

at the July 8–9, 2003, meeting. The Working Group achieved consensus on recommendations for resolution of a portion of the issues in the proceeding. The full Committee considered the Working Group recommendations by mail ballots scheduled for return on August 14, 2003; however, a majority of the members voting did not concur. FRA has proceeded with preparation of a final rule, which is currently being reviewed in the Executive Branch.

**Task 00–1**—Determining the need to amend regulations protecting persons who work on, under, or between rolling equipment and persons applying, removing or inspecting rear end marking devices (Blue Signal Protection). The Working Group held its first meeting on October 16–18, 2000, and six subsequent meetings have also been held. The Working Group significantly narrowed the issues, but did not reach full consensus on recommendations for regulatory action. The Administrator announced at the full RSAC meeting on December 2, 2003, that the task is withdrawn and the issue may be pursued at a later date. Contact: Doug Taylor (202) 493–6255.

**Task 03–01**—Passenger Safety. This task was accepted May 20, 2003, and a Working Group was established. Prior to embarking on substantive discussions of a specific task, the Working Group set forth in writing a specific description of the task. The Working Group will report any planned activity to the full Committee at each scheduled full RSAC meeting, including milestones for completion of projects and progress toward completion. At the first meeting held September 9–10, 2003, a consolidated list of issues was completed. At the second meeting held November 6–7, 2003, five task groups were established: crashworthiness/glazing; emergency preparedness; mechanical-general issues; mechanical-safety appliances; and track/vehicle interaction. The task groups met and reported on activities for Working Group consideration at the third meeting held May 11–12, 2004. The task groups continue to meet and will report on its activities at the fourth Working Group meeting scheduled for October 26–27, 2004.

#### Completed Tasks:

**Task 96–1**—(Completed) Revising the Freight Power Brake Regulations.

**Task 96–2**—(Completed) Reviewing and recommending revisions to the Track Safety Standards (49 CFR Part 213).

**Task 96–3**—(Completed) Reviewing and recommending revisions to the

Radio Standards and Procedures (49 CFR Part 220).

**Task 96–5**—(Completed) Reviewing and recommending revisions to Steam Locomotive Inspection Standards (49 CFR Part 230).

**Task 96–6**—(Completed) Reviewing and recommending revisions to miscellaneous aspects of the regulations addressing Locomotive Engineer Certification (49 CFR Part 240).

**Task 96–7**—(Completed) Developing Roadway Maintenance Machines (On-Track Equipment) Safety Standards.

**Task 96–8**—(Completed) This Planning Task evaluated the need for action responsive to recommendations contained in a report to Congress entitled, *Locomotive Crashworthiness & Working Conditions*.

**Task 97–7**—(Completed) Determining damages qualifying an event as a reportable train accident.

**Task 01–1**—(Completed) Developing conformity of FRA's regulations for accident/incident reporting (49 CFR Part 225) to revised regulations of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), U.S. Department of Labor, and to make appropriate revisions to the *FRA Guide for Preparing Accident/Incident Reports* (Reporting Guide).

Please refer to the notice published in the **Federal Register** on March 11, 1996, (61 FR 9740) for more information about the RSAC.

Issued in Washington, DC, on October 12, 2004.

**Grady C. Cothen,**

*Acting Associate Administrator for Safety.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Railroad Administration

#### Petition for Waiver of Compliance

In accordance with Part 211 of Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), notice is hereby given that the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) received a request for a waiver of compliance with certain requirements of its safety standards. The individual petition is described below, including the party seeking relief, the regulatory provisions involved, the nature of the relief being requested, and the petitioner's arguments in favor of relief.

#### Union Pacific Railroad Company

[Waiver Petition Docket Number FRA–2004–18896]

The Union Pacific Railroad Company (UPRR) seeks a waiver of compliance

with the Locomotive Safety Standards, 49 CFR 229.49(a)(1) and with the Brake System Safety Standards 49 CFR 232.103(o)(2), as they pertain to main reservoir safety valve setting and minimal differential between brake pipe and main reservoir air pressure on UPRR locomotives. The railroad states in their request that their locomotive safety valves are set at 150 (one hundred fifty) pounds-per-square-inch (psi) and the maximum working pressure of 125 psi (one hundred twenty-five) creating a 25 (twenty-five) psi differential. Locomotive safety standards (49 CFR 229.46(a)(1) requires that the main reservoir system of each locomotive shall be equipped with at least one safety valve that shall prevent an accumulation of pressure of more than 15 pounds per square inch above the maximum working air pressure and Brake System Safety Standards (49 CFR 232.103(o)(2)) requires minimum differential 15 psi between brake pipe and main reservoir air pressures, with brake valve in running position. UPRR adjusted its fleet of locomotives maximum working air pressure from 135 psi to 125 psi in the late 1970's as a method to conserve fuel. The 150 psi safety valve setting was maintained so that UPRR locomotives remained compatible when operated in consist with foreign locomotives. UPRR has operated their locomotives with the 125 psi maximum working air pressure for over twenty-five years and reports no adverse effect.

Interested parties are invited to participate in these proceedings by submitting written views, data, or comments. FRA does not anticipate scheduling a public hearing in connection with these proceedings since the facts do not appear to warrant a hearing. If any interested party desires an opportunity for oral comment, they should notify FRA, in writing, before the end of the comment period and specify the basis for their request.

