

By the Board, Elaine K. Kaiser, Chief,
Section of Environmental Analysis.

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-18455 Filed 7-9-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33619]

Richard B. Webb and Susan K. Lundy—Continuance in Control Exemption—Stillwater Central Railroad, Inc.

Richard B. Webb and Susan K. Lundy (Applicants), have filed a verified notice of exemption to continue in control of Stillwater Central Railroad, Inc. (SCRR), upon SCRR becoming a Class III railroad.

The transaction was scheduled to be consummated on or shortly after June 19, 1998.

This transaction is related to two simultaneously filed verified notices of exemption: (1) STB Finance Docket No. 33620, *State of Oklahoma by and through the Oklahoma Department of Transportation—Acquisition Exemption—The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company*, wherein the State of Oklahoma by and through the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) seeks to acquire rail lines from The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF), and (2) STB Finance Docket No. 33621, *Stillwater Central Railroad, Inc.—Lease and Operation Exemption—Oklahoma Department of Transportation*, wherein SCRR seeks to lease and operate the lines being acquired by ODOT.

In addition to SCRR,¹ Applicants control two Class III rail carriers.: These carriers are South Kansas and Oklahoma Railroad Company, operating in the States of Kansas and Oklahoma, and the Palouse River & Coulee City Railroad, Inc., operating in the States of Washington and Idaho.²

Applicants state that: (i) the rail lines operated by SCRR 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 SCRR'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 verified 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. 33619, 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 Karl Morell, Esq., BALL JANIK, LLP, 1455 F Street, N.W., Suite 225, Washington, DC 20005.

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

Decided: July 1, 1998.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-31 (Sub-No. 35X)]

Grand Trunk Western Railroad Incorporated—Abandonment Exemption—in Macomb County, MI

Grand Trunk Western Railroad Incorporated (GTW) has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR, Part 1152 Subpart F—*Exempt Abandonments* to abandon a 19.08-mile line of its railroad on the Romeo Subdivision between Richmond and Washington from milepost 0.42 to milepost 19.50 in

Macomb County, MI. The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Codes 48062, 48005, 48065, 48094 and 48095.

GTW has certified that: (1) no local traffic has moved over the line for at least 2 years; (2) any overhead traffic that previously moved over the line can be rerouted over other GTW lines; (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 August 9, 1998, unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay that do not involve environmental issues,¹ formal expressions of intent to file an OFA under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2),² and trail use/rail banking requests under 49 CFR 1152.29 must be filed by July 20, 1998. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by July 30, 1998, with: Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20423.

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to applicant's representative: Robert P. vom Eigen,

¹ SCRR is a noncarrier corporation formed for the purpose of leasing the rail lines acquired by ODOT from BNSF and operating the 124.78 miles of rail line.

² On May 15, 1998, Applicants filed a petition for exemption seeking Board approval to indirectly control the Blue Mountain Railroad, Inc., and the Southeast Kansas Railroad Company in STB Finance Docket No. 33603, *Richard B. Webb and Susan K. Lundy—Control Exemption—Blue Mountain Railroad, Inc. and Southeast Kansas Railroad Company*. This proceeding is currently pending.

¹ 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.

² 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).

Esq., Hopkins & Sutter, 888 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20006.

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

GTW 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 July 15, 1998.

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), GTW 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 GTW's filing of a notice of consummation by July 10, 1999, and there are no legal or regulatory barriers to consummation, the authority to abandon will automatically expire.

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Decided: July 2, 1998.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-18456 Filed 7-9-98; 8:45 am]
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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Departmental Offices, Debt Management Advisory Committee; Meeting

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. App. 10(a)(2), that a meeting will be held at the U.S. Treasury Department, 15th and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C., on August 4, 1998, of the following debt management advisory committee: The Bond Market Association, Treasury Borrowing Advisory Committee.

The agenda for the meeting provides for a technical background briefing by Treasury staff, followed by a charge by the Secretary of the Treasury or his designate that the committee discuss

particular issues, and a working session. Following the working session, the committee will present a written report of its recommendations.

The background briefing by Treasury staff will be held at 9:30 a.m. Eastern time and will be open to the public. The remaining sessions and the committee's reporting session will be closed to the public, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. App. 10(d).

This notice shall constitute my determination, pursuant to the authority placed in heads of departments by 5 U.S.C. App. 10(d) and vested in me by Treasury Department Order No. 101-05, that the closed portions of the meeting are concerned with information that is exempt from disclosure under 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(9)(A). The public interest requires that such meetings be closed to the public because the Treasury Department requires frank and full advice from representatives of the financial community prior to making its final decision on major financing operations. Historically, this advice has been offered by debt management advisory committees established by the several major segments of the financial community. When so utilized, such a committee is recognized to be an advisory committee under 5 U.S.C. App. 3.

Although the Treasury's final announcement of financing plans may not reflect the recommendations provided in reports of the advisory committee, premature disclosure of the committee's deliberations and reports would be likely to lead to significant financial speculation in the securities market. Thus, these meetings fall within the exemption covered by 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(9)(A).

The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Financial Markets is responsible for maintaining records of debt management advisory committee meetings and for providing annual reports setting forth a summary of committee activities and such other matters as may be informative to the public consistent with the policy of 5 U.S.C. 552b.

Dated: July 6, 1998.

Gary Gensler,

Assistant Secretary (Financial Markets).

[FR Doc. 98-18390 Filed 7-9-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Form 8862

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the IRS is soliciting comments concerning Form 8862, Information To Claim Earned Income Credit After Disallowance.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before September 8, 1998 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Garrick R. Shear, Internal Revenue Service, room 5571, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the form and instructions should be directed to Martha R. Brinson, (202) 622-3869, Internal Revenue Service, room 5571, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Information To Claim Earned Income Credit After Disallowance.

OMB Number: To be assigned later.

Form Number: 8862.

Abstract: Section 32 of the Internal Revenue Code allows taxpayers to claim an earned income credit (EIC) for each of their qualifying children. Code section 32(k), as enacted by section 1085(a)(1) of the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997, disallows the EIC for a statutory period if the taxpayer improperly claimed it in a prior year. Form 8862 is used by taxpayers to reestablish their eligibility to claim the EIC.

Current Actions: This is a new collection of information.

Type of Review: New OMB approval.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,000,000

Estimated Time Per Respondent: 2 hr., 26 min.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 2,430,000

The following paragraph applies to all of the collections of information covered by this notice: