

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Willard Inter-Continental Hotel, 1401 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Regina McElroy, Office of Policy Development, HPP-10, (202) 366-9216, for substantive information regarding the conference; Megan Naranjo, HPP-10, (202) 366-0281, for conference registration material; or Mr. Charles E. Medalen, Office of the Chief Counsel, HCC-20, (202) 366-1354, Federal Highway Administration, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, D.C. 20590. Office hours are from 7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., e.t., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Electronic Access

An electronic copy of this document may be downloaded using a modem and suitable communications software from the **Federal Register** Electronic Bulletin Board Service at (202) 512-1661. Internet users may reach the **Federal Register's** home page at: <http://www.nara.gov/nara/fedreg> and the Government Printing Office's database at: http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs.

Background

The U.S. DOT currently has underway a CTS&W Study. The Study was initiated in 1994 by Secretary of Transportation Rodney E. Slater, who was then the Federal Highway Administrator. The Study is intended to provide decisionmakers with fact-based information regarding the highly controversial and multifaceted TS&W issue. The Department anticipates that the final TS&W Study report will be transmitted to Congress by the end of 1998. It will include four volumes: Volume I—Executive Summary, Volume II—Issues and Background, Volume III—Scenario Analysis, and Volume IV—Guide to Documentation. A draft version of Volume II was distributed for external review in June 1997. Many valuable comments were received and, as a result, the final version will be markedly improved.

Work on Volume III, Scenario Analysis, is now in progress. The Department expects that a draft version will be available for review and comment this summer. A number of illustrative size and weight scenarios have been identified for analysis, and each scenario will be evaluated in terms of its likely impact on freight diversion, safety, infrastructure (pavement, bridge and roadway geometry), shipper costs, rail industry viability, traffic operations, energy consumption and environmental

quality. The scenarios, as well as the impact areas, were selected based on comments received through the Study's extensive outreach process.

As part of the overall outreach activity, the FHWA, on behalf of the Department, is sponsoring a TS&W Impact Methodology Review Conference. This event is being organized to facilitate review of the Volume III draft. At the conference, subject matter experts will present the analytical approach employed, for each of the impact areas identified above, to evaluate the illustrative scenarios. The presentations will focus on technical methods used in the scenario analysis. Study results will not be discussed.

For individuals unable to attend the meeting, copies of the briefing material may be obtained, free of charge, by contacting Ms. Megan Naranjo at the address and telephone number listed at the beginning of this Notice. In addition, we will publish a summary of the conference following the event. The summary may also be obtained by contacting Ms. Naranjo.

Meeting Information

Guest rooms at the Willard Hotel, for confirmed participants, are available at a discounted rate. Room reservations should be made directly with the hotel at (202) 628-9100.

An agenda, registration form, and supporting conference materials may be obtained from the FHWA. The point of contact is Ms. Megan Naranjo at the address and telephone number at the beginning of this Notice.

In order to provide ample opportunity for dialogue, we are limiting the meeting to 100 participants. *All participants must be registered in advance.* Should demand significantly exceed this limit, we will consider holding another similar event.

A fee is being charged to partially cover the cost of the conference. The fee includes a continental breakfast on the first and second days and lunch on the first day. The early registration fee (received on or before June 6, 1998) is \$55.00. After June 6, 1998, a late registration fee of \$65.00 is payable at the conference.

Authority: 23 U.S.C. 315; 49 CFR 1.48.

Gary E. Maring,

Acting Associate Administrator for Policy.

[FR Doc. 98-11523 Filed 4-29-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33558]

Camas Prairie Railnet, Inc.; Acquisition and Operation Exemption; Camas Prairie Railroad Company, Union Pacific Railroad Company, and the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company

Camas Prairie Railnet, Inc. (CSPR), a noncarrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.31 to acquire and operate a series of interconnected lines of railroad currently owned by the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP), and The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF), and operated by the Camas Prairie Railroad Company (CSP) ¹ as follows: (1) A line of railroad, known as the 1st Subdivision, extending from milepost 137.0, at Lewiston, ID, to milepost 61.0 (end of track), at or near Kooskia, ID; (2) a line of railroad, known as the 2nd Subdivision, extending from milepost 0.0, at Spalding, ID, to milepost 66.5 (end of track), at or near Grangeville, ID; (3) a line of railroad, known as the 3rd Subdivision, extending from milepost 0.0, at Riparia, WA, to milepost 71.5, at East Lewiston, ID; and (4) a line of railroad, known as the 4th Subdivision, extending from milepost 0.0, at Orofino, ID, to milepost 31.0 (end of track), at or near Revling, ID.² In addition, CSPR will also obtain incidental overhead trackage rights over UP trackage between milepost 10.46, at Riparia, and approximately milepost 267.1, at Ayer, WA, for the purpose of interchanging traffic with both UP and BNSF. The trackage to be acquired and operated by CSPR is approximately 245 route miles in length, and the related trackage rights are approximately 15.1 miles in length.

The transaction was scheduled to be consummated on or after April 17, 1998.

This transaction is related to STB Finance Docket No. 33578, *North American Railnet, Inc.—Continuance in Control Exemption—Camas Prairie Railnet, Inc.*, wherein North American Railnet, Inc. has concurrently filed a verified notice to continue in control of CSPR upon its becoming a Class III rail carrier.

