

proposed action and the EIS/4(f) evaluation should be directed to the Colorado Department of Transportation at the address provided above.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation on Federal programs and activities apply to this program)

Issued on: December 22, 1997.

Ronald A. Speral,

*Environmental/ROW Program Manager,
Colorado Division, Federal Highway
Administration, Lakewood, Colorado.*

Louis F. Mraz Jr.,

*Regional Administrator, Federal Transit
Administration, Region VIII, Denver,
Colorado.*

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 32940 (Sub-No. 1)]

**Buffalo & Pittsburgh Railroad, Inc.;
Trackage Rights Exemption—Pittsburg
& Shawmut Railroad, Inc.**

Pittsburg & Shawmut Railroad, Inc. (PSR), a Class III rail carrier, has agreed to grant overhead trackage rights to Buffalo & Pittsburgh Railroad, Inc. (BPRR), a Class II rail carrier, over approximately 7.4 miles of rail line in the State of Pennsylvania on PSR's Laurel Subdivision between milepost 60.0, near Falls Creek, and milepost 67.0, near East Dubois, together with approximately 2,200 feet of connecting track between PSR's Laurel Subdivision and BPRR's Wharton Subdivision (at approximately mileposts 3.3 and 3.4) (collectively, the subject lines).¹

The purpose of the trackage rights is to allow BPRR to shift traffic from a portion of its Wharton subdivision that is in need of rehabilitation to the subject lines that are in better condition, and to allow BPRR to continue to serve its local customers in a safe and more efficient manner.

As a condition to this exemption, any employees affected by the trackage rights will be protected as required by 49 U.S.C. 11326(b), subject to the procedural interpretations of the analogous statutory provisions at 49 U.S.C. 10902 contained in the Board's

¹ The trackage rights agreement filed in STB Finance Docket No. 32940 (Sub-No. 1) will amend the trackage rights agreement between the parties, dated May 2, 1996, to include these additional rights.

decision in *Wisconsin Central Ltd.—Acquisition Exemption—Lines of Union Pacific Railroad Company*, STB Finance Docket No. 33116 (STB served Apr. 17, 1997) (*WCL Exemption*).

The transaction is scheduled to be consummated on or after December 22, 1997.²

This notice is filed under 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(7). If it 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. 32940 (Sub-No. 1) 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 Eric M. Hockey, Esq., Gollatz, Griffin & Ewing, P.C., 213 W. Miner Street, P.O. Box 796, West Chester PA 19381-0796.

Decided: December 22, 1997.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-34021 Filed 12-30-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-312 (Sub-No. 2X)]

**South Carolina Central Railroad
Company, Inc., d/b/a Carolina
Piedmont Division—Abandonment
Exemption—in Greenville County, SC**

On December 12, 1997, South Carolina Central Railroad Company, Inc., d/b/a Carolina Piedmont Division (CPDR), filed with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) a petition under 49 U.S.C. 10502 for exemption from the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 10903 to abandon two segments of a line of railroad extending from: (1) railroad milepost AJK 585.34, in East Greenville, SC, to railroad milepost AJK 588.63 in Greenville, SC; and (2) railroad milepost 0.0 to railroad milepost 2.0 in Greenville, a total distance of 5.29 miles, in Greenville County, SC. The

² The notice to employees discussed in *WCL Exemption* and recently adopted as a requirement for certain transactions in *Acquisition of Rail Lines Under 49 U.S.C. 10901 and 10902—Advance Notice of Proposed Transactions*, STB Ex Parte No. 562 (STB served Sept. 9, 1997), does not apply to exempt trackage rights transactions.

line traverses U.S. Postal Service Zip Codes 29602 and 29607. CPDR has indicated that there are no stations on the line.

The line does not contain federally granted rights-of-way. Any documentation in CPDR's possession will be made available promptly to those requesting it.

The interest of railroad employees will be protected by the conditions set forth in *Oregon Short Line R. Co.—Abandonment—Goshen*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979).

By issuance of this notice, the Board is instituting an exemption proceeding pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10502(b). A final decision will be issued by April 1, 1998.

Any offer of financial assistance (OFA) under 49 CFR 1152.27(b)(2) will be due no later than 10 days after service of a decision granting the petition for exemption. Each OFA must be accompanied by a \$900 filing fee. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

All interested persons should be aware that, following abandonment of rail service and salvage of the line, the line may be suitable for other public use, including interim trail use. Any request for a public use condition under 49 CFR 1152.28 or for trail use/rail banking under 49 CFR 1152.29 will be due no later than January 20, 1998. Each trail use request must be accompanied by a \$150 filing fee. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(27).

All filings in response to this notice must refer to STB Docket No. AB-312 (Sub-No. 2X) and must be sent to: (1) Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001; and (2) Karl Morell, Ball Janik LLP, 1455 F Street, N.W., Suite 225, Washington, DC 20005.

Persons seeking further information concerning abandonment procedures may contact the Board's Office of Public Services at (202) 565-1592 or refer to the full abandonment or discontinuance regulations at 49 CFR part 1152. Questions concerning environmental issues may be directed to the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) at (202) 565-1545. [TDD for the hearing impaired is available at (202) 565-1695.]

An environmental assessment (EA) (or environmental impact statement (EIS), if necessary) prepared by SEA will be served upon all parties of record and upon any agencies or other persons who commented during its preparation.

Other interested persons may contact SEA to obtain a copy of the EA (or EIS). EAs in these abandonment proceedings normally will be made available within 60 days of the filing of the petition. The