

- The process for developing a harmonized global technical regulation includes a technical review of existing regulations of the Contracting Parties and of the UN/ECE regulations, as well as relevant international voluntary standards (e.g., standards of the International Standards Organization). If available, comparative assessments of the benefits of these regulations (also known as functional equivalence assessments) are also reviewed. (Art. 1.1.2, Article 6.2)

- The process for developing a new global technical regulation includes the assessment of technical and economic feasibility and a comparative evaluation of the potential benefits and cost effectiveness of alternative regulatory requirements and the test method(s) by which compliance is to be demonstrated. (Article 6.3)

- To establish any global technical regulation, there must be a consensus vote, i.e., all Contracting Parties present and voting must vote for establishment. Thus, if any Contracting Party votes against a recommended global technical regulation, it would not be established. (Annex B, Article 7.2)

- The establishment of a global technical regulation does not obligate Contracting Parties to adopt that regulation into its own laws and regulations. Contracting Parties retain the right to choose whether or not to adopt any technical regulation established as a global technical regulation under the Agreement. (Preamble, Article 7)

- Consistent with the recognition of that right, Contracting Parties have only a limited obligation when a global technical regulation is established under the Agreement. If a Contracting Party voted to establish the regulation, that Contracting Party must initiate the procedures used by the Party to adopt such a regulation as a domestic regulation. (Article 7)

For the U.S., this would likely entail initiating the rulemaking process by issuing an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) or a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM). If the U.S. were to adopt a global technical regulation into national law, it would do so in accordance with all applicable procedural and substantive statutory provisions, including the Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. 553 *et seq.*, the Vehicle Safety Act, and comparable provisions of other relevant statutes, such as the Clean Air Act.

- The Agreement allows the inclusion in global technical regulations of a "global" level of stringency for most parties and "alternative" levels of stringency for developing countries. In this way, all countries, including the developing ones, will have an interest in participating in the development, establishment, adoption and implementation of global technical regulations. It is anticipated that a developing country may wish to begin by adopting one of the lower levels of stringency and later successively adopt higher levels of stringency. (Article 4)

Issued on: July 12, 2000.

Julie Abraham,

Director, Office of Harmonization.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33896]

Ohio Southern Railroad, Inc.— Acquisition and Operation Exemption—Glouster Coal Company, Glouster, OH

Ohio Southern Railroad, Incorporated (OSRR), a Class III carrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.41 to acquire by lease from Glouster Coal Company (Glouster Coal) and operate approximately 0.6 miles of existing right-of-way and industrial trackage (milepost 56.7-milepost 57.3), near Glouster, OH (line).¹

The transaction was expected to be consummated promptly following the effective date of the exemption. The earliest the transaction could be consummated was July 7, 2000, 7 days after the exemption was filed.

The transaction is related to *Ohio Southern Railroad, Incorporated—Acquisition and Operation Exemption—Pennsylvania Lines LLC and Norfolk Southern Railway Company*, STB Finance Docket No. 33895 (STB served July 18, 2000), and *Ohio Southern Railroad, Incorporated—Trackage Rights Exemption—Pennsylvania Lines LLC and Norfolk Southern Railway Company*, STB Finance Docket No. 33902 (STB served July 18, 2000) to exempt OSRR's extension of its lines from Wilbren, OH, to New Lexington, OH, and OSRR's trackage rights over Norfolk Southern Railway Company's (NSR) West Secondary line from New Lexington to a point near Glouster. Upon consummation of these transactions OSRR will be able to provide coal transportation service in conjunction with NSR from the Buckingham Mine to Glouster Coal's customers located on or accessed via the lines of OSRR.²

¹ According to the verified notice of exemption, the trackage is presently exempt industrial track within the meaning of 49 U.S.C. 10906; it is located entirely on property owned by Glouster Coal and was built and intended to be used for the sole purpose of enabling Glouster Coal to ship coal from its Buckingham Mine.

² On July 5, 2000, NSR filed a verified notice of exemption under the Board's class exemption procedures at 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(7). The notice covered an agreement between Pennsylvania Lines, LLC, NSR and OSRR for the grant by OSRR to NSR of overhead and local trackage rights over the line. The trackage rights will enable NSR to initiate new operations over the line to serve the existing customer and to provide a competitive alternative to OSRR for any new customers that may choose to locate on the line. See *Norfolk Southern Railway Company—Trackage Rights Exemption—Ohio Southern Railroad, Incorporated in Athens County, OH*, STB Finance Docket No. 33899 (STB served July 18, 2000).

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*. Petitions to reopen the proceeding 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. 33896, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on Kelvin J. Dowd, Esq., Slover & Loftus, 1224 Seventeenth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036.

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Decided: July 11, 2000.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33899]

Norfolk Southern Railway Co.— Trackage Rights Exemption—Ohio Southern Railroad, Inc. in Athens County, OH

Ohio Southern Railroad, Incorporated (OSRR) has agreed to grant overhead and local trackage rights to Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NS) over OSRR's mainline of railroad between the division of control/ownership between OSRR and the Pennsylvania Lines LLC line of railroad operated by NS, milepost RR-65.7 (OSRR's milepost 56.7) at Glouster, OH, and the end of OSRR's line of railroad at OSRR's milepost 57.3 at South Glouster, OH, a total distance of approximately 0.6 miles.

The transaction is related to and will be effective on the consummation of OSRR's acquisition of the line pursuant to its notice of exemption filed June 30, 2000, in STB Finance Docket No. 33896, *Ohio Southern Railroad, Incorporated—Acquisition and Operation Exemption—Glouster Coal Company, Glouster, OH*.

NS says that the purpose of this trackage rights is to permit it to initiate new operations over the line to serve the existing customer and to provide a competitive alternative to OSRR for any