Because the projected revenues of the rail lines to be operated will exceed \$5 million, CSPR certified to the Board, on

¹ CSPR will replace CSP as the common carrier operator of the lines being acquired.

² BNSF currently owns the lines known as the 1st Subdivision, the 2nd Subdivision, and the 4th Subdivision. UP currently owns the line known as the 3rd Subdivision.

February 13, 1998, that the required notice of its rail line acquisition was posted at the workplace of the employees on the affected lines on February 12, 1998. See 49 CFR 1150.42(e).

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. 33558, 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 Robert A. Wimbish, Esq., Rea, Cross & Auchincloss, 1707 L Street, N.W., Suite 570, Washington, DC 20036.

Decided: April 23, 1998.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-11361 Filed 4-29-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33578]

North American Railnet, Inc.; Continuance in Control Exemption; Camas Prairie Railnet, Inc.

North American Railnet, Inc. has filed a notice of exemption to continue in control of the Camas Prairie Railnet, Inc. (CSPR), upon CSPR's becoming a Class III railroad.

The transaction was scheduled to be consummated on or after April 17, 1998.

This transaction is related to STB Finance Docket No. 33558, *Camas Prairie Railnet, Inc.—Acquisition and Operation Exemption—Camas Prairie Railroad Company, Union Pacific Railroad Company, and The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway*, wherein CSPR seeks to acquire and operate a series of interconnected rail lines from the Camas Prairie Railroad Company, the Union Pacific Railroad Company, and The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company.

Applicant controls two existing Class III railroads: Nebraska, Kansas, & Colorado Railnet, Inc., operating in the States of Kansas, Nebraska, and Colorado; and Illinois RailNet, Inc., operating in the State of Illinois.

Applicant states that: (i) The rail lines to be operated by CSPR do not connect with any railroad in the corporate family; (ii) the transaction is not part of a series of anticipated transactions that would connect CSPR's lines with any railroad in the corporate family; and (iii) the transaction does not involve a Class I carrier. Therefore, the transaction is exempt from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 11323. See 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(2).

Under 49 U.S.C. 10502(g), the Board may not use its exemption authority to relieve a rail carrier of its statutory obligation to protect the interests of its employees. Section 11326(c), however, does not provide for labor protection for transactions under sections 11324 and 11325 that involve only Class III rail carriers. Because this transaction involves Class III rail carriers only, the Board, under the statute, may not impose labor protective conditions for this transaction.

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. 33578, 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 Robert A. Wimbish, Esq., Rea, Cross & Auchincloss, 1707 L, N.W., Suite 570, Washington, DC 20036.

Decided: April 23, 1998.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-11362 Filed 4-29-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Advisory Committee on Cemeteries and Memorials, Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice that a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Cemeteries and Memorials (Committee), authorized by 38 U.S.C. 2401, will be held Tuesday, June 23 and Wednesday, June 24, 1998, at the Handlery Hotel and Resort, 950 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, CA, 92108. This will be the committee's first meeting of the year 1998.

The purpose of the Committee is to review the administration of VA's

cemeteries and burial benefits program. On Tuesday, June 23, 1998, the meeting will convene at 2:00 p.m. (PDT) and adjourn at 7:00 p.m. (PDT). On Wednesday, June 24, 1998, the meeting will convene at 8:00 p.m. (PDT) and adjourn at 5:00 p.m. (PDT).

On Tuesday, June 23, there will be a business session at the Handlery Hotel and Resort in the Club Room. The Committee will then depart for Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery, Cabrillo Memorial Drive, in the town of Point Loma, San Diego, CA 92106, for a tour and an equipment show.

On the morning of June 24, the Committee will meet at the Handlery Hotel and Resort, in the Director Room, where they will receive presentations from Ex-Officio Committee members. In the afternoon, the Committee will attend a Best Practices Panel with cemetery directors, in the Crystal Room. After the Best Practices Panel, the Committee will meet, in the Director Room, for a business session and an update briefing on National Cemetery System activities.

The meeting will be open to the public. Those wishing to attend should contact Ms. Louise Ware, Special Assistant to the Director, National Cemetery System, (phone (202) 273-7577) no later than 12 noon (EST), June 15, 1998.

Any interested person may attend, appear before, or file a statement with the Committee. Individuals wishing to appear before the Committee should indicate this in a letter to the Acting Director, National Cemetery System (40) at 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420. In any such letters, the writers must fully identify themselves and state the organization, association or person they represent. In addition, to the extent practicable, letters should indicate the subject matter they want to discuss. Oral presentations should be limited to 10 minutes in duration. Those wishing to file written statements to be submitted to the Committee must also mail, or otherwise deliver, them to the Acting Director, National Cemetery System.

Letters and written statements as discussed above must be mailed or delivered in time to reach the Acting Director, National Cemetery System, by 12 noon (EST), June 15, 1998. Oral statements will be heard between 1:30 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. (PDT), June 24, 1998, at the Handlery Hotel.

Dated: April 23, 1998.

By Direction of the Acting Secretary.

Heyward Bannister,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 98-11467 Filed 4-29-98; 8:45 am]

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