All communications concerning these proceedings should identify the appropriate docket number (FRA–2004–18896) and must be submitted to the Docket Clerk, DOT Docket Management Facility, Room PL–401 (Plaza Level), 400 7th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Communications received within 45 days of the date of this notice will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered as far as practicable. All written communications concerning these proceedings are available for examination during regular business hours (9 a.m.—5 p.m.) at the above facility. All documents in the public docket are also available for

inspection and copying on the Internet at the docket facility's Web site at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

Anyone is able to search the electronic form of all comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the comment, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). You may review DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement in the **Federal Register** published on April 11, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 70; Pages 19477–19478). The Statement may also be found at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

Issued in Washington, DC, on October 12, 2004.

**Grady C. Cothen, Jr.,**

*Acting Associate Administrator for Safety.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Railroad Administration

#### Petition for Waiver of Compliance

In accordance with Part 211 of Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), notice is hereby given that the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) received a request for a waiver of compliance with certain requirements of its safety standards. The individual petition is described below, including the party seeking relief, the regulatory provisions involved, the nature of the relief being requested, and the petitioner's arguments in favor of relief.

#### Canadian National Railway Company

(Waiver Petition Docket Number FRA–2004–18960)

The Canadian National Railway Company (CN) seeks a waiver of compliance with the *Locomotive Safety Standards*, 49 CFR 229.23, 229.27, and 229.29, as they pertain to the requirement to maintain the locomotive repair record form FRA 6180.49A, commonly referred to as the Blue Card, in the cab of their locomotives. If granted, CN would maintain locomotive inspection information in a secure data base. The data base would be maintained as the required office copy of form FRA 6180.49A. A computer generated form, which is similar to and contains all information currently contained on the required FRA 6180.49A, would be maintained on board the locomotive. In place of required signatures of persons performing inspections and tests, CN employees would be provided a unique login identification number and a secure

password to access the system and verify performance of inspections. In place of signatures, computer generated reports would block print the name of the employee performing a required inspection and block print the employees supervisor who is certifying that all inspections have been made and all repairs were completed. Required filing of the previous inspection record will be maintained through the data base.

Interested parties are invited to participate in these proceedings by submitting written views, data, or comments. FRA does not anticipate scheduling a public hearing in connection with these proceedings since the facts do not appear to warrant a hearing. If any interested party desires an opportunity for oral comment, they should notify FRA, in writing, before the end of the comment period and specify the basis for their request.

All communications concerning these proceedings should identify the appropriate docket number (FRA–2004–18960) and must be submitted to the Docket Clerk, DOT Docket Management Facility, Room PL–401 (Plaza Level), 400 7th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Communications received within 45 days of the date of this notice will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered as far as practicable. All written communications concerning these proceedings are available for examination during regular business hours (9 a.m.–5 p.m.) at the above facility. All documents in the public docket are also available for inspection and copying on the Internet at the docket facility's Web site at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

Anyone is able to search the electronic form of all comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the comment, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). You may review DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement in the **Federal Register** published on April 11, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 70; Pages 19477–19478). The Statement may also be found at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

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**Grady C. Cothen, Jr.,**

*Acting Associate Administrator for Safety.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 34555]

#### City of Tacoma, Department of Public Utilities, Beltline Division, d/b/a Tacoma Rail or Tacoma Municipal Beltline or TMBL—Acquisition and Operation Exemption—Lakeview Subdivision, Quadlok-St. Clair and Belmore-Olympia Rail Lines in Pierce and Thurston Counties, WA

The City of Tacoma, Department of Public Utilities, Beltline Division, d/b/a Tacoma Rail or Tacoma Municipal Beltline or TMBL (TMBL), a Class III rail carrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.41 to acquire and operate approximately 28 miles of rail line, and to obtain approximately 22 miles of incidental trackage rights, in Pierce and Thurston Counties, WA. Specifically, TMBL intends: (1) To acquire a freight service easement from The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF) from milepost 2.15 at South Tacoma to milepost 8.92 at Lakeview Junction, and from milepost 0.0 at West Lakeview to milepost 10.98 at Nisqually, a total distance of 17.75 miles in Pierce County; (2) to lease BNSF's right-of-way from milepost 3.27 at Quadlok to milepost 0.0 at St. Clair, and from milepost 16.0 at Belmore to milepost 9.07 at Olympia, a total distance of 10.2 miles in Thurston County; and (3) to obtain incidental trackage rights from BNSF from milepost 23.0 at Nisqually to milepost 37.00 at East Olympia, and to be assigned incidental trackage rights from BNSF over Union Pacific Railroad Company's rail line from milepost 0.0 at East Olympia to milepost 9.07 at Olympia.<sup>1</sup>

Because TMBL's projected annual revenues will exceed \$5 million, it certified to the Board on September 17, 2004, that it sent the required notice of the transaction on July 29, 2004, to the national offices of all labor unions representing employees on the line and that a copy of the notice was posted at the workplace of the employees on the affected lines on July 30, 2004.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> According to TMBL, an agreement has been reached between BNSF, as seller and lessor of the real estate and grantor of incidental trackage rights, and TMBL, as buyer and lessee of the real estate and grantee of incidental trackage rights.

<sup>2</sup> Inasmuch as TMBL did not certify to the Board compliance with 49 CFR 1150.42(e) 60 days prior to its intended consummation of the transaction, it sought waiver of the 60-day certification requirement. The Board denied that request in a decision served on September 27, 2004. As a consequence, this exemption is not scheduled to become effective until November 16, 2004, and the