

is interested in learning of any additional data that may be useful in the evaluations. NHTSA will submit to the Docket a response to the comments and, if appropriate, will supplement or revise the evaluation plan.

#### How Do I Prepare and Submit Comments?

Your comments must be written and in English. To ensure that your comments are correctly filed in the Docket, please include the Docket number of this document (NHTSA–2004–16932) in your comments.

Your primary comments must not be more than 15 pages long (49 CFR 553.21). However, you may attach additional documents to your primary comments. There is no limit on the length of the attachments.

Please send two paper copies of your comments to Docket Management, submit them electronically, fax them, or use the Federal eRulemaking Portal. The mailing address is U.S. Department of Transportation Docket Management, Room PL–401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. If you submit your comments electronically, log onto the Dockets Management System Web site at <http://dms.dot.gov> and click on “Help & Information” or “Help/Info” to obtain instructions. The fax number is 1–202–493–2251. To use the Federal eRulemaking Portal, go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

We also request, but do not require you to send a copy to Charles J. Kahane, Chief, Evaluation Division, NPO–321, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Room 5208, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590 (alternatively, fax to (202) 366–2559 or e-mail to [ckahane@nhtsa.dot.gov](mailto:ckahane@nhtsa.dot.gov)). He can check if your comments have been received at the Docket and he can expedite their review by NHTSA.

#### How Can I Be Sure That My Comments Were Received?

If you wish Docket Management to notify you upon its receipt of your comments, enclose a self-addressed, stamped postcard in the envelope containing your comments. Upon receiving your comments, Docket Management will return the postcard by mail.

#### How Do I Submit Confidential Business Information?

If you wish to submit any information under a claim of confidentiality, send three copies of your complete submission, including the information

you claim to be confidential business information, to the Chief Counsel, NCC–01, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Room 5219, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Include a cover letter supplying the information specified in our confidential business information regulation (49 CFR Part 512).

In addition, send two copies of which you have deleted the claimed confidential business information to Docket Management, Room PL–401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590, or submit them electronically.

#### Will the Agency Consider Late Comments?

In our response, we will consider all comments that Docket Management receives before the close of business on the comment closing date indicated above under **DATES**. To the extent possible, we will also consider comments that Docket Management receives after that date.

Please note that even after the comment closing date, we will continue to file relevant information in the Docket as it becomes available. Further, some people may submit late comments. Accordingly, we recommend that you periodically check the Docket for new material.

#### How Can I Read the Comments Submitted by Other People?

You may read the comments by visiting Docket Management in person at Room PL–401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

You may also see the comments on the Internet by taking the following steps:

A. Go to the Docket Management System (DMS) Web page of the Department of Transportation (<http://dms.dot.gov>).

B. On that page, click on “search.”

C. On the next page (<http://dms.dot.gov/search/>) type in the four-digit Docket number shown at the beginning of this Notice (16932). Click on “search.”

D. On the next page, which contains Docket summary information for the Docket you selected, click on the desired comments. You may also download the comments.

**Authority:** 49 U.S.C. 30111, 30168; delegation of authority at 49 CFR 1.50 and 501.8.

**Noble N. Bowie,**

*Associate Administrator for Planning, Evaluation and Budget.*

[FR Doc. E4–114 Filed 01–26–04;8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910–59–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 34455]

#### Vermont Railway, Inc.—Modified Rail Certificate

On January 5, 2004, Vermont Railway, Inc. (VTR), a Class III rail carrier, filed a notice for a modified certificate of public convenience and necessity under 49 CFR part 1150, subpart C, *Modified Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity*, to operate a 131-mile rail line owned by the State of Vermont (Vermont). The line extends from Burlington to Bennington, VT.

The Board’s predecessor, the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC), approved the line for abandonment by Rutland Railway Corp., in *Rutland Ry. Corp. Abandonment of Entire Line*, 317 I.C.C. 393 (1962). Subsequently, the ICC authorized acquisition of the line by Vermont and lease and operation of the line by VTR in *State of VT and Vermont Ry., Inc., Acquisition and Op.*, 320 I.C.C. 330 (1963). The original lease and subsequent amended lease between Vermont and VTR provide for renewal of the lease every 10 years. With ICC approval, the lease term was extended three times.<sup>1</sup> The current extension expired on January 5, 2004.

