

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Michael Hokana, U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, MAR-830 Room 7201, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Telephone 202-366-0760.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: As described by the applicant the intended service of the vessel LEID BACK is:

Intended Use: "Private chartered catamaran sailing with an inter-island service in the "Leeward Oahu" geographic area of Hawaii."

Geographic Region: "Coastwise trade in Hawaii."

Dated: May 29, 2003.

By order of the Maritime Administrator.

Joel C. Richard,

Secretary, Maritime Administration.

[FR Doc. 03-13953 Filed 6-3-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-81-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Maritime Administration**

[Docket Number: MARAD 2003-15290]

Requested Administrative Waiver of the Coastwise Trade Laws

AGENCY: Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Invitation for public comments on a requested administrative waiver of the Coastwise Trade Laws for the vessel SECOND WIND.

SUMMARY: As authorized by Pub. L. 105-383 and Pub. L. 107-295, the Secretary of Transportation, as represented by the Maritime Administration (MARAD), is authorized to grant waivers of the U.S.-build requirement of the coastwise laws under certain circumstances. A request for such a waiver has been received by MARAD. The vessel, and a brief description of the proposed service, is listed below. The complete application is given in DOT docket 2003-15290 at <http://dms.dot.gov>. Interested parties may comment on the effect this action may have on U.S. vessel builders or businesses in the U.S. that use U.S.-flag vessels. If MARAD determines, in accordance with Pub. L. 105-383 and MARAD's regulations at 46 CFR part 388 (68 FR 23084; April 30, 2003), that the issuance of the waiver will have an unduly adverse effect on a U.S.-vessel builder or a business that uses U.S.-flag vessels in that business, a waiver will not be granted. Comments should refer to the docket number of this notice and the vessel name in order for MARAD to properly consider the comments. Comments should also state the commenter's interest in the waiver

application, and address the waiver criteria given in § 388.4 of MARAD's regulations at 46 CFR part 388.

DATES: Submit comments on or before July 7, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Comments should refer to docket number MARAD-2003-15290. Written comments may be submitted by hand or by mail to the Docket Clerk, U.S. DOT Dockets, Room PL-401, Department of Transportation, 400 7th St., SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001. You may also send comments electronically via the Internet at <http://dmses.dot.gov/submit/>. All comments will become part of this docket and will be available for inspection and copying at the above address between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., E.T., Monday through Friday, except federal holidays. An electronic version of this document and all documents entered into this docket is available on the World Wide Web at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Michael Hokana, U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, MAR-830 Room 7201, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Telephone 202-366-0760.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: As described by the applicant the intended service of the vessel SECOND WIND is:

Intended Use: "Charter & day trips."

Geographic Region: "Florida."

Dated: May 29, 2003.

By order of the Maritime Administrator.

Joel C. Richard,

Secretary, Maritime Administration.

[FR Doc. 03-13952 Filed 6-3-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Surface Transportation Board**

[STB Docket No. MC-F-20999]

National Express Corporation—Intra-Corporate Family Transaction Exemption

National Express Corporation (NEC), a noncarrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under the Board's class exemption procedures at 49 CFR 1182.9.¹ The exempt transaction involves the corporate restructuring of NEC's student transportation division,

¹The Board exempted intra-corporate family transactions of motor carriers of passengers that do not result in significant operational changes, adverse changes in service levels, or a change in the competitive balance with carriers outside the corporate family in *Class Exemption for Motor Passenger Intra-Corporate Family Transactions*, STB Finance Docket No. 33685 (STB served Feb. 18, 2000).

which, in addition to providing exempt school bus services, also provides charter passenger carrier services to the public.²

