

tractor-trailer combinations for 38 years, accumulating 3 million miles. He holds a Class A CDL from Texas. His driving record for the last 3 years shows no crashes and one conviction—failure to use his seat belt properly—in a CMV.

Robert A. Sherry

Mr. Sherry, 48, has had amblyopia in his right eye since childhood. The best corrected visual acuity in his right eye is 20/400 and in the left, 20/15. His optometrist examined him in 2005 and noted “Uncorrected visual acuity meets criteria to operate a commercial vehicle.” Mr. Sherry reported that he has driven straight trucks for 5 years, accumulating 25,000 miles and tractor-trailer combinations for 30 years, accumulating 1.95 million miles. He holds a Class A CDL from Pennsylvania. His driving record for the last 3 years shows no crashes or convictions for moving violations in a CMV.

Thomas E. Voyles, Jr.

Mr. Voyles, 53, has had histoplasmosis retinitis in his left eye since 1999. The best corrected visual acuity in his right eye is 20/15 and in the left, count-finger-vision at 10 feet. His optometrist examined him in 2005 and noted “It is my opinion that Thomas E. Voyles, Jr. has adequate vision to safely operate a commercial motor vehicle.” Mr. Voyles reported that he has driven straight trucks for 30 years, accumulating 150,000 miles. He holds a Class M chauffeur license from Indiana. His driving record for the last 3 years shows no crashes or convictions for moving violations in a CMV.

Issued on: November 21, 2005.

Rose A. McMurray,

Associate Administrator, Policy and Program Development.

[FR Doc. 05-23490 Filed 11-29-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-EX-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

Reports, Forms and Recordkeeping Requirements; Agency Information Collection Activity Under OMB Review

AGENCY: Maritime Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that the new Information Collection abstracted below has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for emergency

processing. The Maritime Administration (MARAD) is requesting approval of this collection for the period December 9, 2005 to September 30, 2006. With this one-time survey, MARAD has made a concerted effort to keep the burden on the public to an absolute minimum.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before December 30, 2005.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Gilda Lee, Maritime Administration, 400 Seventh Street Southwest, Washington, DC 20590. Telephone: 202-366-3971; FAX: 202-366-3746; or E-MAIL: *gilda.lee@dot.gov*. Copies of this collection also can be obtained from that office.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Maritime Administration (MARAD).

Title: Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Seaway Survey for the New Cargoes/ New Vessels Study.

OMB Control Number: 2133-NEW.

Type of Request: Emergency approval of a one-time collection.

Affected Public: Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Seaway shippers.

Forms: Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Seaway System Shipper Survey (Un-numbered)

Abstract: The United States and Canada are jointly undertaking a multi-year assessment of the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Seaway (GLSLS) System. This assessment will evaluate the ongoing maintenance and long-term capital requirements to ensure the GLSLS system is a competitive, reliable and sustainable component of North America's transportation infrastructure.

Annual Estimated Burden Hours: 433 hours.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street Northwest, Washington, DC 20503, Attention MARAD Desk Officer.

Comments are invited on: Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. A comment to OMB is best assured of having its full effect if OMB receives it within 30 days of publication.

Authority: 49 CFR 1.66.

Issued in Washington, DC, on November 23, 2005.

Murray A. Bloom,

Acting Secretary, Maritime Administration.

[FR Doc. 05-23477 Filed 11-29-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-81-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 228X)]

Union Pacific Railroad Company— Abandonment Exemption—in Imperial County, CA

Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F—*Exempt Abandonments* to abandon segments of the Holtville Industrial Lead from milepost 711.90 near El Centro to milepost 703.26 at Holtville, and from milepost 702.72 to milepost 703.46 near Holtville, for a total distance of 9.38 miles, in Imperial County, CA.¹ The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Codes 92243, 92244, and 92250.

UP 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 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.

¹ In 1995, Southern Pacific Transportation Company (SPT) was granted authority to discontinue rail service on the line. See *Southern Pacific Transportation Company—Discontinuance of Service Exemption—in Imperial County, CA*, Docket No. AB-12 (Sub-No. 157X) (ICC served Nov. 3, 1995). The line became a line of UP on February 1, 1998, when SPT was merged into UP pursuant to the Board's decision in *Union Pacific/Southern Pacific Merger*, 1 S.T.B. 233 (1996).

