

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

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 2003-15663 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 August 18, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Comments should refer to docket number MARAD-2003-15663. 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 OUR JEWEL is:

Intended Use: "Charters/Passengers for hire."

Geographic Region: "United States East Coast including Florida."

Dated: July 14, 2003.

By order of the Maritime Administrator.

Joel C. Richard,

Secretary, Maritime Administration.

[FR Doc. 03-18285 Filed 7-17-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-81-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

[Docket Number: MARAD 2003 15670]

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 THE FURRY FIVE.

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 2003-15670 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 August 18, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Comments should refer to docket number MARAD-2003-15670. 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 THE FURRY FIVE is:

Intended Use: Recreation/fishing/pleasure charter.

Geographic Region: Florida.

Dated: July 14, 2003.

By order of the Maritime Administrator.

Joel C. Richard,

Secretary, Maritime Administration.

[FR Doc. 03-18279 Filed 7-17-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 34352]

RailAmerica, Inc., et al.—Continuance in Control Exemption—San Luis & Rio Grande Railroad Company

RailAmerica, Inc. (RailAmerica), Palm Beach Rail Holding, Inc. (Palm Beach), and RailAmerica Transportation Corp. (RTC) (collectively, applicants) have filed a verified notice of exemption to continue in control of San Luis & Rio Grande Railroad Company (SLRG), upon SLRG becoming a Class III rail carrier.

The transaction was expected to be consummated on or after June 30, 2003.

This transaction is related to the concurrently filed verified notice of exemption in STB Finance Docket No. 34350, *San Luis & Rio Grande Railroad Company—Acquisition and Operation Exemption—Union Pacific Railroad Company*, wherein SLRG seek to acquire and operate 149.38 miles of rail line currently owned by Union Pacific Railroad Company.

RailAmerica currently controls one Class II railroad and 33 Class III railroads. RailAmerica directly controls Palm Beach, which in turn directly

controls RTC. RTC directly controls SLRG.

Applicants state that: (1) The railroads do not connect with each other or any railroad in their corporate family; (2) the continuance in control is not part of a series of anticipated transactions that would connect the railroads with each other or any railroad in their corporate family; and (3) the transaction does not involve a Class I carrier.

Therefore, the transaction is exempt from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 11323. See 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(2).

Under 49 U.S.C. 10502(g), the Board may not use its exemption authority to relieve a rail carrier of its statutory obligation to protect the interests of its employees. Because the transaction involves at least one Class II and one or more Class III rail carriers, the exemption is subject to the labor protection requirements of 49 U.S.C. 11326(b).

If the verified 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 will not automatically stay the transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 34352, 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 Louis E. Gitomer, Esq., Of Counsel, Ball Janik LLP, 1455 F Street, NW., Suite 225, Washington, DC 20005.

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

Decided: July 11, 2003.

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

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-18334 Filed 7-17-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 34350]

San Luis & Rio Grande Railroad Company—Acquisition and Operation Exemption—Union Pacific Railroad Company

San Luis & Rio Grande Railroad Company (SLRG), a noncarrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.31 to acquire and operate two

lines of the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP), as follows: (1) The Alamosa Subdivision from milepost 299.30 near Derrick, CO, to milepost 180.0 near Walsenburg, CO;¹ and (2) the Antonito Subdivision from the point where the two subdivisions connect at milepost 251.7 in Alamosa, CO, to milepost 281.78 in Antonito, CO, a total distance of 149.38 miles. In addition, UP will grant SLRG approximately 5 miles of incidental trackage rights in the vicinity of Walsenburg from milepost 180.0 to milepost 175.0.

SLRG certifies that its projected annual revenues will not exceed those that would qualify it as a Class III rail carrier and that its annual revenues are not projected to exceed \$5 million.²

The transaction was scheduled to be consummated on or after June 30, 2003.

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 will not automatically stay the transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 34350, 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 Louis E. Gitomer, Esq., Of Counsel, Ball Janik LLP, 1455 F Street, NW., Suite 225, Washington, DC 20005.

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

Decided: July 11, 2003.

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

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-18333 Filed 7-17-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

¹ SLRG states that the beginning portion of the Alamosa Subdivision, from milepost 299.30 to milepost 270.0 at or near Monte Vista, is currently inactive.

² This proceeding is related to STB Finance Docket No. 34352, *RailAmerica, Inc., et al.—Continuance in Control Exemption—San Luis & Rio Grande Railroad Company*, wherein RailAmerica, Inc., Palm Beach Rail Holding, Inc., and RailAmerica Transportation Corp. have concurrently filed a notice of exemption to continue in control of SLRG, upon SLRG becoming a Class III rail carrier.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-490X]

Greenville County Economic Development Corporation—Discontinuance of Service Exemption—in Greenville County, SC

The Greenville County Economic Development Corporation (GCEDC) has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR part 1152, Subpart F—*Exempt Abandonments and Discontinuances of Service* to discontinue service over 11.8 miles of railroad, known as the Greenville and Northern Railroad Line, extending from milepost 0.0, in Greenville, to milepost 11.8, at the northern limits of Traveler's Rest, in Greenville County, SC (line).¹ The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Codes 29601, 29609, 29611, 29613, 29617, and 29690.

GCEDC 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.²

As a condition to this exemption, any employee adversely affected by the discontinuance 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 August

¹ South Carolina Central Railroad Company, Inc., d/b/a Carolina Piedmont Division was authorized to abandon the portion of the line between milepost 0.0 and milepost 2.0, in *South Carolina Central Railroad Company, Inc., d/b/a Carolina Piedmont Division—Abandonment Exemption—in Greenville County, SC*, STB Docket No. AB-312 (Sub-No. 2X) (STB served Apr. 1, 1998); however, it appears that the abandonment was never consummated.

² As discussed below, GCEDC has complied with or is exempt from these requirements.