

follow the same format and agenda. SEA will have a transcriber available at each meeting to ensure that oral comments are accurately recorded. In some locations, two meetings will be held (an afternoon and an evening session). Both the afternoon and evening meetings will follow the same format and agenda; it is not necessary to attend both meetings.

Douglas, WY

Best Western Douglas Inn, 1450 Riverbend Drive, Douglas, WY 82633, Monday, October 30, 2000, 6–10 p.m.

Newcastle, WY

The Fountain Inn, 2 Fountain Plaza, Newcastle, WY 82701, Wednesday, November 1, 2000, 1–4 p.m. and 6–10 p.m.

Rapid City, SD

Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, 444 Mount Rushmore Road North, Rapid City, SD 57701, Thursday, November 2, 2000, 6–10 p.m.

Pierre, SD

Best Western Kings Inn, 200 South Pierre, Pierre, SD 57501, Monday, November 13, 2000, 1–4 p.m. and 6–10 p.m.

Brookings, SD

Brookings Inn, 2500 East 5th Street, Brookings, SD 57006, Tuesday, November 14, 2000, 1–4 p.m. and 6–10 p.m.

Mankato, MN

Best Western Hotel and Restaurant, 1111 Range Street, North Mankato, MN 56003, Wednesday, November 15, 2000, 1–4 p.m. and 6–10 p.m.

Rochester, MN

Mayo Civic Center, 30 Civic Center Drive South East, Rochester, MN 55904, Thursday, November 16, 2000, 1–4 p.m. and 6–10 p.m.

SEA will also conduct a meeting specifically for interested Tribes and Tribal organizations, as part of the formal government-to-government consultation process on the Draft EIS.

#### Pre-Registration for Public Meetings

Persons wanting to speak at a public meeting are strongly urged to pre-register by calling the toll-free Environmental Hotline for this project at 1–877–404–3044 and leave their name, telephone number, the name of any group, business, or agency affiliation, if applicable, and the date and time of the meeting at which they wish to speak. The deadline for pre-registration for all meetings is October 20, 2000.

Persons will be called to speak at each meeting in the order in which they pre-registered. Those wishing to speak but

that did not pre-register will be accommodated at each meeting as time allows. Those wishing to speak at more than one meeting will also be accommodated as time allows and after all others have had an opportunity to participate. As SEA would like as many persons as possible to participate and given that there will be a limited amount of time at each meeting, all speakers are strongly encouraged to prepare summary oral comments, and submit detailed comments in writing. SEA also encourages groups of individuals with similar comments to designate a representative to speak for them.

By the Board, Elaine K. Kaiser, Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis.

**Vernon A. Williams,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 00–24852 Filed 9–26–00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4915–00–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33932]

#### **ParkSierra Corp., Arizona & California Railroad Company Limited Partnership, and California Northern Railroad Company, L.P.—Corporate Family Transaction Exemption**

ParkSierra Corp. (ParkSierra), Arizona & California Railroad Company Limited Partnership (ARZC), and California Northern Railroad Company, L.P. (CFNR) have filed a verified notice of exemption. The exempt transaction involves the contribution of all of ARZC's and CFNR's assets to ParkSierra in exchange for shares of common stock of ParkSierra.<sup>1</sup> Upon consummation of the transaction, ParkSierra will assume the common carrier obligations of ARZC and CFNR, and ARZC, CFNR, and PSAP each will continue to provide railroad service as a d/b/a and separate operating division of ParkSierra.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> ParkSierra, a noncarrier, is the sole general partner of ARZC and CFNR, both Class III rail carriers. In addition to owning rail lines in the States of Arizona and California, ARZC owns rail lines in the State of Washington that are operated by an operating division of ARZC d/b/a Puget Sound & Pacific Railroad (PSAP). CFNR operates in the State of California. None of the rail lines of ARZC, CFNR, or PSAP connect to each other.

<sup>2</sup> Redacted versions of the trackage rights agreements between the parties were filed with the verified notice of exemption. Also, full versions of the trackage rights agreements, as required by 49 CFR 1180.6(a)(7)(ii), were filed under seal. A motion for protective order was filed on September

The transaction is/was expected to be consummated on or after September 20, 2000.

The transaction is intended to simplify the organizational structure of ParkSierra, ARZC, and CFNR and to create administrative efficiencies.

This is a transaction within a corporate family of the type specifically exempted from prior review and approval under 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(3). The parties state that the transaction will not result in adverse changes in service levels, significant operational changes, or a change in the competitive balance with carriers outside the corporate family.

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 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 reopen will not automatically stay the transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 33932, 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 Rose-Michele Weinryb, Esq., Weiner Brodsky Sidman Kider PC, 1300 19th Street, NW., Fifth Floor, Washington, DC 20036–1609.

Board decisions and notices are available on our website at “WWW.STB.DOT.GOV.”

Decided: September 20, 2000.

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

**Vernon A. Williams,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 00–24692 Filed 9–26–00; 8:45 am]

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13, 2000. That motion was granted and a protective order in this proceeding was served on September 20, 2000.