Provided no formal expression of intent to file an offer of financial assistance (OFA) has been received, this exemption will be effective on December 30, 2005, unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay that do not involve environmental issues,² formal expressions of intent to file an OFA under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2),³ and trail use/rail banking requests under 49 CFR 1152.29 must be filed by December 9, 2005. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by December 20, 2005, with the Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001.

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to UP's representative: Mack H. Shumate, Jr., Senior General Attorney, 101 North Wacker Drive, Room 1920, Chicago, IL 60606.

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

UP has filed a combined environmental report and historic report which addresses the effects, if any, of the abandonment on the environment and historic resources. SEA will issue an environmental assessment (EA) by December 5, 2005. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA by writing to SEA (Room 500, Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423-0001) or by calling SEA, at (202) 565-1539. [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), UP 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 UP's filing of a notice of consummation by November 30, 2006, 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 22, 2005.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 05-23424 Filed 11-29-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 34777]

Blackwell Northern Gateway Railroad Company—Change in Operators Exemption—Oklahoma Department of Transportation and Blackwell Industrial Authority

Blackwell Northern Gateway Railroad Company (BNGR), a noncarrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.31 to operate 35.26 miles of the rail line, owned by the State of Oklahoma by and through the Oklahoma Department of Transportation and Blackwell Industrial Authority. The rail line extends: (1) Between milepost 34.3 at Blackwell, OK, and milepost 18 + 1712.9 feet at the Oklahoma/Kansas State line near Hun Newell, KS; (2) between milepost 35 + 1848 feet, west of Blackwell, OK, and milepost 34.3 at Blackwell, OK; and (3) between milepost 18 + 1712.9 feet at the Oklahoma/Kansas State line near Hun Newell, KS, and milepost 0 + 466.3 feet, at Wellington, KS. BNGR will replace Blackwell & Northern Railway Company, which has been operating over the line, and will become a class III rail carrier.¹ BNGR certifies that its projected revenues as a result of this transaction will not exceed those that would qualify it as a Class III carrier and that such revenues would not exceed \$5 million.

The transaction was scheduled to be consummated no earlier than November 7, 2005, the effective date of the exemption (7 days after the exemption was filed).

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

¹ See *Blackwell & Northern Railway Company, Inc.—Operation Exemption—Oklahoma Department of Transportation and Blackwell Industrial Authority*, STB Finance Docket No. 34265 (STB served Nov. 4, 2002).

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. 34777, 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 F. McFarland, Thomas F. McFarland, P.C., 208 South LaSalle Street, Suite 1890, Chicago, IL 60604-1112.

Board decisions and notices are available on our Web site at <http://www.stb.dot.gov>.

Decided: November 22, 2005.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. E5-6678 Filed 11-29-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-01-P

U.S.-CHINA ECONOMIC AND SECURITY REVIEW COMMISSION

Notice of Open Public Hearing

AGENCY: U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission.

ACTION: Notice of open public hearing.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the following hearing of the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission.

Name: C. Richard D'Amato, Chairman of the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission.

The Commission is mandated by Congress to investigate, assess, evaluate and report to Congress annually on "the national security implications of the bilateral trade and economic relationship between the United States and the People's Republic of China." Pursuant to this mandate, the Commission will be holding a public hearing in Washington, DC on December 8, 2005.

Background

This event is the first in a series of public hearings the Commission will hold during its 2005-2006 report cycle to collect input from leading experts in academia, business, industry, government and the public on the impact of U.S-China trade and economic relations. The December 8 hearing is being conducted to secure commentary about issues connected to the Hong Kong Ministerial Conference of the Doha Round of the World Trade Organization's trade expansion negotiations that will occur on December 13-18, 2005. Information on

² 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.

³ Each OFA must be accompanied by the filing fee, which currently is set at \$1,200. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).