sought:* To permit R.L. Olsonoski to act as a pilot in operations conducted under part 121 after reaching his 60th birthday.  
*Denial, September 30, 1996, Exemption No. 6511*

[FR Doc. 96-31380 Filed 12-10-96; 8:45 am]

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## Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 104X)]

### Union Pacific Railroad Company— Abandonment Exemption—in Oconto County, WI

Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F—*Exempt Abandonments and Discontinuances of Service and Trackage Rights* to abandon and discontinue service over an approximately 8.3-mile line of railroad known as the Oconto Falls Industrial Lead from milepost 54.4, near Oconto, to the end of the line at milepost 46.1, near Stiles Junction, in Oconto County, WI.

UP 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 and any overhead traffic could 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 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 10, 1997, 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<sup>3</sup> must be filed by December 23, 1996. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by December 31, 1996, with: Office of the Secretary, Case Control Branch, Surface Transportation Board, 1201 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20423.

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to applicant's representative: Joseph D. Anthofer, General Attorney, Union Pacific Railroad Company, 1416 Dodge Street, Room 830, Omaha, NE 68179.

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

UP 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 16, 1996. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA by writing to SEA (Room 3219, Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC

<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> See *Exempt. of Rail Abandonment—Offers of Finan. Assist.*, 4 I.C.C.2d 164 (1987).

<sup>3</sup> 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.

20423) or by calling Elaine Kaiser, Chief of SEA, at (202) 927-6248. 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.

Decided: December 3, 1996.

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

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-31477 Filed 12-10-96; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Rehabilitation Research and Development Service Scientific Merit Review Board, 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 Public Law 94-409 that a meeting of the Rehabilitation Research and Development Service Scientific Merit Review Board will be held at the Vista International Hotel, 1400 "M" Street, NW, Washington, DC on January 14 through January 16, 1997.

The session on January 14, 1997 is scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m. and end at 9:30 p.m. The sessions on January 15 and January 16, 1997, are scheduled to begin at 8 a.m. and end at 5 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to review rehabilitation research and development applications for scientific and technical merit and to make recommendations to the Director, Rehabilitation Research and Development Service, regarding their funding.

The meeting will be open to the public up to the seating capacity of the room for the January 14 session for the discussion of administrative matters, the general status of the program, and the administrative details of the review process. On January 15-16, 1997 the meeting is closed during which the Board will be reviewing research and development applications.

This review involves oral comments, discussion of site visits, staff and consultant critiques of proposed research protocols, and similar analytical documents that necessitate the consideration of the personal qualifications, performance and competence of individual research investigators. Disclosure of such

information would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. Disclosure would also reveal research proposals and research underway which could lead to the loss of these projects to third parties and thereby frustrate future agency research efforts.

Thus, the closing is in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(6), and (c)(9)(B) and the determination of the Secretary

of the Department of Veterans Affairs under Sections 10(d) of Pub. L. 92-463 as amended by Section 5(c) of Pub. L. 94-409.

Due to the limited seating capacity of the room, those who plan to attend the open session should write to Ms. Victoria Mongiardo, Program Analyst, Rehabilitation Research and Development Service, Department of Veterans Affairs, 103 South Gay Street,

Baltimore, Maryland 21202 (Phone: 410-962-2563) at least five days before the meeting.

Dated: December 4, 1996.

By direction of the Secretary.

Heyward Bannister,

*Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 96-31401 Filed 12-10-96; 8:45 am]

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