

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 2003-16573 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 Public Law 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 section 388.4 of MARAD's regulations at 46 CFR part 388.

**DATES:** Submit comments on or before January 2, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should refer to docket number MARAD-2003 16573. 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 FOREVER YOUNG is:

*Intended Use:* "Chartering, sightseeing, overnight chartering and fishing."

*Geographic Region:* "Maine to New Jersey."

Dated: November 25, 2003.

By order of the Maritime Administrator.

**Joel C. Richard,**

*Secretary, Maritime Administration.*

[FR Doc. 03-29885 Filed 12-1-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-81-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Maritime Administration

[Docket Number MARAD 2003-15674]

#### 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 LET IT RIDE.

**SUMMARY:** As authorized by Public Law 105-383 and Public Law 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 2003-15674 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 Public Law 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 section 388.4 of MARAD's regulations at 46 CFR part 388.

**DATES:** Submit comments on or before January 2, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should refer to docket number MARAD-2003-16574. 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 [\[dmses.dot.gov/submit/\]\(http://dmses.dot.gov/submit/\). 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>.](http://</a></p>
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**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 LET IT RIDE is:

*Intended Use:* "passenger cruise charters."

*Geographic Region:* "U.S. East Coast and the entire State of Florida."

Dated: November 25, 2003.

By order of the Maritime Administrator.

**Joel C. Richard,**

*Secretary, Maritime Administration.*

[FR Doc. 03-29886 Filed 12-1-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-81-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 34436]

#### Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Co.—Trackage Rights Exemption—Union Pacific Railroad Co.

Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) has agreed to grant certain trackage rights to The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway (BNSF) between Gibbs, ID, at Coeur d'Alene Industrial Lead milepost 7.40 and Coeur d'Alene, at Coeur d'Alene Industrial Lead milepost 8.79, a distance of approximately 1.4 miles.

The transaction was scheduled to be consummated on November 19, 2003 (7 days after the notice was filed).

The purpose of the trackage rights is to allow BNSF to deliver and receive rail cars from the Stimson Lumber facility at Coeur d'Alene, ID, as part of BNSF's agreement to provide haulage services for UP between Spokane, WA and Coeur d'Alene.

As a condition to this exemption, any employees affected by the trackage rights will be protected by the conditions imposed in *Norfolk and Western Ry. Co.—Trackage Rights—BN*, 354 I.C.C. 605 (1978), as modified in *Mendocino Coast Ry., Inc.—Lease and Operate*, 360 I.C.C. 653 (1980).

This notice is filed under 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(7). If it 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. 34436, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on Sarah W. Bailiff, The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company, 2500 Lou Menk Drive, PO Box 961039, Fort Worth, TX 76161-0039.

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

Decided: November 24, 2003.

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

**Vernon A. Williams,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 03-29809 Filed 12-1-03; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 405X)]

#### **The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company—Abandonment Exemption—in Jefferson, Gage, and Pawnee Counties, NE**

On November 12, 2003, The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF), filed with the Surface Transportation Board a petition under 49 U.S.C. 10502 for exemption from the provisions of 49

U.S.C. 10903 to abandon a line of railroad extending between milepost 57.80, near Pawnee, and milepost 117.03, near Endicott, a distance of approximately 59.23 miles in Jefferson, Gage, and Pawnee Counties, NE. The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Codes 68420, 68323, 68381, 68466, 68310, 68415, 68432, 68352, and 68350, and includes the following stations: Burchard, Liberty, Wymore, Krider, Odell, and Diller.

The line does not contain federally granted rights-of-way. Any documentation in BNSF's possession will be made available promptly to those requesting it.

The interest of railroad employees will be protected by the conditions set forth in *Oregon Short Line R. Co.—Abandonment—Goshen*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979).

By issuing this notice, the Board is instituting an exemption proceeding pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10502(b). A final decision will be issued by March 1, 2004.

Any offer of financial assistance (OFA) will be due no later than 10 days after service of a decision granting the petition for exemption. See 49 CFR 1152.27(b)(2). Each OFA must be accompanied by a \$1,100 filing fee. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

All interested persons should be aware that, following abandonment of rail service and salvage of the line, the line may be suitable for other public use, including interim trail use. Any request for a public use condition under 49 CFR 1152.28 or for trail use/rail banking under 49 CFR 1152.29 will be due no later than December 22, 2003. Each trail use request must be accompanied by a \$150 filing fee. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(27).

All filings in response to this notice must refer to STB Docket No. AB-6

(Sub-No. 405X) and must be sent to: (1) Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001; and (2) Michael Smith, 311 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 3000, Chicago, IL 60606-6677. Replies to the BNSF petition are due on or before December 22, 2003.

Persons seeking further information concerning abandonment procedures may contact the Board's Office of Public Services at (202) 565-1592 or refer to the full abandonment or discontinuance regulations at 49 CFR part 1152.

Questions concerning environmental issues may be directed to the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) at (202) 565-1539. Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

An environmental assessment (EA) (or environmental impact statement (EIS), if necessary), prepared by SEA, will be served upon all parties of record and upon any agencies or other persons who commented during its preparation. Other interested persons may contact SEA to obtain a copy of the EA (or EIS). EAs in these abandonment proceedings normally will be made available within 60 days after the filing of the petition. The deadline for submission of comments on the EA will generally be within 30 days of its service.

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

Decided: November 21, 2003.

By the Board, Joseph H. Dettmar, Acting Director, Office of Proceedings.

**Vernon A. Williams,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 03-29711 Filed 12-1-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P