

EMPLOYER STATUS DETERMINATION
The Youngstown Belt Railroad Company

This is the determination of the Railroad Retirement Board concerning the status of The Youngstown Belt Railway Company (YBR), as an employer under the Railroad Retirement Act (45 U.S.C. § 231 et seq.) and the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act (45 U.S.C. §351 et seq.).

Information regarding YBR was provided by Michael J. Connor, Executive Vice-President of YBR. According to Mr. Connor, YBR began doing business January 1, 1997. Mr. William A. Strawn II is the President of YBR. YBR currently has no employees; all operations are performed by the employees of the Ohio Central Railroad, Inc., a covered employer under the Acts (B.A. No. 3362).

In Surface Transportation Board Finance Docket 33333, YBR filed a notice of exemption to lease from The Warren & Trumbull Railroad Company a total of 12.9 route miles of rail line, between Warren and North Warren, Ohio; between North Warren and Youngstown, Ohio; between Brier Hill and Leadville, Ohio; and between Ohio Works Junction and Girard, Ohio; and to acquire and operate approximately 2.4 miles of rail line owned by CSX Transportation, Inc., via assignment of The Warren & Trumbull Railroad Company's rights under a Track Lease/Operating Agreement with CSX Transportation, Inc. YBR interchanges with Conrail, CSX, The Ohio & Pennsylvania Railroad, The Warren & Trumbull Railroad, and The Youngstown & Austintown Railroad.

The evidence of record establishes that YBR is a carrier operating in interstate commerce. Accordingly, it is determined that YBR is an employer within the meaning of section 1(a)(1)(i) of the Railroad Retirement Act (45 U.S.C. § 231a(1)(i)) and the corresponding provision of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act as of January 1, 1997, the date as of which it commenced operations.

Glen L. Bower

V. M. Speakman, Jr.

Jerome F. Kever