

4. U.S. note 11(d)(i) to such subchapter III is modified by inserting in alphabetical sequence, in the enumeration of developing countries that are members of the World Trade Organization and that are excluded from the import relief set forth in subchapter III, "Macedonia,".

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 396X)]

The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company—Abandonment Exemption—in Franklin County, KS

The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF) has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 subpart F—*Exempt Abandonments* to abandon and discontinue service over a 0.21-mile line of railroad between milepost 58.05 and milepost 58.26 in Ottawa, Franklin County, KS. The line traverses United States Postal Service zip code 66067.

BNSF has certified that: (1) No local traffic has moved over the line for at least 2 years; (2) there is no overhead traffic on the line; (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 December 14, 2002, 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 November 25, 2002. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by December 4, 2002, with: Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423.

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to BNSF's representative: Michael Smith, Freeborn & Peters, 311 S. Wacker Dr., Suite 3000, Chicago, IL 60606-6677.

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

BNSF has filed an environmental report which addresses the abandonment's effects, if any, on the environment and historic resources. SEA will issue an environmental assessment (EA) by November 19, 2002. 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) 565-1552. (Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.) 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), BNSF shall file a notice of consummation with the Board to signify that it has exercised the authority granted and fully abandoned its line. If consummation has not been effected by BNSF's filing of a notice of consummation by November 14, 2003, 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 Web site at "<http://www.stb.dot.gov>."

Decided: November 5, 2002.

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 (SEA) 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 OFA must be accompanied by the filing fee, which currently is set at \$1,100. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

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-844X]

Santa Maria Valley Railroad Company—Abandonment Exemption—in Santa Barbara County, CA

Santa Maria Valley Railroad Company (SMVRR) has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F—*Exempt Abandonments* to abandon a 4.87-mile line of railroad between milepost 9.75 at College Drive and milepost 14.62 at Gates Station, in the city of Santa Maria, in Santa Barbara County, CA. The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Code 93454.

SMVRR has certified that: (1) No local traffic has moved over the line for at least 2 years; (2) there has been no overhead traffic on the line during the past 2 years and any overhead traffic could be 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 December 14, 2002, 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 November 25, 2002. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by December 4, 2002, with: Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423.

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to SMVRR's representative: R. Curtis Ballantyne, Hill, Farrer & Burrill LLP, One California Plaza, 37th Floor, 300 South Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90071.

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

SMVRR has filed an environmental report which addresses the abandonment's effects, if any, on the environment and historic resources. SEA will issue an environmental assessment (EA) by November 19, 2002. 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) 565-1552. [Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.] 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), SMVRR shall file a notice of consummation with the Board to signify that it has exercised the authority granted and fully abandoned its line. If consummation has not been effected by SMVRR's filing of a notice of consummation by November 14, 2003, 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 Web site at "<http://www.stb.dot.gov>."

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 (SEA) 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 OFA must be accompanied by the filing fee, which currently is set at \$1,100. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

Decided: November 5, 2002.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 02-28804 Filed 11-13-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Administrative Matter No. 3]

Implementation of the Regulatory Flexibility Act—STB Issuance No. 52

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board, Transportation.

ACTION: Amendment of internal procedures.

SUMMARY: The Surface Transportation Board (STB) is revising its internal procedures for implementing the Regulatory Flexibility Act, which requires agencies to consider the effects of their rules on small entities.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The STB's revised internal procedures are effective on November 14, 2002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joseph H. Dettmar, (202) 565-1600. (Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) for the hearing impaired: 1-800-877-8339.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), 5 U.S.C. 601, *et seq.*, requires federal government agencies, including the STB, to consider the effects of their regulations on "small entities." Under the RFA, small entities are defined as small businesses, small not-for-profit enterprises, and small governmental jurisdictions. The RFA requires that agencies: (1) Publish lists of rules that have, or are likely to have in the future, a significant economic impact on small entities; (2) adopt procedures for furthering the participation of small entities in the rulemaking process; (3) on a rulemaking-by-rulemaking basis, determine the extent to which each rulemaking will affect small entities; (4) for rules that are expected to have a significant adverse effect on small entities, describe the steps taken to minimize the adverse effect in a manner that is consistent with the stated objectives of applicable statutes; and (5) provide for review of rules for small-entity impact every 10 years.

On October 9, 1981, our predecessor agency, the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC or Commission), adopted internal procedures to implement the RFA, in Commission

Issuance No. 52, *Implementation of the Regulatory Flexibility Act*, and published these procedures in the **Federal Register** at 46 FR 50158.¹ This issuance needs to be updated to reflect the STB's assumption of statutory functions of the ICC, intervening changes in the STB's internal organization and procedures, and experience under the RFA. Accordingly, we are revising STB Issuance No. 52 as set forth in the Appendix to this notice. Because our revision governs the internal operations and procedures of the STB, it is being issued in final form, and public comments are not being sought. This issuance is intended solely to provide for the internal processing of issues arising under the RFA, not to resolve substantive issues involving the interpretation and application of that statute.

Decided: November 7, 2002.

By the Board, Chairman Morgan and Vice Chairman Burkes.

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

Appendix

52. Implementation of the Regulatory Flexibility Act

A. Purpose.—This issuance sets forth how the Surface Transportation Board (Board) implements the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) in its formulation of agency policies and regulations.

B. Background.—The RFA was first enacted by Congress on September 19, 1980, Public Law 96-354 (94 Stat. 1164), and later amended on March 29, 1996, Public Law 104-121 (110 Stat. 847). The RFA directs that agencies endeavor to fit their regulatory and informational requirements to the scale of the businesses, organizations, and governmental jurisdictions subject to those requirements. Towards that end, the RFA requires agencies, when appropriate, to solicit and consider flexible regulatory proposals and to explain the rationale for their actions to assure that such proposals are given serious consideration.

C. Policy.—The Board and its predecessor agency, the Interstate Commerce Commission, have taken many steps to reduce the regulatory burden on small business entities. Under the RFA, the scope of the agency's analysis of economic impacts of proposed rulemakings encompasses not only small carriers, but also small communities and municipalities, shippers, receivers and others.

D. Regulatory Flexibility Officer.—The Director of the Office of Proceedings is designated Regulatory Flexibility Officer.

E. Definitions.—"Small entity" shall have the same meaning as the terms "small business", "small organization" and "small governmental jurisdiction," as defined below:

¹ Commission issuances became applicable to the STB upon its creation.