

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-32 (Sub-No. 85X); STB Docket No. AB-355 (Sub-No. 37X)]

**Boston and Maine Corporation—
Abandonment Exemption—in
Middlesex County, MA; Springfield
Terminal Railway Company—
Discontinuance of Service
Exemption—in Middlesex County, MA**

The Boston and Maine Corporation (B&M) and Springfield Terminal Railway Company (ST) (collectively, applicants) have jointly filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F—*Exempt Abandonments and Discontinuances of Service* for B&M to abandon, and for ST to discontinue service over, a 1.27-mile portion of the Lowell Industrial Track between station 1304+77, and station 1372+00 in Lowell, Middlesex County, MA. The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Codes 01851 and 01852.

Applicants have certified that: (1) No traffic has moved over the line for at least 2 years; (2) there is no overhead traffic on the line; (3) no formal complaint filed by a user of rail service on the line (or by a state or local government entity acting on behalf of such user) regarding cessation of service over the line either is pending with the Board or with any U.S. District Court or has been decided in favor of complainant within the 2-year period; and (4) the requirements of 49 CFR 1105.7 (environmental report), 49 CFR 1105.8 (historic report), 49 CFR 1105.11 (transmittal letter), 49 CFR 1105.12 (newspaper publication), and 49 CFR 1152.50(d)(1) (notice to governmental agencies) have been met.

As a condition to this exemption, any employee adversely affected by the abandonment shall be protected under *Oregon Short Line R. Co.—Abandonment—Goshen*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979). To address whether this condition adequately protects affected employees, a petition for partial revocation under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) must be filed.

Provided no formal expression of intent to file an offer of financial assistance (OFA) has been received, this exemption will be effective on December 13, 2008, unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay that do not involve environmental issues,¹ formal expressions of intent to

file an OFA under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2),² and trail use/rail banking requests under 49 CFR 1152.29 must be filed by November 24, 2008. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by December 3, 2008, with the Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street, SW., Washington, DC 20423-0001.

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to applicants' representative: Michael Q. Geary, Boston & Maine Corporation, Springfield Terminal Railway Company, 1700 Iron Horse Park, North Billerica, MA 01862.

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*.

Applicants have filed environmental and historic reports which address the effects, if any, of the abandonment on the environment and historic resources. SEA will issue an environmental assessment (EA) by November 18, 2008. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA by writing to SEA (Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423-0001) or by calling SEA, at (202) 245-0303. [Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.] Comments on environmental and historic preservation matters must be filed within 15 days after the EA becomes available to the public.

Environmental, historic preservation, public use, or trail use/rail banking conditions will be imposed, where appropriate, in a subsequent decision.

Pursuant to the provisions of 49 CFR 1152.29(e)(2), B&M shall file a notice of consummation with the Board to signify that it has exercised the authority granted and fully abandoned the line. If consummation has not been effected by B&M's filing of a notice of consummation by November 13, 2009, and there are no legal or regulatory barriers to consummation, the authority to abandon will automatically expire.

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

Decided: November 4, 2008.

exemption's effective date. See *Exemption of Out-of-Service Rail Lines*, 5 I.C.C.2d 377 (1989). Any request for a stay should be filed as soon as possible so that the Board may take appropriate action before the exemption's effective date.

² Effective July 18, 2008, the filing fee for an OFA increased to \$1,500. See *Regulations Governing Fees for Services Performed in Connection with Licensing and Related Services—2008 update*, STB Ex Parte No. 542 (Sub-No. 15) (STB served June 18, 2008).

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

Jeff Herzig,

Clearance Clerk.

[FR Doc. E8-26799 Filed 11-12-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 35087¹]

**Canadian National Railway Company
and Grand Trunk Corporation—
Control—EJ&E West Company**

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board.

ACTION: Notice of Board meeting.

SUMMARY: The Board will hold a meeting on Tuesday, November 18, 2008, to receive a briefing from and discuss with the Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) staff the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) being prepared in STB Finance Docket No. 35087. The meeting will be open for public observation but not public participation.

DATES: The meeting will take place on Tuesday, November 18, 2008, beginning at 10 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in the Hearing Room on the first floor of the Board's headquarters at Patriot's Plaza, 395 E Street, SW., Washington, DC 20423-0001.

A video broadcast of the hearing will be available via the Board's Web site at <http://www.stb.dot.gov>, under "Information Center"/"Webcast"/"Live Video" on the home page.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: A. Dennis Watson, Office of Public Assistance, Governmental Affairs, and Compliance, Telephone: (202) 245-0234, FIRS: (800) 877-8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On October 30, 2007, the Canadian National

¹ This decision also embraces *Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway Company—Corporate Family Exemption—EJ&E West Company*, STB Finance Docket No. 35087 (Sub-No. 1); *Chicago, Central & Pacific Railroad Company—Trackage Rights Exemption—EJ&E West Company*, STB Finance Docket No. 35087 (Sub-No. 2); *Grand Trunk Western Railroad Incorporated—Trackage Rights Exemption—EJ&E West Company*, STB Finance Docket No. 35087 (Sub-No. 3); *Illinois Central Railroad Company—Trackage Rights Exemption—EJ&E West Company*, STB Finance Docket No. 35087 (Sub-No. 4); *Wisconsin Central Ltd.—Trackage Rights Exemption—EJ&E West Company*, STB Finance Docket No. 35087 (Sub-No. 5); *EJ&E West Company—Trackage Rights Exemption—Chicago, Central & Pacific Railroad Company*, STB Finance Docket No. 35087 (Sub-No. 6); and *EJ&E West Company—Trackage Rights Exemption—Illinois Central Railroad Company*, STB Finance Docket No. 35087 (Sub-No. 7).

