

[FR Doc. 00-18778 Filed 7-24-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-60-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Research and Special Programs Administration****Office of Hazardous Materials Safety; Notice of Applications for Exemptions****AGENCY:** Research and Special Programs Administration, DOT.**ACTION:** List of applicants for exemptions.**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the procedures governing the application for, and the processing of, exemptions from the Department of Transportation's Hazardous Materials Regulations (49 CFR Part 107, Subpart B), notice is

hereby given that the Office of Hazardous Materials Safety has received the applications described herein. Each mode of transportation for which a particular exemption is requested is indicated by a number in the "Nature of Application" portion of the table below as follows: 1—Motor vehicle, 2—Rail freight, 3—Cargo vessel, 4—Cargo aircraft only, 5—Passenger-carrying aircraft.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before August 24, 2000.**ADDRESS COMMENTS TO:** Records Center, Research and Special Programs Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, Washington, DC 20590.

Comments should refer to the application number and be submitted in triplicate. If confirmation of receipt of comments is desired, include a self-

addressed stamped postcard showing the exemption application number.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Copies of the applications (See Docket Number) are available for inspection at the New Docket Management Facility, PL-401, at the U.S. Department of Transportation, Nassif Building, 400 7th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590 or at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

This notice of receipt of applications for new exemptions is published in accordance with Part 107 of the Federal hazardous materials transportation law (49 U.S.C. 5117(b); 49 CFR 1.53(b)).

Issued in Washington, DC, on July 19, 2000.

R. Ryan Posten,*Exemptions Program Officer, Office of Hazardous Materials, Exemptions and Approvals.***NEW EXEMPTIONS**

Application No.	Docket No.	Applicant	Regulation(s) affected	Nature of exemption thereof
12481-N	RSPA-00-7594	Trac Regulator Co., Inc., Mt. Vernon, NY.	49 CFR 173.306	To authorize the transportation in commerce of a specially designed device consisting of non-specification outer packaging for use in transporting various hazardous materials. (modes 1, 2)
12491-N	RSPA-00-7595	PPG Industries, Inc., Pittsburgh, PA.	49 CFR 171.12(b)(5), SP T17.	To authorize the transportation in commerce of dichlorophenyl isocyanate, Division 6.1 in IM 101 portable tanks. (modes 1, 3)
12492-N	RSPA-00-7593	Honeywell International Inc., Morristown, NJ.	49 CFR 173.304	To authorize the transportation in commerce of liquefied gas, n.o.s., Division 2.2 in DOT-3AL 1800 cylinders. (modes 1, 2, 3)
12493-N	RSPA-00-7579	Caroline Power & Light Co, Southport, NC.	49 CFR 174.67(i) & (j)	To authorize rail cars to remain attached to unloading devices during intermittent unloading of chlorine, Division 2.3 without the physical presence of an unloader. (mode 2)
12495-N	RSPA-00-7603	South Carolina Electric & Gas Co., Jenkinsvile, SC.	49 CFR 171, 172, 173	To authorize the transportation in commerce of radioactive material packages, Class 7, from one facility to another using state road that would be transported as essentially unregulated. (mode 1)
12497-N	RSPA-00-7604	Henderson International Technologies, Inc., Richardson, TX.	49 CFR 173.302(a)(1), 173.314(c).	To authorize the frame mounting and manifolding to a motor vehicle of seamless steel tank cars tanks made in conformance with DOT Specification 107A for the transportation in commerce of certain Division 2.2 gases. (mode 1)

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Surface Transportation Board****[STB Finance Docket No. 33904]****Thomas Z. Mars—Continuance in Control Exemption—Sunflour Railroad, Inc.**

Thomas Z. Mars (Mars), an individual, has filed a notice of exemption to continue in control of the

Sunflour Railroad, Inc. (SFR), upon SFR's becoming a Class III railroad.

The transaction is scheduled to be consummated on July 31, 2000.

This transaction is related to STB Finance Docket No. 33903, *Sunflour Railroad, Inc.—Acquisition and Operation Exemption—Soo Line Railroad Company*, wherein SFR seeks to acquire from Soo Line Railroad Company and operate an approximately 26.3-mile rail line extending from Rosholt to Veblen, SD.

Mars currently controls one existing Class III railroad: Denver Rock Island

Railroad (DRI), operating in the State of Colorado.

