

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: As described by the applicant the intended service of the vessel JOKAR is:

Intended Use: "Sightseeing, entertainment charter".

Geographic Region: "New York, Connecticut, New Jersey".

Dated: June 17, 2004.

By order of the Maritime Administrator.

Joel C. Richard,

Secretary, Maritime Administration.

[FR Doc. 04-14276 Filed 6-23-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-81-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

[Docket Number 2004 18373]

Requested Administrative Waiver of the Coastwise Trade Laws

AGENCY: Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Invitation for public comments on a requested administrative waiver of the Coastwise Trade Laws for the vessel PERELANDRA.

SUMMARY: As authorized by Pub. L. 105-383 and Pub. L. 107-295, the Secretary of Transportation, as represented by the Maritime Administration (MARAD), is authorized to grant waivers of the U.S.-build requirement of the coastwise laws under certain circumstances. A request for such a waiver has been received by MARAD. The vessel, and a brief description of the proposed service, is listed below. The complete application is given in DOT docket 2004-18373 at <http://dms.dot.gov>. Interested parties may comment on the effect this action may have on U.S. vessel builders or businesses in the U.S. that use U.S.-flag vessels. If MARAD determines, in accordance with Pub. L. 105-383 and MARAD's regulations at 46 CFR part 388 (68 FR 23084; April 30, 2003), that the issuance of the waiver will have an unduly adverse effect on a U.S.-vessel builder or a business that uses U.S.-flag vessels in that business, a waiver will not be granted. Comments should refer to the docket number of this notice and the vessel name in order for MARAD to properly consider the comments. Comments should also state the commenter's interest in the waiver application, and address the waiver criteria given in § 388.4 of MARAD's regulations at 46 CFR part 388.

DATES: Submit comments on or before July 26, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Comments should refer to docket number MARAD-2004 18373. Written comments may be submitted by

hand or by mail to the Docket Clerk, U.S. DOT Dockets, Room PL-401, Department of Transportation, 400 7th St., SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001. You may also send comments electronically via the Internet at <http://dmses.dot.gov/submit/>. All comments will become part of this docket and will be available for inspection and copying at the above address between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., e.t., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. An electronic version of this document and all documents entered into this docket is available on the World Wide Web at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Michael Hokana, U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, MAR-830 Room 7201, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Telephone (202) 366-0760.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: As described by the applicant the intended service of the vessel PERELANDRA is:

Intended Use: "Passenger Charter."

Geographic Region: "Gulf of Mexico and Bahamas".

Dated: June 17, 2004.

By order of the Maritime Administrator.

Joel C. Richard,

Secretary, Maritime Administration.

[FR Doc. 04-14275 Filed 6-23-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-81-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 34510]

Watco Companies, Inc.—Continuance in Control Exemption—Kaw River Railroad, Inc.

Watco Companies, Inc. (Watco), a noncarrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption to continue in control of Kaw River Railroad, Inc. (KRR), upon KRR's becoming a Class III rail carrier.

The transaction was scheduled to be consummated on or shortly after June 1, 2004, the effective date of the exemption.

The transaction is related to STB Finance Docket No. 34509, *Kaw River Railroad, Inc.—Acquisition and Operation Exemption—The Kansas City Southern Railway Company*, wherein KRR seeks to acquire by: (1) Lease from The Kansas City Southern Railway Company (KCS) and operate approximately 7.5 miles of rail lines in Kansas City, KS; (2) sublease from KCS and operate approximately 4.5 miles of rail lines in Kansas City, KS, and Kansas City, MO, that are owned by Kansas City Terminal Railway Company (KCT); and

(3) assignment from KCS operating authority over approximately 6.2 miles of KCT rail lines in order to access the leased KCS and KCT trackage.

Watco owns 100% of the issued and outstanding stock of KRR, and controls through stock ownership and management eight other Class III rail carriers: South Kansas and Oklahoma Railroad Company (SKO), Palouse River & Coulee City Railroad, Inc. (PRCC), Timber Rock Railroad, Inc. (TIBR), Stillwater Central Railroad (SLWC), Eastern Idaho Railroad, Inc. (EIRR), Kansas & Oklahoma Railroad, Inc. (K&O), Pennsylvania Southwestern Railroad, Inc. (PSWR), and Great Northwest Railroad, Inc. (GNR).¹

As pertinent here, SKO's lines are located in the southeastern portion of Kansas and southwestern portion of Missouri, and are a substantial distance from the lines being leased by KRR. K&O's Kansas lines are located in the central and western portions of the State and also are a substantial distance from the lines being leased and subleased by KRR.

Watco states that: (i) The rail lines of KRR will not connect with any of the lines of the railroads under its control or within its corporate family, (ii) the transaction is not a part of a series of anticipated transactions that would connect the rail lines being leased and subleased by KRR with any other railroad in its corporate family, and (iii) the transaction does not involve a Class I railroad. 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. Accordingly, the Board may not impose labor protective conditions here, because all of the carriers involved are Class III carriers.

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.

¹ SKO's lines are located in Missouri, Kansas, and Oklahoma; PRCC's lines are located in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho; TIBR's lines are located in Texas and Louisiana; SLWC's lines are located in Oklahoma; EIRR's lines are located in Idaho; K&O's lines are located in Kansas and Colorado; PSWR's line is located in Pennsylvania; and GNR's lines are located in Idaho and Washington.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 34510, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on Karl Morell, Suite 225, 1455 F Street, NW., Washington, DC 20005.

