

of the U.S. Small Business Administration, or others present. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 22, 2005, starting at 10 a.m. The meeting will take place at the U.S. Small Business Administration, Maine District Office, 68 Sewall Street, Room 510, Augusta, Maine 04330.

Anyone wishing to attend must contact Mary McAleney in writing or by fax. Mary McAleney, District Director, U.S. Small Business Administration, Maine District Office, 68 Sewall Street, Room 512, Augusta, Maine 04330, telephone: (207) 622-8386, fax: (207) 622-8277, e-mail: [mary.mcaleney@sba.gov](mailto:mary.mcaleney@sba.gov).

**Matthew K. Becker,**

*Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 05-2667 Filed 2-10-05; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8025-01-P**

## OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

### Notice of Entry Into Force of Trade Agreement With the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Grant of Normal Trade Relations Treatment to Products of Laos

**AGENCY:** Office of the United States Trade Representative.

**ACTION:** Notice of entry into force of trade agreement.

**SUMMARY:** On September 18, 2003, the United States and the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Laos) signed a trade agreement obligating reciprocal most-favored-nation treatment between Laos and the United States. The trade agreement entered into force as of February 4, 2005, the effective date of this notice, after which time all products of Laos entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, shall be granted most-favored-nation treatment by the United States.

**DATES:** The effective date of this notice is February 4, 2005.

**ADDRESSES:** Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20508.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Elena Bryan, Deputy Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Southeast Asia and the Pacific (202) 395-6813 or Catherine Field, Chief Counsel for Legal Affairs (202) 395-3432.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On December 3, 2004, President Bush signed into law H.R. (Pub. L. No. 108-429), which makes products of Laos eligible for normal trade relations (NTR) treatment by the United States as of the effective date of a notice published in

the Federal Register by the USRT that a trade agreement between the United States and Laos containing reciprocal MFN obligations has entered into force. On September 18, 2003, the United States and Laos signed a bilateral trade agreement containing reciprocal NTR obligations. Through an exchange of written notes of acceptance of the terms of the agreement by the two parties on February 4, 2005, the parties brought the agreement into force. Therefore, pursuant to the terms of Public Law No. 108-429, products of Laos entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after February 4, 2005, are granted NTR treatment by the United States. Pursuant to the terms of the trade agreement, products of the United States will receive reciprocal NTR treatment by Laos as of the effective date of this notice.

**John Veroneau,**

*General Counsel.*

[FR Doc. 05-2723 Filed 2-10-05; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3190-W5-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 34554 (Sub-No. 2)]

#### Union Pacific Railroad Company— Temporary Trackage Rights Exemption—BNSF Railway Company<sup>1</sup>

BNSF Railway Company (BNSF), pursuant to a modified written trackage rights agreement entered into between BNSF and Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP), has agreed to extend the expiration date of the local trackage rights granted to UP<sup>2</sup> over BNSF's line of railroad extending from BNSF milepost 579.3 near Mill Creek, OK, to BNSF milepost 631.1 near Joe Junction,

<sup>1</sup> Effective January 20, 2005, The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company has changed its name to BNSF Railway Company.

<sup>2</sup> UP submits that the trackage rights being granted here are only temporary rights, but, because they are "local" rather than "overhead" rights, they do not qualify for the Board's new class exemption for temporary trackage rights at 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(8). See *Railroad Consolidation Procedures—Exemption for Temporary Trackage Rights*, STB Ex Parte No. 282 (Sub-No. 20) (STB served May 23, 2003). Therefore, UP and BNSF concurrently have filed a petition for partial revocation of this exemption in STB Finance Docket No. 34554 (Sub-No. 3), *Union Pacific Railroad Company—Temporary Trackage Rights Exemption—BNSF Railway Company*, wherein UP and BNSF request that the Board permit the proposed local trackage rights arrangement described in the present proceeding to expire on or about December 31, 2005. That petition will be addressed by the Board in a separate decision.

TX, a distance of approximately 51 miles.<sup>3</sup>

The transaction was scheduled to be consummated on February 1, 2005.

The purpose of this transaction is to modify the temporary trackage rights exempted in STB Finance Docket No. 34554 to extend the expiration date to on or before December 31, 2005. The modified trackage rights will permit UP to continue to move loaded and empty ballast trains for use in its maintenance-of-way projects.

As a condition to this exemption, any employees affected by the trackage rights will be protected by the conditions imposed in *Norfolk and Western Ry. Co.—Trackage Rights—BN*, 354 I.C.C. 605 (1978), as modified in *Mendocino Coast Ry., Inc.—Lease and Operate*, 360 I.C.C. 653 (1980).

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. 34554 (Sub-No. 2) must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, one copy of each pleading must be served on Robert T. Opal, 1400 Douglas Street, STOP 1580, Omaha, NE 68179.

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

Decided: February 3, 2005.

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

**Vernon A. Williams,**  
*Secretary.*

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<sup>3</sup> The original trackage rights granted in *Union Pacific Railroad Company—Trackage Rights Exemption—The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company*, STB Finance Docket No. 34554 (STB served Oct. 7, 2004), also extended from BNSF milepost 579.3 near Mill Creek, OK, to BNSF milepost 631.1 near Joe Junction, TX. By decision served November 24, 2004, in STB Finance Docket No. 34554 (Sub-No. 1), the Board granted an exemption to permit the trackage rights granted in STB Finance Docket No. 34554 to expire. At that time, it was anticipated by the parties that the rights would expire on or about December 31, 2004. However, this authority has not yet been exercised.