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Decided: December 14, 2001.

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

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 01-31507 Filed 12-26-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 34118]

The Athens Line, LLC—Lease and Operation Exemption—Norfolk Southern Railway Company and Central of Georgia Railroad Company

The Athens Line, LLC (ABR), a noncarrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.31 to acquire by lease and to operate adjoining lines of Central of Georgia Railroad Company (CGA) and CGA's parent Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NS) through an operating contract with The Great Walton Railroad Company, Inc. The lines extend between CGA milepost F-75.5 at Madison, GA, to CGA milepost F-106.3 at Athens, GA,¹ and NS milepost NE-39.1 at Athens to NS milepost NE-32.0 at a point designated as Junior State, GA, a distance of approximately 38 miles. The line includes the following stations in Georgia: Bishop, Watkinsville, Whitehall, Athens and Paradise Valley. NS and ABR intend to interchange at either Paradise Valley or Junior State. ABR will grant trackage rights back to NS between NS milepost NE-32.0 and milepost NE-37.4 solely for purposes of interchange. ABR certifies that its projected annual revenues will not exceed \$5 million.

The transaction was scheduled to be consummated on or after December 7, 2001, the effective date of the exemption, with ABR's assumption of operations scheduled for December 29, 2001.

¹ ABR states that it understands that the transaction covered by this exemption will not create any residual common carrier obligation for CGA to resume operation of the Madison-Bishop segment of the Madison-Athens line should ABR sometime in the future obtain Board authority to discontinue its operations over that segment. See *Central of Georgia Railroad Company—Discontinuance Exemption—Operations Between Madison and Bishop, GA*, Docket No. AB-290 (Sub-No. 37X) (ICC served Nov. 3, 1988). (CGA received exemption discontinue operations between CGA milepost F-75.5 near Madison and milepost F-91.5 at Bishop). Abandonment of the segment would require further Board action or exemption.

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. 34118, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, one copy of each pleading must be served on David C. Reeves, Troutman Sanders LLP, 401 Ninth Street, N.W., Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20004-2134.

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Decided: December 18, 2001.

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

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 01-31766 Filed 12-26-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Financial Institutions; Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) Inviting Applications for the First Accounts Program

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Financial Institutions, Department of the Treasury.

ACTION: Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) inviting applications.

SUMMARY: The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2001 (Public Law 106-554, 114 Stat. 2763, 2763A-126) and the Department of Transportation and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001 (Public Law 106-346, 114 Stat. 1356, 1356A-44) appropriated funds to the Department of the Treasury ("Treasury") to develop and implement programs to expand access to financial services for low- and moderate-income individuals (the "First Accounts Program"). This NOFA invites grant applications from eligible entities that will either directly, or through one or more insured depository institutions/insured credit unions, provide low-cost electronic, checking, or other types of accounts to low- and moderate-income individuals who currently do not have an account with an insured depository institution or an insured credit union. The paramount goal of the First Accounts Program grants to be awarded

under this NOFA is to move a maximum number of "unbanked" low- and moderate-income individuals to a "banked" status with either an insured depository institution or an insured credit union. Treasury intends to award up to \$8 million in appropriated funds under this NOFA. Treasury reserves the right to award in excess of \$8 million in appropriated funds under this NOFA provided that the funds are available, and Treasury deems it appropriate. Eligible entities include, but are not limited to, insured depository institutions, insured credit unions, financial services electronic networks, employers of unbanked low- and moderate-income individuals, community development financial institutions, nonprofit organizations, States, Local Governments, Indian Tribal Governments, and labor organizations.

DATES: Applications may be submitted at any time, commencing December 27, 2001, and may be submitted by mail or by overnight/express delivery service, or electronically, in the format prescribed by Treasury. (Applications sent by facsimile or delivered by hand will not be accepted). The deadline for receipt of an application is March 20, 2002. Paper applications received in the specific Treasury office designated below after that date will not be considered, except as follows. An application mailed via the United States Postal Service will be considered as having met the application deadline if it is clearly postmarked on or before midnight March 20, 2002. An application sent by overnight/express delivery will be considered as having met the application deadline if it is placed in transit by no later than March 20, 2002 with an overnight/express delivery service. In each such case, it is advisable to obtain documentation from the carrier showing the date the application was placed in transit. A single, clear date stamp will help in determining whether the delivery of a paper application has met the deadline requirements set forth above. Electronic applications received at the specific email address set forth below after March 20, 2002 will not be considered. While Treasury will accept electronic applications, it is currently unable to collect electronic signatures for the First Accounts Program. As a result, an applicant sending an application electronically shall also submit by mail or overnight/express delivery service signed and dated hardcopy signature pages and certifications contained in the First Accounts Program application packet. Such hardcopies must be