

*Seat Belt Assemblies*, 210 *Seat Belt Assembly Anchorages*, 212 *Windshield Retention*, 216 *Roof Crush Resistance*, 219 *Windshield Zone Intrusion*, 301 *Fuel System Integrity*, and 302 *Flammability of Interior Materials*, as well as 49 CFR 581.

Petitioner also contends that the vehicles are capable of being readily altered to meet the following standards, in the manner indicated:

Standard No. 101 *Controls and Displays*: (a) Substitution of the word "Brake" for the international ECE warning symbol on the markings for the brake failure indicator lamp; (b) replacement of the speedometer with one calibrated in miles per hour. The petitioner states that the entire instrument cluster will be replaced with a U.S.-model component.

Standard No. 108 *Lamps, Reflective Devices and Associated Equipment*: (a) Installation of U.S.-model headlamps and front sidemarker lamps, (b) installation of U.S.-model taillamp assemblies which incorporate rear sidemarker lamps, and (c) installation of U.S. model high-mounted stop light assembly (if necessary).

Standard No. 110 *Tire Selection and Rims*: Installation of a tire information placard.

Standard No. 111 *Rearview Mirror*: Replacement of the passenger side rearview mirror with a U.S.-model component.

Standard No. 114 *Theft Protection*: Installation of a warning buzzer and a warning buzzer microswitch in the steering lock assembly.

Standard No. 118 *Power Window Systems*: Add a relay to the power window systems to prevent operation when the ignition is off.

Standard No. 201 *Occupant Protection in Interior Impact*: Replacement of components subject to standard with U.S. model components on vehicles that are not already so equipped.

Standard No. 208 *Occupant Crash Protection*: (a) Installation of a seat belt warning buzzer, wired to the driver's seat belt latch; (b) inspection of all vehicles and replacement of the driver's and passenger's side air bags, knee bolsters, control units, sensors, and seat belts with U.S.-model components on vehicles that are not already so equipped. The front and rear outboard designated seating positions have combination lap and shoulder belts that are self-tensioning and that release by means of a single red pushbutton.

Standard No. 214 *Side Impact Protection*: Inspection of all vehicles and installation of reinforcing door

beams on vehicles that are not already so equipped.

The petitioner also states that a vehicle identification plate must be affixed to the vehicles near the left windshield post and a reference and certification label must be affixed in the area of the left front door post to meet the requirements of 49 CFR Part 565.

Interested persons are invited to submit comments on the petition described above. Comments should refer to the docket number and be submitted to: Docket Management, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh St., SW, Washington, DC 20590. [Docket hours are from 9 am to 5 pm]. It is requested but not required that 10 copies be submitted.

All comments received before the close of business on the closing date indicated above will be considered, and will be available for examination in the docket at the above address both before and after that date. To the extent possible, comments filed after the closing date will also be considered. Notice of final action on the petition will be published in the **Federal Register** pursuant to the authority indicated below.

**Authority:** 49 U.S.C. 30141(a)(1)(A) and (b)(1); 49 CFR 593.8; delegations of authority at 49 CFR 1.50 and 501.8.

Issued on: June 6, 2001.

**Marilynne Jacobs,**

*Director, Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance.*  
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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 34045]

#### **Watco Companies, Inc.—Control Exemption—Eastern Idaho Railroad, Inc.**

Watco Companies, Inc. (Watco), a noncarrier, has filed a notice of exemption to acquire control through stock ownership of the Eastern Idaho Railroad, Inc., a Class III rail carrier.

The transaction was scheduled to be consummated on or shortly after May 25, 2001, the effective date of the exemption.

At the time it filed this notice, Watco controlled four Class III railroad subsidiaries: South Kansas and Oklahoma Railroad Company, operating in the States of Missouri, Kansas and Oklahoma; Palouse River & Coulee City Railroad, Inc., operating in the States of Washington, Oregon and Idaho; Timber Rock Railroad, Inc., operating in the States of Texas and Louisiana; and

Stillwater Central Railroad operating in the State of Oklahoma.<sup>1</sup> Watco is proposing to acquire all of the outstanding stock of EIRR, an Idaho corporation.

Watco states that: (1) The railroads do not connect with each other; (ii) the acquisition of control is not part of a series of anticipated transactions that would connect the railroads with each other or any railroad in their corporate family; and (iii) the transaction does not involve a Class I carrier. Therefore, the transaction is exempt from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 11323. See 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(2).

Under 49 U.S.C. 10502(g), the Board may not use its exemption authority to relieve a rail carrier of its statutory obligation to protect the interests of its employees. Section 11326(c), however, does not provide for labor protection for transactions under sections 11324 and 11325 that involve only Class III rail carriers. Because this transaction involves Class III rail carriers only, the Board, under the statute, may not impose labor protective conditions for this transaction.

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. 34045 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 Karl Morell, Ball Janik LLP, 1455 F Street, NW., Suite 225, Washington, DC 20005.

Board decisions and notices are available on our website at [www.stb.dot.gov](http://www.stb.dot.gov).

Decided: June 5, 2001.

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

**Vernon A. Williams,**  
*Secretary.*

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<sup>1</sup> On May 25, 2001, Watco also filed a notice of exemption in STB Finance Docket No. 34042, *Watco Companies, Inc.—Continuance in Control Exemption—Kansas & Oklahoma Railroad, Inc.*, to permit its control of Kansas & Oklahoma Railroad, Inc., when that entity becomes a rail carrier.