

country as a beneficiary country under this Act if the President determines that such designation will be in the national economic or security interest of the United States and reports such determination to the Congress with his reasons therefor.

Section 212(c) of the CBERA provides that the President, in determining whether to designate any country a CBERA beneficiary country, shall take into account—

(1) An expression by such country of its desire to be so designated;

(2) The economic conditions in such country, the living standards of its inhabitants, and any other economic factors which he deems appropriate;

(3) The extent to which such country has assured the United States it will provide equitable and reasonable access to the markets and basic commodity resources of such country;

(4) The degree to which such country follows the accepted rules of international trade provided for under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, as well as applicable trade agreements approved under section 2(a) of the Trade Agreements Act of 1979;

(5) The degree to which such country uses export subsidies or imposes export performance requirements or local content requirements which distort international trade;

(6) The degree to which the trade policies of such country as they relate to other beneficiary countries are contributing to the revitalization of the region;

(7) The degree to which such country is undertaking self-help measures to promote its own economic development;

(8) Whether or not such country has taken or is taking steps to afford to workers in that country (including any designated zone in that country) internationally recognized worker rights.

(9) The extent to which such country provides under its law adequate and effective means for foreign nationals to secure, exercise, and enforce exclusive rights in intellectual property, including patent, trademark, and copyright rights;

(10) The extent to which such country prohibits its nationals from engaging in the broadcast of copyrighted material, including films or television material, belonging to United States copyright owners without their express consent; and

(11) The extent to which such country is prepared to cooperate with the United States in the administration of the provisions of this title.

Interested parties are invited to submit comments on the application to

Suriname of some or all of these criteria for designation.

Public Comments

Interested parties must provide twelve copies of any comments, which must be in English and which must be received at USTR no later than 5 p.m., Thursday, October 30, 1997. If the comments contain business confidential information, ten copies of a non-confidential version must also be submitted. A justification as to why the information contained in the comments should be treated confidentially must be included in the comments. In addition, comments containing confidential information should be clearly marked "confidential" at the top of each page. The version that does not contain confidential information should be clearly marked "public version" or "non-confidential" at the top of each page.

Comments submitted in response to this notice, except for information granted "business confidential" status pursuant to 15 CFR 2007.7, will be available for public inspection shortly after the filing deadline, by appointment with the staff of the USTR Public Reading Room (202 395-6186).

Frederick L. Montgomery,

Chairman, Trade Policy Staff Committee.

[FR Doc. 97-26783 Filed 10-8-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3190-01-M

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Notice of Meeting of the Trade and Environment Policy Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice that the October 21, 1997, meeting of the Trade and Environment Policy Advisory Committee will be held from 2:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. The meeting will be closed to the public from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The meeting will be open to the public from 5:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

SUMMARY: The Trade and Environment Policy Advisory Committee will hold a meeting on October 21, 1997, from 2:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. The meeting will be closed to the public from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The meeting will include a review and discussion of current issues affecting U.S. trade policy. Pursuant to Section 2155(f)(2) of Title 19 of the United States Code, I have determined that this portion of the meeting will be concerned with matters the disclosure of which would seriously compromise

the development by the United States Government of Trade policy, priorities, negotiating objectives or bargaining positions with respect to the operation of any trade agreement and other matters arising in connection with the development, implementation and administration of the trade policy of the United States. Those wishing to submit written comments on the meeting may submit them to Bill Daley, Jr., Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, 600 Seventeenth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20508.

DATES: The meeting is scheduled for October 21, 1997, unless otherwise notified.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Jefferson Hotel, 16th and M Streets, Washington, D.C., unless otherwise notified.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bill Daley, Jr., Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and Public Liaison, Office of the United States Trade Representative, (202) 395-6120.

Charlene Barshefsky,

United States Trade Representative.

[FR Doc. 97-26847 Filed 10-8-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3190-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33470]

Central Kansas Railway, L.L.C.—Lease Exemption—Union Pacific Railroad Company

Central Kansas Railway, L.L.C. (CKR), a Class III rail common carrier, has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.41 to lease from Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) and operate two rail lines totaling approximately 170.7 miles: (1) Between milepost 747.5, at Towner, CO, and milepost 491.20, at Bridgeport, KS; and

(2) Between milepost 530.6, at Lindsborg, KS, and milepost 545.0, at Sid, KS.

In conjunction with the lease of these lines, CKR will acquire incidental overhead trackage rights over UP's 6.30-mile rail line between milepost 545.0, at Sid, KS, and milepost 551.30, at Salina, KS.

The transaction is expected to be consummated on or after October 3, 1997.

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 does not automatically stay the transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 33470, 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.

Decided: October 1, 1997.

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

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-26837 Filed 10-8-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33465]

CSX Transportation, Inc.—Trackage Rights Exemption—East Tennessee Railway, L.P.

