

that of current regulations. Exemption procedures provide the information required for analytical purposes to determine if the requested relief provides for a comparable level of safety as provided by the HMR. Preemption procedures provide information for RSPA to determine whether a requirement of a State, political subdivision, or Indian tribe is preempted under 49 U.S.C. 5125, or regulations issued thereunder, or whether a waiver of preemption should be issued.

Affected Public: Shippers, carriers, packaging manufacturers, and other affected entities.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 3,304.

Estimated Number of Responses: 4,294.

Annual Estimated Burden Hours: 4,219.

Frequency of Collection: Periodically.

Title: Approvals for Hazardous Materials.

OMB No.: 2137-0557.

Type of Request: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: This information collection consolidates and describes the information collection provisions in parts 107, 172, 173, 174, 176, and 178 regarding requirements for approvals for hazardous materials in the HMR. Responses to these information collection requirements are required to obtain benefits, such as to become an approval or certification agency or to obtain a variance from packaging or handling requirements based on information provided by the respondent. The types of information collected include: applications to become designated approval agencies, independent cylinder testing agencies, and foreign manufacturers of cylinders; applications for approval of classifications of new explosives; applications for safety determinations to the adequacy of old packagings for materials with special hazards; applications to allow the regulated public to use alternative packagings or test methods; etc. The information collected is used to:

(1) Determine whether applicants who apply to become designated approval agencies are qualified to evaluate package design, test packages, classify hazardous materials, etc.;

(2) Verify that various containers and special loading requirements for vessels meet the requirements of the HMR;

(3) Assure that regulated hazardous materials pose no danger to life and property during transportation; and

(4) Allow minor variations to regulatory requirements (as specifically

authorized by regulation), based on information provided by respondents, without requiring the respondent to apply using less timely and more burdensome exemption procedures.

Affected Public: Businesses and other entities who must meet the approval requirements in the HMR.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 3,518.

Estimated Number of Responses: 3,869.

Annual Estimated Burden Hours: 18,381.

Frequency of Collection: On occasion.

ADDRESSES: Send comments regarding the burden estimate, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to Office of Management and Budget, Attention: Desk Officer for RSPA, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503.

Comments are invited on: whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; the accuracy of the Department's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

A comment to OMB is most effective if OMB receives it within 30 days of publication.

Issued in Washington, DC on June 8, 2000.

Edward T. Mazzullo,

Director, Office of Hazardous Materials Standards.

[FR Doc. 00-14908 Filed 6-13-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-60-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33879]

Union Pacific Railroad Company— Trackage Rights Exemption—The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company

The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF) has agreed to grant overhead trackage rights to Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) over BNSF's rail line between BNSF milepost 117.4 near Shawnee Junction, WY, and BNSF milepost 0.0 near Northport, NE, a distance of 143.1 miles.¹

¹ On June 6, 2000, UP filed a petition for exemption in STB Finance Docket No. 33879 (Sub-

The transaction was scheduled to be consummated on, or as soon as possible after, June 10, 2000.

The purpose of the trackage rights is to permit UP to use the BNSF trackage when UP's trackage is out of service for scheduled maintenance.

As a condition to this exemption, any employees affected by the trackage rights will be protected by the conditions imposed in *Norfolk and Western Ry. Co.—Trackage Rights—BN*, 354 I.C.C. 605 (1978), as modified in *Mendocino Coast Ry., Inc.—Lease and Operate*, 360 I.C.C. 653 (1980).

This notice is filed under 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(7). If it 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. 33879, 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, one copy of each pleading must be served on Robert T. Opal, 1416 Dodge Street, Room 830, Omaha, NE 68179.

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

Decided: June 8, 2000.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-15048 Filed 6-13-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-303 (Sub-No. 23X)]

Wisconsin Central Ltd.—Abandonment Exemption—In Forest and Langlade Counties, WI

On May 25, 2000, Wisconsin Central Ltd. (WC) filed with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) a petition under 49 U.S.C. 10502 for exemption from the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 10903-05 to abandon a line of railroad known as the Crandon-White Lake Line,

No. 1), *Union Pacific Railroad Company—Trackage Rights Exemption—The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company*, wherein UP requests that the Board permit the proposed overhead trackage rights arrangement described in the present proceeding to expire on June 25, 2000. That petition will be addressed by the Board in a separate decision.

between milepost 254 south of Crandon and milepost 280 near White Lake, in Forest and Langlade Counties, WI, a distance of 26 miles. The line traverses U.S. Postal Service Zip Codes 54520 and 54491, and includes stations at Woodlawn (milepost 259.9) and Lily (milepost 269.0).

The line does not contain federally granted rights-of-way. Any documentation in WC's possession will be made available promptly to those requesting it.

