

Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590; 202-366-6823.

Any member of the public may present a written statement to the Advisory Board at any time.

Issued at Washington, DC on February 9, 1999.

Marc C. Owen,

Advisory Board Liaison.

[FR Doc. 99-3604 Filed 2-12-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-61-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33708]

The Blacklands Railroad Company— Operation Exemption—Lines of Northeast Texas Rural Rail Transportation District

The Blacklands Railroad Company (BLRR), a noncarrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.31 to acquire from East Texas Central Railroad its rights under an agreement with Northeast Texas Rural Rail Transportation District (NETEX)¹ to operate over approximately 38 miles of rail line in the State of Texas as follows: (1) approximately 31 miles of rail line owned by NETEX, beginning at milepost 524.0, located approximately 6.2 miles west of Sulphur Springs, and proceeding west through Hopkins and Delta Counties to milepost 555.0, at Simtrott, in Hunt County; and (2) approximately 7 miles of rail line owned by the St. Louis Southwestern Railway Company, between milepost 524.0 and milepost 517.0, pursuant to trackage rights acquired by NETEX for the purpose of interchanging and switching at Sulphur Springs (subject lines).²

The transaction is scheduled to be consummated on or after the February 9, 1999 effective date of the exemption.

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. 33708, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925

K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on Jo A. DeRoche, Esq., Weiner, Brodsky, Sidman & Kider, P.C., 1350 New York Avenue, NW., Suite 800, Washington, DC 20005-4797.

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

Decided: February 9, 1999.

By the Board, Joseph H. Dettmar, Acting Director, Office of Proceedings.

Vernon A. Williams

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-3648 Filed 2-12-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33714]

Fredonia Valley Railroad, Inc.— Acquisition and Operation Exemption—Paducah & Louisville Railway, Inc.

Fredonia Valley Railroad, Inc., a Class III rail carrier, has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.41 to acquire by lease from Paducah & Louisville Railway, Inc. and operate approximately 1.88 miles of rail line located between milepost 97.25 (Survey Station 4577+00) and Survey Station 4676+28, at Good Street, in Princeton, Caldwell County, KY.

The transaction is expected to be consummated on March 1, 1999.

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. 33714, 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 Fritz R. Kahn, Esq., 1100 New York Avenue, N.W., Suite 750 West, Washington, DC 20005-3934.

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

Decided: February 9, 1999.

By the Board, Joseph H. Dettmar, Acting Director, Office of Proceedings.

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-3646 Filed 2-12-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-558X]

Doniphan, Kensett and Searcy Railway—Abandonment Exemption— in Searcy, White County, AR

On January 27, 1999, Doniphan, Kensett and Searcy Railway (DK&S) 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. 10903-05¹ to abandon a portion of its line of railroad known as the DK&S Branch extending from milepost 299.12 to the end of the line at milepost 300.40, in Searcy, a distance of 1.28 miles in White County, AR. The line traverses U.S. Postal Service Zip Codes 72143, 72144 and 72145 and includes the non-agency rail station at milepost 300.40 in Searcy.

The line does not contain federally granted rights-of-way. Any documentation in DK&S'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 May 17, 1999.

Unless an exemption is granted, as sought, from the OFA provisions of 49 U.S.C. 10904, any 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 \$1,000 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. Unless an exemption is granted, as sought, from the public use provisions of 49 U.S.C. 10905, any request for a public use condition under 49 CFR 1152.28 or for

¹ See *East Texas Central Railroad, Inc.—Operation Exemption—Northeast Texas Rural Rail Transportation District*, STB Finance Docket No. 32841 (Sub-No. 1) (STB served Sept. 27, 1996).

² BLRR will operate the subject lines.

¹ DK&S seeks exemptions from the offer of financial assistance (OFA) provisions of 49 U.S.C. 10904 and the public use provisions of 49 U.S.C. 10905. These exemption requests will be addressed in the final decision.