The last time the ICC approved an extension of the lease between Vermont and VTR, it noted that, if VTR were to file for a modified certificate of public convenience and necessity, the parties would no longer need to obtain approval for changes or extensions of their lease.<sup>2</sup>

The rail segment qualifies for a modified certificate of public convenience and necessity. See *Common Carrier Status of States, State Agencies and Instrumentalities and Political Subdivisions*, Finance Docket No. 28990F (ICC served July 16, 1981).

There is no operating subsidy involved. However, pursuant to the 1990 lease between VTR and Vermont, Vermont is required to pay for the maintenance of certain structures on the line.<sup>3</sup> VTR represents that it has

<sup>1</sup> The last extension was approved in *State of Vermont and Vermont Railway, Inc.—Acquisition and Operation in Vermont*, Finance Docket No. 22830 (ICC served Dec. 28, 1993) (*December 1993 Decision*). In that decision, the ICC also retroactively approved a revised lease signed by the parties in 1990.

<sup>2</sup> See *December 1993 Decision* at 1 n.1.

<sup>3</sup> Pursuant to 5 V.S.A. 3401–3409, the Vermont Agency of Transportation is authorized to administer State-owned railroad properties and to take necessary action to ensure continuity of service over such properties.

extensive insurance coverage for property damage and personal injury. There are no preconditions for shippers to meet in order to receive rail service.

This notice will be served on the Association of American Railroads (Car Service Division) as agent for all railroads subscribing to the car-service and car-hire agreement: Association of American Railroads, 50 F Street, NW., Washington, DC 20001; and on the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association: American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association, 50 F Street, NW., Suite 7020, Washington, DC 20001.

Decided: January 20, 2004.

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

**Vernon A. Williams,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 04-1528 Filed 1-26-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-290 (Sub-No. 244X)]

#### Norfolk Southern Railway Company— Abandonment Exemption—in Pike County, KY

Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSR) has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR part 1152 subpart F—*Exempt Abandonments* to abandon a 8.74-mile line of railroad between milepost WP-2.20 at Toler and milepost WP-10.94 at Peg, in Pike County, KY.<sup>1</sup> The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Code 41514.

NSR has certified that: (1) No local traffic has moved over the line for at least 2 years; (2) any overhead traffic can be rerouted over other lines; (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 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

<sup>1</sup> By letter filed January 8, 2004, NSR clarified that it does not seek exemption from the requirements of 49 U.S.C. 10904 or 49 U.S.C. 10905. The notice of exemption covers only an exemption from the requirements of 49 U.S.C. 10903.

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. Provided no formal expression of intent to file an offer of financial assistance (OFA) has been received, this exemption will be effective on February 26, 2004, unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay that do not involve environmental issues,<sup>2</sup> formal expressions of intent to file an OFA under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2),<sup>3</sup> and trail use/rail banking requests under 49 CFR 1152.29 must be filed by February 6, 2004. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by February 17, 2004, 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 NSR's representative: James R. Paschall, General Attorney, Norfolk Southern Corporation, Three Commercial Place, Norfolk, VA 23510.

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

NSR has filed an environmental report which addresses the effects, if any, of the abandonment on the environment and historic resources. SEA will issue an environmental assessment (EA) by January 30, 2004. 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> Each OFA must be accompanied by the filing fee, which currently is set at \$1,100. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

Pursuant to the provisions of 49 CFR 1152.29(e)(2), NSR 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 NSR's filing of a notice of consummation by January 27, 2005, 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: January 20, 2004.

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

**Vernon A. Williams,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 04-1532 Filed 1-26-04; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau

#### Proposed Collection; Comment Request

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau within the Department of the Treasury is soliciting comments concerning the Letterhead Applications and Notices Filed by Brewers.

**DATES:** Written comments should be received on or before March 29, 2004 to be assured of consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Sandra L. Turner, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, 650 Massachusetts Avenue, NW., Room 200 E, Washington DC 20226; telephone (202) 927-8210.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the form(s) and instructions should be directed Sandra L. Turner, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, 650 Massachusetts Avenue, NW., Room 200 E, Washington, DC 20226; telephone (202) 927-8210.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**