

Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 30118(d) and 30120(h), Nissan has petitioned for a determination that this noncompliance is inconsequential to motor vehicle safety and has filed an appropriate report pursuant to 49 CFR Part 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Reports." A copy of this petition can be found in this docket.

This notice of receipt of an application is published under 49 U.S.C. 30118 and 30120 and does not represent any agency decision or other exercise of judgment concerning the merits of the application.

FMVSS 108 S5.1.1 specifies that each vehicle shall be equipped with certain lamps and reflective devices. Nissan stated that extensive testing demonstrates that the subject side marker lamps consistently meet the light intensity requirements at the required test points. However, Nissan determined that the front side marker lamps may not meet the requirement to sustain the light intensity when measured between two of the nine test points in a scan test. Nissan believes that the noncompliance of the side lamps does not affect its primary purpose, which is to be sufficiently visible to identify the front edge of the vehicle at night. Nissan stated that the reported noncompliance is inconsequential as it relates to motor vehicle safety.

Its petition may be read by visiting the above mentioned docket using the Docket Management System described below.

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments on the application described above. Comments must refer to the docket and notice number cited at the beginning of this notice and be submitted to: U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Management, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC, 20590. It is requested, but not required, that two copies of the comments be provided. The Docket Section is open on weekdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Comments may be submitted electronically by logging onto the Docket Management System Web site at <http://dms.dot.gov>. Click on "Help" to obtain instructions for filing the document electronically.

All comments received before the close of business on the closing date indicated below will be considered. The application and supporting materials, and all comments received after the closing date, will also be filed and will be considered to the extent possible. When the application is granted or denied, the notice will be published in the **Federal Register** pursuant to the

authority indicated below. Comment closing date: November 20, 2003.

(49 U.S.C. 301118, 301120; delegations of authority at 49 CFR 1.50 and 501.8)

Issued on: October 14, 2003.

**Stephen R. Kratzke,**

*Associate Administrator for Rulemaking.*

[FR Doc. 03-26508 Filed 10-20-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-59-P

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 34409]

#### **Burlington Shortline Railroad, Inc., d/b/a Burlington Junction Railway—Lease and Operation Exemption—The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company**

Burlington Shortline Railroad, Inc., d/b/a/ Burlington Junction Railway (BJRY), a Class III rail carrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.41 *et seq.* to lease, from The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF), and operate two segments of rail line known as (1) the Marblehead line and (2) the Moorman Lead line. The Marblehead line extends approximately 5.13 miles from BNSF milepost 261.32 near Quincy, IL, to BNSF milepost 266.43 near Marblehead, IL. The Moorman Lead line extends 5,100 feet southwesterly from BNSF milepost 258.2 near Quincy.

Consummation of this transaction was expected to occur on or about October 4, 2003.

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

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. 34409, 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 D. Heffner, 1920 N Street, NW., Suite 800, Washington, DC 20036.

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

Decided: October 10, 2003.

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

**Vernon A. Williams,**  
*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 03-26289 Filed 10-20-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 34413]

#### **The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company—Trackage Rights Exemption—Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway Company**

Pursuant to a written trackage rights agreement dated September 22, 2003, Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway Company has agreed to grant certain non-exclusive trackage rights to The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF) between EJE milepost 1.6 at Joliet, IL, and EJE milepost 20.6 at Eola, IL, a distance of approximately 19 miles.

Although BNSF states that the transaction was scheduled to be consummated on October 7, 2003, the earliest the transaction could be consummated was October 8, 2003 (7 days after filing the notice).

The purpose of the trackage rights is to allow BNSF to operate more efficiently.

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. 34413, 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 Michael E. Roper, The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company, 2500 Lou Menk Drive, PO Box 961039, Fort Worth, TX 76161-0039.

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

Decided: October 15, 2003.