East Tennessee Railway, L.P. (ETRY), has agreed to grant overhead trackage rights to CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT), over main line trackage of ETRY between turnouts to be constructed at a point approximately 39 feet west of derail located on ETRY's #2 track and a point approximately 80 feet west of the west line of Buffalo Street in Johnson City, TN, a total distance of approximately 1,900 feet, exclusive of turnouts.¹ The transaction is expected to be consummated after completion of the construction of two connection tracks between CSXT and ETRY, but not earlier than October 2, 1997, the effective date of the exemption.

The purpose of the proposed trackage rights is to allow CSXT to rationalize approximately 1,900 feet of its trackage through Cherry Street in downtown Johnson City, TN, which is a high maintenance and high risk area in the City.

As a condition to this exemption, any employees affected by the trackage rights will be protected by the conditions imposed in *Norfolk and Western Ry. Co.—Trackage Rights—BN*, 354 I.C.C. 605 (1978), as modified in *Mendocino Coast Ry., Inc.—Lease and Operate*, 360 I.C.C. 653 (1980).

This notice is filed under 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(7). 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. 33465, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001 and served on: Charles M. Rosenberger, Senior Counsel, CSX Transportation, Inc., 500 Water Street, J-150, Jacksonville, FL 32202.

Decided: October 2, 1997.

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

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-26836 Filed 10-8-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33388 (Sub=No. 2)]¹¹

CSX Transportation, Inc.—Construction and Operation Exemption—Connection Track at Willow Creek, IN

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board (Board).

ACTION: Notice of exemptions.

SUMMARY: The Board, under 49 U.S.C. 10502, conditionally exempts from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 10901 the construction by CSX Transportation, Inc., (CSX), Norfolk and Western Railway Company (NW), and Consolidated Rail Corporation (Conrail) of six connection track projects at Sidney, IL, Willow Creek and Alexandria, IN, and Greenwich, Sidney Junction, and Bucyrus, OH, subject to

¹ This proceeding also embraces the following: STB Finance Docket No. 33388 (Sub-No. 3), *CSX Transportation, Inc.—Construction and Operation Exemption—Connection Tracks at Greenwich, OH*; STB Finance Docket No. 33388 (Sub-No. 4), *CSX Transportation, Inc.—Construction and Operation Exemption—Connection Track at Sidney Junction, OH*; STB Finance Docket No. 33388 (Sub-No. 5), *Norfolk and Western Railway Company—Construction and Operation Exemption—Connecting Track with Union Pacific Railroad Company at Sidney, IL*; STB Finance Docket No. 33388 (Sub-No. 6), *Norfolk and Western Railway Company—Construction and Operation Exemption—Connecting Track with Consolidated Rail Corporation at Alexandria, IN*; and STB Finance Docket No. 33388 (Sub-No. 7), *Norfolk and Western Railway Company—Construction and Operation Exemption—Connecting Track with Consolidated Rail Corporation at Bucyrus, OH*.

the results of the Board's environmental review and further decision.²

DATES: The exemptions cannot become effective until after the environmental process has been completed. At that time, the Board will issue a further decision or decisions addressing the environmental matters and establishing exemption effective dates, if appropriate. Petitions to reopen must be filed by October 29, 1997.

ADDRESSES: An original and 25 copies of all documents must be sent to the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001 ATTN: STB Finance Docket No. 33388 (Sub-Nos. 2-7). In addition, one copy of all documents in this proceeding must be sent to Administrative Law Judge Jacob Leventhal, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Suite 11F, Washington, DC 20426 [(202) 219-2538; FAX: (202) 219-3289] and to petitioners' representatives: Charles M. Rosenberger, 500 Water Street-J150, Jacksonville, FL 32202; James R. Paschall, Norfolk Southern Corporation, Three Commercial Place, Norfolk, VA 23510-2191; and John J. Paylor, 2001 Market Street-16A, Philadelphia, PA 19101.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Julia M. Farr, (202) 565-1613. [TDD for the hearing impaired: (202) 565-1695.]

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Additional information is contained in the Board's decision. To purchase a copy of the full decision, write to, call, or pick up in person from: DC News & Data, Inc., 1925 K Street, N.W., Suite 210, Washington, DC 20006. Telephone (202) 289-4357.

Decided: October 1, 1997.

By the Board, Chairman Morgan and Vice Chairman Owen.

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-26838 Filed 10-8-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

² These proceedings are related to STB Finance Docket No. 33388, *CSX Corporation and CSX Transportation, Inc., Norfolk Southern Corporation and Norfolk Southern Railway Company—Control and Operating Leases/Agreements—Conrail Inc. and Consolidated Rail Corporation (CSX/NS/CR)*. In *CSX/NS/CR*, Decision No. 9, served June 12, 1997, we granted petitions for waiver that would allow CSX, NW, and Conrail to seek approval for construction of seven connection projects, including the connections proposed here, following the completion of our environmental review of the construction projects, and our issuance of further decisions exempting or approving the proposals, but prior to our approval of the primary application.

¹ CSXT is acquiring overhead trackage rights only and will not be allowed to perform any local freight service of any kind to ETRY's patrons at any point located on the joint trackage.