¹ The Board will grant a stay if an informed decision on environmental issues (whether raised by a party or by the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) in its independent investigation) cannot be made before the

Railway Company (CN) and Grand Trunk Corporation (collectively, CN or the Applicants) filed an application with the Board, seeking the Board's approval to acquire control of EJ&E West (EJ&EW) Company, a wholly owned noncarrier subsidiary of the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway Company (EJ&E). EJ&E is a Class II railroad that currently operates approximately 200 miles of track in Northeastern Illinois and Northwestern Indiana.

On November 26, 2007, the Board issued Decision No. 2 announcing that SEA will prepare an EIS to assess the potential environmental impacts that may result from the proposed acquisition. The Draft EIS was served on July 25, 2008, and public comments on the Draft EIS were due by September 30, 2008. SEA is currently preparing the Final EIS in response to comments on the Draft EIS.

This action will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

Dated: November 7, 2008.

Kulunie L. Cannon,
Clearance Clerk.

[FR Doc. E8-26919 Filed 11-12-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Ex Parte No. 680]

Study of Competition in the Freight Railroad Industry

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Surface Transportation Board seeks written public comments on the independent study prepared by Christensen Associates, Inc., entitled, *A Study of Competition in the U.S. Freight Railroad Industry and Analysis of Proposals That Might Enhance Competition*.

DATES: Comments are due on or before December 22, 2008.

ADDRESSES: The Study may be accessed via the Board's Web site at <http://www.stb.dot.gov>. Comments may be submitted either via the Board's e-filing format or in traditional paper format. Any person using e-filing should attach a document and otherwise comply with the instructions at the E-FILING link on the Board's Web site at <http://www.stb.dot.gov>. Any person submitting a filing in the traditional paper format should send an original and 10 copies referring to STB Ex Parte No. 680 to:

Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street, SW., Washington, DC 20423-0001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Timothy Strafford, (202) 245-0356. [Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at: (800) 877-8339.]

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

In September 2007, the Board awarded a contract to Christensen Associates to conduct an independent study that provides a comprehensive analysis of a wide range of issues including competition, capacity, and the interplay between the two. The report also includes an examination of various regulatory policy alternatives that could lead to changes in the Board's regulatory approach if necessary.

On November 6, 2008, the Board held a public meeting with Christensen Associates to discuss the study. The Board has made the report available to the public via its Web site and now seeks public comments from all interested persons.

This action will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

Decided: November 6, 2008.

By the Board, Anne K. Quinlan, Acting Secretary.

Jeff Herzig,
Clearance Clerk.

[FR Doc. E8-26944 Filed 11-12-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Open Meeting of the Advisory Committee on the Ten-Year Framework for Energy and Environment Cooperation With China

AGENCY: Office of the Special Envoy to China and the SED, Department of the Treasury.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Department of Treasury's Advisory Committee on the Ten-Year Framework for Energy and Environment Cooperation with China will convene its first meeting on Monday, December 1, 2008, in the Cash Room of the main Department Building, 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC, beginning at 10 a.m. Eastern Time. The meeting will be open to the public.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Monday, December 1, 2008 at 10 a.m. Eastern Time.

ADDRESSES: The Advisory Committee will convene its first meeting in the Cash Room of the Main Department Building, 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC. The public is invited to submit written statements with the Advisory Committee by any of the following methods:

Electronic Statements

- Please use the following e-mail address to submit electronic copies of your written statements:
SED.TYF@do.treas.gov.

Paper Statements

- Send paper statements in triplicate to Advisory Committee on the Ten-Year Framework for Energy and Environment Cooperation with China, Office of the Special Envoy to China and the SED, Room 1308, Department of Treasury, 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20220.

In general, the Department will also make such statements available for public inspection and copying in the Department's Library, Room 1428, Main Department Building, 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20220, on official business days between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Eastern Time. You can make an appointment to inspect statements by telephoning (202) 622-0990. All statements, including attachments and other supporting materials, received are part of the public record and subject to public disclosure. You should submit only information you wish to make available publicly.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Katherine Casey Delhotal, Environmental and Economic Policy Advisor to the SED, Department of Treasury, 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20220, at (202) 622-6780.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

In accordance with section 10(a) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. II, section 10(a), and the regulations thereunder, Katherine Casey Delhotal, Designated Federal Officer of the Advisory Committee, has ordered publication of this notice that the Advisory Committee will convene its first meeting on Monday, December 1, 2008, in the Cash Room in the Main Department Building, 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20220 beginning at 10 a.m. Eastern Time. The meeting will be open to the public. Because the meeting will be held in a secured facility, members of the public who plan to attend the meeting must contact the Office of the Special Envoy to China and