

(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.

*Annual Reporting and Recordkeeping:* 18,381.

*Total Respondents:* 3,518.

*Total Annual Responses:* 3,869.

*Total Annual Burden Hours:* 18,381.

*Frequency of Collection:* On occasion.

Issued in Washington, DC on March 30, 2000.

**Edward T. Mazzullo,**

*Director, Office of Hazardous Materials Standards.*

[FR Doc. 00-8325 Filed 4-4-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-60-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33854]

#### **Meridian Southern Railway, LLC— Acquisition and Operation Exemption—Line of Kansas City Southern Railway Company**

Meridian Southern Railway, LLC (MDS), a noncarrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.31 to acquire (by purchase) Kansas City Southern Railway Company's ownership interest in, and to operate, approximately 54.5 miles of rail line between approximately milepost 134.2 at Meridian, MS, and approximately milepost 79.7 at Waynesboro, MS, in Clarke, Lauderdale and Wayne Counties, MS.<sup>1</sup>

The transaction is expected to be consummated on or after March 31, 2000, the effective date of the exemption (7 days after the exemption was filed).

<sup>1</sup> MDS certifies that its projected revenues as a result of this transaction will not result in the creation of a Class I or Class II rail carrier.

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. 33854, 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 Kevin M. Sheys, Oppenheimer Wolff Donnelly & Bayh LLP, 1350 Eye Street, NW., Suite 200, Washington, DC 20005.

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

Decided: March 29, 2000.

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

**Vernon A. Williams,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 00-8237 Filed 4-4-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4915-00-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### **Debt Management Advisory Committee; Meeting**

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. App. § 10(a)(2), that a meeting will be held at the U.S. Treasury Department, 15th and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC, on May 2, 2000, of the following debt management advisory committee:

The Bond Market Association  
Treasury Borrowing Advisory  
Committee.

The agenda for the meeting provides for a technical background briefing by Treasury staff, followed by a charge by the Secretary of the Treasury or his designate that the committee discuss particular issues, and a working session. Following the working session, the committee will present a written report of its recommendations.

The background briefing by Treasury staff will be held at 9:00 a.m. Eastern time and will be open to the public. The remaining sessions and the committee's reporting session will be closed to the public, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. App. 10(d).

This notice shall constitute my determination, pursuant to the authority placed in heads of departments by 5 U.S.C. App. 10(d) and vested in me by Treasury Department Order No. 101-05, that the closed portions of the meeting are concerned with information that is exempt from disclosure under 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(9)(A). The public interest requires that such meetings be closed to the public because the Treasury Department requires frank and full advice from representatives of the financial community prior to making its final decision on major financing operations. Historically, this advice has been offered by debt management advisory committees established by the several major segments of the financial community. When so utilized, such a committee is recognized to be an advisory committee under 5 U.S.C. App. 3.

Although the Treasury's final announcement of financing plans may not reflect the recommendations provided in reports of the advisory committee, premature disclosure of the committee's deliberations and reports would be likely to lead to significant financial speculation in the securities market. Thus, these meetings fall within the exemption covered by 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(9)(A).

The Office of Financial Markets is responsible for maintaining records of debt management advisory committee meetings and for providing annual reports setting forth a summary of committee activities and such other matters as may be informative to the public consistent with the policy of 5 U.S.C. 552b.

Dated: March 29, 2000.

**Lee Sachs,**

*Assistant Secretary, Financial Markets.*

[FR Doc. 00-8305 Filed 4-4-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4810-25-M**