

financial resources and profess to possess management skills that will permit the operations by the acquired carriers to grow.

Applicants certify that: (1) the motor passenger carriers controlled by the applicants and Red Apple, Hoboken, and Willow hold satisfactory safety ratings from the U.S. Department of Transportation; (2) the carriers have the requisite liability insurance; (3) no carrier is domiciled in Mexico or owned or controlled by persons of that country; and (4) approval of the transaction will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

Under 49 U.S.C. 14303(b), we must approve and authorize a transaction we find consistent with the public interest, taking into consideration at least: (1) the effect of the transaction on the adequacy of transportation to the public; (2) the total fixed charges that result; and (3) the interest of affected carrier employees.

On the basis of the application, we find that the proposed acquisition is consistent with the public interest and should be authorized. If any opposing comments are timely filed, this finding will be deemed vacated and, unless a final decision can be made on the record as developed, a procedural schedule will be adopted to reconsider the application.¹⁰ If no opposing comments are filed by the expiration of the comment period, this decision will take effect automatically and will be the final Board action.

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

This decision will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

It is ordered:

1. The proposed acquisition is approved and authorized, subject to the filing of opposing comments.

2. If timely opposing comments are filed, the findings made in this decision will be deemed to be vacated.

3. This decision will be effective on August 16, 1999, unless timely opposing comments are filed.

4. A copy of this notice will be served on: (1) the U.S. Department of Justice, Antitrust Division, 10th Street & Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20530; and (2) the U.S. Department of Transportation, Office of Motor Carriers-HIA 30, 400 Virginia Avenue, SW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20024.

Decided: June 28, 1999.

By the Board.

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-16896 Filed 7-1-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-32 (Sub-No. 87X)]

Boston and Maine Corporation— Abandonment Exemption—in Rockingham and Hillsborough Counties, NH

Boston and Maine Corporation (B&M) has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F—*Exempt Abandonments and Discontinuances* to abandon an approximately 5.78-mile line of railroad on the Manchester to Lawrence Branch between engineering station 2474+75 and engineering station 2780+36 in Rockingham and Hillsborough Counties, NH. The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Codes 03101, 03103 and 03053.

B&M has certified that: (1) no local traffic has moved over the line for at least 2 years; (2) any overhead traffic has been rerouted over other 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 1, 1999, 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 12, 1999. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by July 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: Robert B. Culliford, Esq., Boston and Maine Corporation, Law Department, Iron Horse Park, North Billerica, MA 01862.

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

B&M 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 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), B&M 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 B&M's filing of a notice of consummation by July 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: June 25, 1999.

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).

¹⁰ Under 49 CFR 1182.6(c), a procedural schedule will not be issued if we are able to dispose of opposition to the application on the basis of comments and the reply.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-16792 Filed 7-1-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Fiscal Service

Renegotiation Board Interest Rate; Prompt Payment Interest Rate; Contract Disputes Act

AGENCY: Bureau of the Public Debt,
Fiscal Service, Treasury.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: For the period beginning July 1, 1999 and ending on December 31, 1999 the prompt payment interest rate is 6.50 per centum per annum.

ADDRESSES: Comments or inquiries may be mailed to Eleanor Farrar, Team Leader, Debt Accounting Branch, Office of Public Debt Accounting, Bureau of

the Public Debt, Parkersburg, West Virginia, 26106-1328. A copy of this Notice will be available to download from the <http://www.publicdebt.treas.gov>.

DATES: This notice announces the applicable interest rate for the July 1, 1999 to December 31, 1999 period.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Stephanie Brown, Debt Accounting Branch Manager, Office of Public Debt Accounting, Bureau of the Public Debt, Parkersburg, West Virginia, 26106-1328, (304) 480-5181, Eleanor Farrar, Team Leader, Debt Accounting Branch, Office of Public Debt Accounting, Bureau of the Public Debt, (304) 480-5166, Edward C. Gronseth, Deputy Chief Counsel, Office of the Chief Counsel, Bureau of the Public Debt, (304) 480-3692, or Kavita Kalsy, Attorney-Adviser, Office of the Chief Counsel, Bureau of the Public Debt, (304) 480-3682.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Although the Renegotiation Board is no longer in existence, other Federal Agencies are

required to use interest rates computed under the criteria established by the Renegotiation Act of 1971 Sec. 2, Pub.L. 92-41, 85 Stat. 97. For example, the Contract Disputes Act of 1978 Sec. 12, Pub.L. 95-563, 92 Stat. 2389 and the Prompt Payment Act of 1982 Sec. 2, Pub.L. 97-177, 96 Stat. 85 provide for the calculation of interest due on claims at a rate established by the Secretary of the Treasury pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3902(a).

Therefore, notice is given that, the Secretary of the Treasury has determined that the rate of interest applicable, for the period beginning July 1, 1999 and ending on December 31, 1999, is 6.50 per centum per annum. This rate is determined pursuant to the above mentioned sections for the purpose of said sections.

Dated: June 29, 1999.

Donald V. Hammond,

Fiscal Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-16962 Filed 6-29-99; 4:45 pm]

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