

2006, at the Washington Plaza Hotel, 10 Thomas Circle NW., Washington, DC 20005. Interested parties are invited to present oral statements at the hearing. The hearing will be informal and will be conducted by a representative designated by FRA in accordance with FRA's Rules of Practice (49 CFR 211.25). The hearing will be a non-adversarial proceeding; therefore, there will be no cross examination of persons presenting statements. The FRA representative will make an opening statement outlining the scope of the hearing. After all initial statements have been completed, those persons wishing to make a brief rebuttal will be given the opportunity to do so in the same order in which initial statements were made. Additional procedures, as necessary for the conduct of the hearing, will be announced at the hearing.

Issued in Washington, DC on December 14, 2006.

Grady C. Cothen, Jr.,

Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Standards and Program Development.

[FR Doc. E6-21658 Filed 12-19-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 34960]

The Chicago, Lake Shore and South Bend Railway Company—Acquisition and Operation Exemption—Norfolk Southern Railway Company

The Chicago, Lake Shore and South Bend Railway Company (CLS&SB), a noncarrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.31 to purchase and operate lines currently owned by Norfolk Southern Railway Company. The lines consist of approximately 3.2 miles of railroad between milepost UV 0.0 and milepost UV 2.8 and between milepost ZO 9.48 and milepost ZO 9.9, including any ownership interest in the spur leading to the University of Notre Dame near the City of South Bend, IN (City).¹

¹ The 3.2 miles of line and spur at issue in this notice of exemption are also the subject of an adverse abandonment proceeding in *Norfolk Southern Railway Company—Adverse Abandonment—St. Joseph County, IN*, STB Docket No. AB-290 (Sub-No. 286) (STB served and published at 71 FR 12933 on Dec. 11, 2006). The City, Sisters of the Holy Cross, Inc., and Brothers of Holy Cross, Inc., the applicants in STB Docket No. AB-290 (Sub-No. 286), on November 22, 2006, filed a petition to revoke, and a request to stay the effective date of, the notice of exemption at issue here. The Board issued a housekeeping stay in a decision served on November 22, 2006, to give interested persons an opportunity to submit

CLS&SB certifies that its projected annual revenues as a result of the transaction will not exceed those that would qualify it as a Class III rail carrier and will not exceed \$5 million.

CLS&SB planned to consummate the transaction no sooner than 7 days after the filing date of this notice of exemption and commence operations once the necessary rehabilitation of the lines is complete.

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 does not automatically stay the transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 34960, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, one copy of each pleading must be served on John D. Heffner, 1920 N Street, NW., Suite 800, Washington, DC 20036.

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

Decided: December 14, 2006.

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

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. E6-21759 Filed 12-19-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 34963]

James Riffin d/b/a The Raritan Valley Connecting Railroad—Acquisition and Operation Exemption—On Raritan Valley Connecting Track

James Riffin d/b/a The Raritan Valley Connecting Railroad (Mr. Riffin), a Class III rail carrier,¹ has filed an amended notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.41 to acquire and operate an approximately 1.25-mile segment of a rail line known as the Raritan Valley Connecting Track (Line Code 0326, Sub. No. 1038), extending from the Northerly sideline of the Lehigh Valley Line (at former Delaware & Bound Brook

additional information. The revocation request will be handled in a subsequent Board decision.

¹ In a decision served in *CSX Transportation, Inc.—Abandonment Exemption—In Allegany County, MD (In the Matter of an Offer of Financial Assistance)*, STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 659X) (STB served Aug. 18, 2006), Mr. Riffin was substituted for WMS, LLC, as the purchaser of a rail line in Maryland.

milepost 57.25), in Manville Borough, to the intersection with the southerly sideline of the former Raritan Valley Line, now New Jersey Transit's Raritan Valley Commuter Line (at former Delaware & Bound Brook milepost 58.50), in Bridgewater Township, all in Somerset County, NJ (the Line).² Mr. Riffin states that no agreement has been reached, but he proposes to acquire the Line and operating rights from its owner (the titleholder), which may be Consolidated Rail Corporation (Conrail), within 90 days of the December 6, 2006 filing of the notice.

Mr. Riffin certifies that the projected annual revenues as a result of this transaction will not exceed those that would qualify Mr. Riffin as a Class III carrier, and further certifies that Mr. Riffin's projected annual revenues will not exceed \$5 million.

The earliest this transaction may be consummated is the January 5, 2006 effective date of the exemption (30 days after the exemption was filed).

If the verified 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 does not automatically stay the transaction. Petitions for stay must be filed no later than December 29, 2006.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 34963, 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 James Riffin, 1941 Greenspring Drive, Timonium, MD 21093.

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

Decided: December 12, 2006.

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

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

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² Mr. Riffin originally filed a notice of exemption on November 21, 2006. However, acknowledging that it was erroneously filed under 49 CFR 1150.31 (for a noncarrier), Mr. Riffin filed an amended notice under 49 CFR 1150.41 (for a Class III carrier) on December 1, 2006. He subsequently filed additional information on December 6, 2006. Accordingly, the filing date for this notice of exemption is December 6, 2006.