Under the transaction, NEC, a Delaware corporation merged certain directly and indirectly controlled subsidiaries into a single Delaware limited partnership, Durham School Services, L.P. (DSSLP), a motor passenger carrier. As part of the reorganization, Durham Transportation, Inc., a California corporation (DTI CA) was re-incorporated as Durham Transportation, Inc., a Delaware corporation (DTI DE), through the incorporation of DTI DE in Delaware and the merger of DTI CA into DTI DE. NEC assigned shares of DTI DE to Durham Holding I, L.L.C. (Durham Holding I), a noncarrier and a limited partner of DSSLP, in exchange for the sole membership interest in Durham Holding I, and it assigned the remaining shares of DTI DE to Durham Holding II, L.L.C. (Durham Holding II), a noncarrier and the general manager of DSSLP, in exchange for the sole membership interest in Durham Holding II. DTI DE was converted into Durham School Services, L.P. (DSSLP), a Delaware limited partnership with Durham Holding I and Durham II as its limited and general partner, respectively. NEC merged its second-tier subsidiaries, Winkels Transportation Co., School Services and Leasing of Massachusetts, Inc., and Student Bus Services, Inc., into its first tier subsidiaries, Crabtree-Harmon Corporation, Robinson Bus Services, Inc., Educo Transit Company, Kenneth E. Bauman Bus, Inc., School Services and Leasing, Inc., Helweg & Farmer Transportation Co., Inc., and Stock Transportation L.L.C. All of the outstanding shares of the first tier operating subsidiaries were contributed to Newco, a newly formed Delaware corporation. The first-tier operating subsidiaries were merged into Newco and Newco was merged into DSSLP. NEC retains ultimate ownership and control of DSSLP because DSSLP is the sole member of Durham Holding I and Durham Holding II.

The transaction was consummated on or about December 31, 2002.³

²The Board previously exempted the acquisition of control of five motor passenger carriers by National Express Group plc, NEC's parent, and NEC in *National Express Group plc, et al.—Control Exemption—School Services and Leasing, Inc., et al.*, STB Docket No. MC-F-20968 (STB served Aug. 28, 2000).

³NEC states that it completed the transaction without the benefit of transportation counsel. Upon learning that the transaction is subject to the Board's jurisdiction, NEC consulted with and

Continued

According to NEC, the transaction will provide for certain financial, operational and other efficiencies. As a result of the reorganization, NEC states that it will be able to maximize the value of each of the business segments, position the business segments for strategic alliances and/or growth, and protect intellectual property assets. NEC also states that the reorganization will simplify accounting and accountability for revenue, expenses, and profits of the operations.

This is a transaction within a corporate family of the type specifically exempted from prior review and approval under 49 CFR 1182.9. NEC states that the transaction will not result in adverse changes in service levels, significant operational changes, or a change in the competitive balance with carriers outside the corporate family. NEC also states that, because it directly or indirectly holds all of the stock of the affected entities, no agreement or contract was entered into, except for the corporate documentation and filings required to implement the reorganization. NEC further states that there will be no effect upon employees because all of them will be retained.

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the Board shall summarily revoke the exemption and require divestiture. Petitions to revoke the exemption under 49 U.S.C. 13541(d) may be filed at any time. *See* 49 CFR 1182.9(c).

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Docket No. MC-F-20999, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on Thomas W. Wilcox, Thompson Hine LLP, 1920 N Street, NW., Suite 800, Washington, DC 20036.

Board decisions and notices are available on our Web site at www.stb.dot.gov.

Decided: May 23, 2003.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

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retained counsel and then filed this notice of exemption.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 404X)]

The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company—Abandonment Exemption—in Webster County, NE

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 an approximately 9.28-mile line of railroad between BNSF milepost 87.02, near Blue Hill, and milepost 96.30, near Bladen, in Webster County, NE. The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Codes 68928 and 68930.

BNSF has certified that: (1) No local traffic has moved over the line for at least 2 years; (2) any overhead traffic on the line can 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 1105.50(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 July 4, 2003, 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

¹The 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.

1152.27(c)(2),² and trail use/rail banking requests under 49 CFR 1152.29 must be filed by June 16, 2003. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by June 24, 2003, with: Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001.

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to the applicant'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 June 9, 2003. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA by writing to SEA (Room 500, Surface Transportation Board, Washington, D.C. 20423-0001) 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 the line. If consummation has not been effected by BNSF's filing of a notice of consummation by June 4, 2004, 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: May 22, 2003.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

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²Each OFA must be accompanied by the filing fee, which currently is set at \$1,100. *See* 49 CFR 1102.2(f)(25).