The interest of railroad employees will be protected by the conditions set forth in *Oregon Short Line R. Co.—Abandonment—Goshen*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979).

By issuing this notice, the Board is instituting an exemption proceeding pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10502(b). A final decision will be issued by September 12, 2000.

Any offer of financial assistance (OFA) under 49 CFR 1152.27(b)(2) will be due no later than 10 days after service of a decision granting the petition for exemption. Each OFA must be accompanied by a \$1,000 filing fee. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

All interested persons should be aware that, following abandonment of rail service and salvage of the line, the line may be suitable for other public use, including interim trail use. Any request for a public use condition under 49 CFR 1152.28 or for trail use/rail banking under 49 CFR 1152.29 will be due no later than July 5, 2000. Each trail use request must be accompanied by a \$150 filing fee. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(27).

All filings in response to this notice must refer to STB Docket No. AB-303 (Sub-No. 23X) and must be sent to: (1) Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001; and (2) Michael J. Barron, Jr., P.O. Box 5062, Rosemont, IL 60017-5062. Replies to the WC petition are due on or before July 5, 2000.

Persons seeking further information concerning abandonment procedures may contact the Board's Office of Public Services at (202) 565-1592 or refer to the full abandonment or discontinuance regulations at 49 CFR part 1152.

Questions concerning environmental issues may be directed to the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) at (202) 565-1545. [TDD for the hearing impaired is available at 1-800-877-8339.]

An environmental assessment (EA) (or environmental impact statement (EIS), if necessary) prepared by SEA will be served upon all parties of record and upon any agencies or other persons who

commented during its preparation. Other interested persons may contact SEA to obtain a copy of the EA (or EIS). EAs in these abandonment proceedings normally will be made available within 60 days after the filing of the petition. The deadline for submission of comments on the EA will generally be within 30 days after its service.

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

Decided: June 8, 2000.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-15047 Filed 6-13-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Bureau of Transportation Statistics

[Docket No. BTS-00-7489]

Motor Carrier Financial and Operating Information; Requests for Exemptions From Public Release of Reports

AGENCY: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Class I and Class II motor carriers of property and household goods are required to file annual and quarterly reports with the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS). As provided by statute, carriers may request that their reports be withheld from public release. BTS has received three requests covering the 1999 annual report, which also request an exemption from public release of the 2000 quarterly reports. BTS invites comments on these requests.

DATES: Comments must be submitted by July 14, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Please direct comments to the Docket Clerk, Docket No. BTS-00-7489, Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Room PL-401, Washington, DC 20590, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except federal holidays.

Comments should identify the docket number and be submitted in duplicate to the address listed above. Commenters wishing the Department to acknowledge receipt of their comments must submit with those comments a self-addressed stamped postcard on which the following statement is made: Comments on Docket BTS-00-7489. The Docket Clerk will date stamp the postcard and mail it back to the commenter.

If you wish to file comments using the Internet, you may use the US DOT Dockets Management System website at <http://dms.dot.gov>. Please follow the instructions online for more information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

David Mednick, K-1, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590; (202) 366-8871; fax: (202) 366-3640; e-mail: david.mednick@bts.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under 49 U.S.C. 14123 and its implementing regulations at 49 CFR 1420, BTS collects financial and operating information from for-hire motor carriers of property and household goods. The data are collected on annual Form M, filed by Class I and Class II carriers, and quarterly Form QFR, filed only by Class I carriers. The data are used by the Department of Transportation, other federal agencies, motor carriers, shippers, industry analysts, labor unions, segments of the insurance industry, investment analysts, and the consultants and data vendors that support these users. Among the uses of the data are: (1) Developing the U.S. national accounts and preparing the quarterly estimates of the Gross Domestic Product, which help us better understand the U.S. economy and the motor carrier industry's role in it; (2) measuring the performance of the for-hire motor carrier industry and segments within it; (3) monitoring carrier safety; (4) benchmarking carrier performance; and (5) analyzing motor carrier safety and productivity.

Generally, all data are made publicly available. A carrier can, however, request that its report be withheld from public release, as provided for by statute, 49 U.S.C. 14123(c)(2), and its implementing regulations, 49 CFR 1420.9. BTS will grant a request upon a proper showing that the carrier is not a publicly held corporation or that the carrier is not subject to financial reporting requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission, and that the exemption is necessary to avoid competitive harm and to avoid the disclosure of information that qualifies as trade secret or privileged or confidential information under 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(4).

The carrier must submit a written request containing supporting information. BTS must receive the request by the report's due date, unless it is postmarked by the due date or there are extenuating circumstances. Requests covering the quarterly reports must be received by the due date of the annual report that relates to the prior year. In