Mars states that: (i) The rail lines to be operated by SFR and DRI do not connect; (ii) the transaction is not part of a series of anticipated transactions that would result in such a connection; and (iii) the transaction does not involve a Class I carrier. Therefore, the transaction is exempt from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 11323. See 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(2).

Under 49 U.S.C. 10502(g), the Board may not use its exemption authority to relieve a rail carrier of its statutory

obligation to protect the interests of its employees. Section 11326(c), however, does not provide for labor protection for transactions under sections 11324 and 11325 that involve only Class III rail carriers. Because this transaction involves Class III rail carriers only, the Board, under the statute, may not impose labor protective conditions for this transaction.

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. 33904, 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, a copy of each pleading must be served on William C. Sippel, Esq., Fletcher & Sippel LLC, Two Prudential Plaza, Suite 3125, 180 North Stetson Avenue, Chicago, IL 60601-6721.

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

Decided: July 19, 2000.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33903]

Sunflour Railroad, Inc.—Acquisition and Operation Exemption—Soo Line Railroad Company

Sunflour Railroad, Inc. (SFR), a noncarrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.31 to acquire from Soo Line Railroad Company (Soo) and operate approximately 26.3 miles of rail line extending from a connection with Soo at milepost 210.0, near Rosholt, to the end of track at milepost 236.3, in Veblen, in Marshall and Roberts Counties, SD (Rosholt-Veblen line).¹

¹ According to the verified notice of exemption, Soo will withdraw its abandonment application for the eastern portion of the Rosholt-Veblen line, from Rosholt to west of Claire City, SD, now pending before the Board in STB Docket No. AB-57 (Sub-

The transaction is scheduled to be consummated on July 31, 2000.

This transaction is related to STB Finance Docket No. 33904, *Thomas Z. Mars—Continuance in Control Exemption—Sunflour Railroad, Inc.*, wherein Thomas Z. Mars has concurrently filed a verified notice to continue in control of SFR upon its becoming a Class III rail carrier.

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*. Petitions to reopen the proceeding 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. 33903, 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, a copy of each pleading must be served on William C. Sippel, Esq., Fletcher & Sippel LLC, Two Prudential Plaza, Suite 3125, 180 North Stetson Avenue, Chicago, IL 60601-6721.

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Decided: July 19, 2000.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Rehabilitation Research and Development Service Scientific Merit Review Board, Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs gives notice under Public Law 92-463 (Federal Advisory Committee Act) as amended, by section 5(c) of Public Law 94-409, that a meeting of the Rehabilitation Research and

No. 51), *Soo Line Railroad Company—Abandonment—in Roberts County, SD*. The abandonment of the western portion of the Rosholt-Veblen line from Claire City to Veblen was previously exempted by the Board in *Soo Line Railroad Company—Abandonment Exemption—in Marshall and Roberts Counties, SD*, STB Docket No. AB-57 (Sub-No. 50X) (STB served Jan. 11, 2000). The verified notice of exemption further indicates that Soo has not consummated that abandonment. Thus, Soo is now proposing to sell the Rosholt-Veblen line instead of abandoning it.

Development Service Scientific Merit Review Board will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 1001 14th Street, NW, Washington, DC on August 1, 2000 through August 2, 2000.

The sessions on August 1 and August 2, 2000, are scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at 6:30 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to review rehabilitation research and development applications for scientific and technical merit and to make recommendations to the Director, Rehabilitation Research and Development Service, regarding their funding.

The meeting will be open to the public for the August 1 session from 8:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. for the discussion of administrative matters, the general status of the program, and the administrative details of the review process. On August 1 from 9 a.m. through August 2, 2000, the meeting is closed during which the Board will be reviewing research and development applications.

This review involves oral comments, discussion of site visits, staff and consultant critiques of proposed research protocols, and similar analytical documents that necessitate the consideration of the personal qualifications, performance and competence of individual research investigators. Disclosure of such information would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. Disclosure would also reveal research proposals and research underway, which could lead to the loss of these projects to third parties and thereby frustrate future agency research efforts.

Thus, the closing is in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(6), and (c)(9)(B) and the determination of the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs under Section 10(d) of Public Law 92-463 as amended by Section 5(c) of Public Law 94-409.

Those who plan to attend the open sessions should write to Ms. Victoria Mongiardo, Program Analyst, Rehabilitation Research and Development Service (122P), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420 (Phone: 202-408-3684) at least five days before the meeting.

Dated: July 17, 2000.

By direction of the Secretary.

Marvin R. Eason,

Committee Management Officer.

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