Board decisions and notices are available on our Web site at WWW.STB.DOT.GOV.

Decided: June 18, 2004.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 04-14327 Filed 6-23-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 34511]

Belvidere & Delaware River Railway Company, Inc.—Lease and Operation Exemption—Black River & Western Corp. d/b/a Black River & Western Railroad

The Belvidere & Delaware River Railway Company, Inc. (B&DR), a Class III rail carrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.41 *et seq.* to lease, from Black River & Western Corp. d/b/a Black River & Western Railroad (BR&W), and operate approximately 10 miles of rail line between milepost 6.2 at Ringoes and milepost 16.2 at Three Bridges, in Hunterdon County, NJ. The line interchanges with Norfolk Southern Railway Company, at Three Bridges.¹

B&DR certifies that its projected revenues as a result of this transaction will not exceed those that would qualify it as a Class III rail carrier and states that such revenues will not exceed \$5 million annually. The transaction was scheduled to be consummated no sooner than June 9, 2004, the effective date of the exemption (7 days after the exemption was filed).

If the verified 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. 34511, must be filed with

the Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on John K. Fiorilla, Esq., Watson, Stevens, Fiorilla & Rutter, LLP, 390 George St., P.O. Box 1185, New Brunswick, NJ 08903.

Board decisions and notices are available on our Web site at <http://www.stb.dot.gov>.

Decided: June 17, 2004.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 04-14238 Filed 6-23-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 34509]¹

Kaw River Railroad, Inc.—Acquisition and Operation Exemption—The Kansas City Southern Railway Company

Kaw River Railroad, Inc. (KRR), a noncarrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.31 to acquire by: (1) Lease from The Kansas City Southern Railway Company (KCS) and operate approximately 7.5 miles of rail lines in Kansas City, KS; (2) sublease from KCS and operate approximately 4.5 miles of rail lines in Kansas City, KS, and Kansas City, MO, that are owned by Kansas City Terminal Railway Company (KCT); and (3) assignment from KCS operating authority over approximately 6.2 miles of KCT rail lines in order to access the leased KCS and KCT trackage.

The lines KRR seeks to acquire by lease are: (1) Between the facilities of Inland Container located on Kansas Avenue and the facilities of Constar Plastics, Inc., located on Armourdale Parkway, in Kansas City, KS; (2) between the facilities of Lite-Weight Products, Inc. located on Kansas Avenue, and the facilities of Ace Pallet, located on Argentine Boulevard, in Kansas City, KS; (3) KCS's 12th Street Yard located south of 12th Street in Kansas City, MO; and (4) KCS's

Armourdale Yard, located near the facilities of Kaw River Shredding on South 12th Street, in Kansas City, KS.

The KCT-owned lines KRR seeks to acquire by sublease are: (1) Between the facilities of Kansas City Star, located on Grand Boulevard, and a point near Pennsylvania Avenue in Kansas City, MO; (2) between the facilities of Proctor and Gamble Mfg., Co., located on Kansas Avenue, and Osage Avenue, near the facilities of Constar Plastics, Inc., in Kansas City, KS; and (3) KCT's Mill Street Yard, located between Mill Street and South 12th Street, in Kansas City, KS.

The KCT-owned main lines over which KRR seeks to acquire the assignment of operating authority are as follows: (1) Between milepost 4.0, near Grand Avenue, and KCS's 12th Street Yard, located south of 12th Street, in Kansas City, MO; (2) between a point near the Kansas-Missouri State line and the facilities of Thomas & Associates Wholesale Lumber on Shawnee Avenue in Kansas City, KS; and (3) between Osage Avenue, near the facilities of Constar Plastics, Inc., and the facilities of Thomas & Associates Wholesale Lumber.²

This transaction is related to STB Finance Docket No. 34510, *Watco Companies, Inc.—Continuance in Control Exemption—Kaw River Railroad, Inc.*, wherein Watco Companies, Inc., seeks to continue in control of KRR upon KRR's becoming a Class III rail carrier.

KRR certifies that its projected revenues as a result of this transaction will not result in KRR becoming a Class II or Class I rail carrier, and further certifies that its projected annual revenues will not exceed \$5 million.

KRR indicates that it expected to consummate the transaction on or shortly after June 1, 2004.

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. 34509, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-

² KRR states that there are no milepost designations associated with the rail lines it seeks to lease and sublease. As to the rail lines over which it seeks operating authority, there is one milepost designation (milepost 4.0 near Grand Avenue and KCS's 12th Street Yard). Other than the specified milepost, there are no milepost designations associated with the rail lines over which it seeks operating authority.

¹ B&DR indicates that it has reached an agreement with BR&W on a 1-year lease for B&DR's operation of the line.

¹ On May 27, 2004, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers & Trainmen, a Division of the Rail Conference, International Brotherhood of Teamsters (BLET), filed a petition for stay of the transaction. The stay request was denied by decision served on May 28, 2004. On June 10, 2004, KRR filed a motion for protective order, which was granted by decision served June 18, 2004. On June 4 and 14, 2004, respectively, BLET and the United Transportation Union filed petitions to revoke the exemption. The revocation requests will be addressed in a separate Board decision.