

Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of all pleadings must be served on petitioners' representatives, Yolanda Grimes Brown, Esq., The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company, P.O. Box 961039, Fort Worth, TX 76161-0039, and Robert Opal, Esq., Union Pacific Railroad Company 1416 Dodge Street, Room 830, Omaha, NE 68179.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joseph H. Dettmar, (202) 565-1600. [TDD for the hearing impaired: 1 (800) 877-8339.]

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Additional information is contained in the Board's decision. To purchase a copy of the full decision, write to, call, or pick up in person from: Da to Da Office Solutions, Suite 405, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20006. Telephone: (202) 466-5530. [Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through TDD services 1 (800) 877-8339.]

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

Decided: September 27, 2000.

By the Board, Chairman Morgan, Vice Chairman Burkes, and Commissioner Clyburn.

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-25475 Filed 10-5-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-570 (Sub-No. 1X)]

Palouse River & Coulee City Railroad, Inc.—Abandonment Exemption—in Latah County, ID

Palouse River & Coulee City Railroad Inc. (PRCC) has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F—*Exempt Abandonments* to abandon a 26-mile portion of its rail line between milepost 21.0 at Harvard and milepost 47.0 at Bovill, in Latah County, ID. The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Codes 83834, 83823, and 83806.

PRCC has certified that: (1) No local traffic has moved over the line for at least 2 years; (2) any overhead traffic can be rerouted over other lines; (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 Surface Transportation Board (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 at 49 CFR 1105.7 (environmental reports), 49 CFR 1105.8 (historic reports), 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 November 7, 2000, 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 October 16, 2000. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by October 26, 2000, with: Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423.

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to applicant's representative: Karl Morell, Ball Janik LLP, 1455 F St., NW., Suite 225, Washington, DC 20005.

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

PRCC has filed an environmental report which addresses the abandonment's effects, if any, on the environment and historic resources. The Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) will issue an environmental assessment (EA) by October 11, 2000. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA by writing to SEA (Room 500, Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423) or by calling SEA, at (202) 565-1545. Comments on

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 in its independent investigation) cannot be made before the 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 Each offer of financial assistance must be accompanied by the filing fee, which currently is set at \$1000. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

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), PRCC 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 PRCC's filing of a notice of consummation by October 6, 2001, and there are no legal or regulatory barriers to consummation, the authority to abandon will automatically expire.

Decided: September 27, 2000.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-25474 Filed 10-5-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-471 (Sub-No. 4X)]

South Kansas and Oklahoma Railroad Co.—Abandonment Exemption—in Crawford, Wilson, Elk and Greenwood Counties, KS, and Osage and Tulsa Counties, OK

South Kansas and Oklahoma Railroad Company (SKO) has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR Part 1152 Subpart F—*Exempt Abandonments* to abandon: (1) a 35-mile line of railroad between milepost 153.0 near Tulsa and milepost 188.0 near Barnsdall, in Osage and Tulsa Counties, OK; (2) a 6-mile line of railroad between milepost 359.0 at Pittsburg and milepost 365.0 at Cherokee, in Crawford County, KS; and (3) a 23.5-mile line of railroad between milepost 438.5 at Severy and milepost 415.0 at Fredonia, in Wilson, Elk and Greenwood Counties, KS. The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Codes 74126, 74073, 74070, 74001, 74002, 66762, 66724, 67137, 67047, 66759 and 66736.

SKO has certified that: (1) No local traffic has moved over the line for at least 2 years; (2) any overhead traffic can be rerouted over other lines; (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 Surface Transportation Board (Board) or