

addition, regular maintenance and odorant delivery to the LaCrescent, Minnesota Branch Line could present a traffic hazard and the potential for a hazardous material spill in a wetland area.

- The take-off for the LaCrosse, Wisconsin Branch Line is in a low, sandy, Mississippi River flood plain area. Installation of an odorizer on this line could cause an environmental impact to the Mississippi River flood plain. Lastly, access to this line is limited. This would make it difficult to deliver odorant to the pipeline.

NNG provided the following additional information on its pipelines for consideration of its waiver request:

**1. Rippey, Iowa Branch Line—IAB64601 (Mile Post (MP) 0.000–0.034)**

Line IAB64601 is 2-inch in diameter, 0.034 miles (180 feet) in length, and begins at a side valve on the Perry, Iowa branch line, IAB64401. Line IAB64601 supplies gas to the town of Ripley, Iowa through the Rippey #1 TBS. This entire line is in Class 3 area.

**2. LaCrescent, Minnesota Branch Line—MNB73701 (MP 0.000–0.369)**

Line MNB73701 is 4-inch in diameter, 0.369 miles (1,848 feet) in length, and begins at a side valve on the LaCrosse branch line, MNB73201. Line MNB73701 is located in a wetland area that is part of the Mississippi River flood plain and supplies gas to the town of LaCrescent, Minnesota through the LaCrescent #1 TBS. Line MNB73701 is Class 1 from MP 0.000–0.051 and Class 3 from MP 0.051–0.369.

**3. LaCrosse, Wisconsin Branch Line—WIB24101 (MP 0.000–0.119)**

Line WIB24101 is 12-inch in diameter, 0.119 miles (628 feet) in length, and begins at a buried tap on the Tomah, Wisconsin, branch line WIB11901. Line WIB24101 supplies gas to the town of LaCrosse, Wisconsin through the LaCrosse #1 TBS. This entire line is in Class 3 area.

NNG believes it considered all practical alternatives for the placement of odorization equipment on its pipelines. They concluded that none were feasible.

**Proposed Alternatives**

NNG proposes the following alternatives and believes that these alternatives provide a higher level of safety than those required by the pipeline safety regulations. NNG proposes to:

- Perform leak surveys along the entire length of the Rippey, Iowa; LaCrescent, Minnesota; and LaCrosse,

Wisconsin pipelines. All surveys will be performed quarterly and with leak detection equipment.

- Install and maintain additional pipeline markers along each pipeline.

**OPS Review**

OPS is publishing this notice in the **Federal Register** to provide an opportunity for public comment. After OPS has considered any comments it receives in response to this Notice, it will make a final determination granting or denying the waiver as proposed, or with modifications. If the waiver is granted, and OPS subsequently determines that the effect of the waiver is no longer consistent with pipeline safety, OPS may revoke the waiver at its sole discretion. This Notice is OPS's only request for public comment before making its final decision in this matter. At the conclusion of the comment period, OPS will make a determination on the proposed waiver and publish its decision in the **Federal Register**.

**Authority:** 49 U.S.C. 60118 (c) and 49 CFR 1.53.

Issued in Washington, DC, on February 25, 2005.

**Theodore L. Willke,**

*Deputy Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**Surface Transportation Board**

[STB Finance Docket No. 34661]

**Columbia Basin Railroad Company, Inc.—Lease and Operation Exemption—Clark County, WA**

Columbia Basin Railroad Company, Inc. (CBRW),<sup>1</sup> a Class III rail carrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.41 to acquire by lease and to operate approximately 19 miles of rail line owned by Clark County, WA, between milepost 14.1 at Battle Ground, WA, and milepost 33.1 at or near Chelatchie, WA.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> CBRW states that it will conduct these operations under the name "Portland Vancouver Junction Railroad."

<sup>2</sup> As filed, CBRW seeks to lease and operate approximately 33.1 miles of rail line in Clark County, WA. However, in *Columbia Basin Railroad Company, Inc.—Lease and Operation Exemption—Clark County, WA*, STB Finance Docket No. 34472 (STB served Mar. 11, 2004), CBRW was authorized to acquire by lease and operate approximately 14.1 miles of the 33.1 miles of rail line, between milepost 0.0 at or near North Vancouver/Vancouver Junction, WA, and milepost 14.1 at Battle Ground, WA. Because CBRW has already been granted authority to lease and operate this segment of the

CBRW certifies that its projected revenues as a result of this transaction will not result in the creation of a Class II or a Class I rail carrier. The transaction was scheduled to be consummated on or after February 10, 2005, the effective date of the exemption.

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. 34661, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423–0001. Also, a copy of each pleading must be served on Rose-Michele Weinryb, 1300 19th Street, NW., 5th Floor, Washington, DC 20036.

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

Decided: February 22, 2005.

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

**Vernon A. Williams,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 05–4100 Filed 3–2–05; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**Surface Transportation Board**

[STB Finance Docket No. 34660]

**Georgia Central Railway, L.P.—Acquisition and Operation Exemption—Rail line of CSX Transportation, Inc.**

Georgia Central Railway, L.P. (Georgia Central), a Class III rail carrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.41 to acquire by purchase from CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT) and operate approximately 57.2 miles of rail line between milepost SK 0.8 at Macon, and milepost SK 58.0 at East Dublin, in Bibb, Twiggs, Wilkinson, and Laurens Counties, GA.<sup>1</sup>

Georgia Central indicates that the parties contemplate consummating the transaction on or about February 28, 2005. Georgia Central certifies that its

involved line, authority will only be granted here for CBRW to lease and operate the 19-mile segment between milepost 14.1 and milepost 33.1.

<sup>1</sup> Georgia Central currently leases the line and underlying right-of-way (ROW) from CSXT. After the transaction, Georgia Central will own the line but continue to lease the underlying ROW from CSXT. Georgia Central will also continue to be the operator of the line.