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

**Vernon A. Williams,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 03-26496 Filed 10-20-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4915-00-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Medical Research Service Merit Review Committee, Notice of Meetings

The Department of Veterans Affairs  
gives notice under the Public Law 92-

463 (Federal Advisory Committee Act)  
that the subcommittees of the Medical  
Research Service Merit Review  
Committee will meet from 8 a.m. to 5  
p.m. as indicated below:

Subcommittee for	Date(s)	Location
Aging and Clinical Geriatrics .....	November 5, 2003 .....	Holiday Inn Central.
Clinical Research Program .....	November 17, 2003 .....	Marriott Residence Inn.
Immunology .....	November 18-19, 2003 .....	Marriott Residence Inn.
Endocrinology-A .....	November 20-21, 2003 .....	Marriott Residence Inn.
General Medical Science .....	November 24, 2003 .....	Governor's House.
Mental Health and Behav Sci .....	December 1-2, 2003 .....	Holiday Inn Central.
Surgery .....	December 8, 2003 .....	Governor's House.
Infectious Diseases .....	December 11-12, 2003 .....	Holiday Inn Central.
Endocrinology-B .....	December 18-19, 2003 .....	Holiday Inn Central.

The addresses of the hotels are:

Governor's House, 1615 Rhode Island  
Avenue, NW., Washington, DC.

Holiday Inn Central, 1501 Rhode  
Island Avenue, NW., Washington, DC.

Marriott Residence Inn (Thomas  
Circle), 1199 Vermont Avenue, NW.,  
Washington, DC.

These subcommittee meetings are for  
the purpose of evaluating the scientific  
merit of research conducted in each  
specialty by Department of Veterans  
Affairs (VA) investigators working in  
VA Medical Centers and Clinics.

The subcommittee meetings will be  
open to the public for approximately  
one hour at the start of each meeting to  
discuss the general status of the  
program. The remaining portion of each  
subcommittee meeting will be closed to  
the public for the review, discussion,  
and evaluation of initial and renewal  
projects.

The closed portion of the meetings  
involves discussion, examination,  
reference to and oral review of site  
visits, staff and consultant critiques of  
research protocols and similar  
documents. During this portion of the  
subcommittee meetings, discussion and  
recommendations will deal with  
qualifications of personnel conducting  
the studies, the disclosure of which  
would constitute a clearly unwarranted  
invasion of personal privacy, as well as  
research information, the premature  
disclosure of which could significantly  
frustrate implementation of proposed  
agency action regarding such research  
projects.

As provided by subsection 10(d) of  
Public Law 92-453, as amended, closing  
portions of these subcommittee  
meetings is in accordance with 5 U.S.C.,  
552b(c)(6) and (9)(B). Those who plan to  
attend or would like to obtain a copy of  
minutes of the subcommittee meetings  
and rosters of the members of the

subcommittees should contact LeRoy G.  
Frey, Ph.D., Chief, Program Review  
Division, Medical Research Service  
(121F), Department of Veterans Affairs,  
Washington, DC, (202) 408-3630.

Dated: October 10, 2003.

By Direction of the Secretary.

**E. Philip Riggins,**

*Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 03-26435 Filed 10-20-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8320-01-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Research and Development Cooperative Studies Evaluation Committee; Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs  
(VA) gives notice under Public Law 92-  
463 (Federal Advisory Committee Act)  
that a meeting of the Research and  
Development Cooperative Studies  
Evaluation Committee will be held at  
the Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel,  
1700 Jefferson Davis Highway,  
Arlington, VA 22202, on December 16  
and 17, 2003. The sessions will be held  
on December 16 from 8 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.  
and December 17 from 7:30 a.m. to 2  
p.m.

The Committee advises the Chief  
Research and Development Officer  
through the Director of the Cooperative  
Studies Program on the relevance and  
feasibility of the studies, the adequacy  
of the protocols, and the scientific  
validity and propriety of technical  
details, including protection of human  
subjects.

On December 16, the Committee will  
review the following studies submitted:  
Efficacy of GM-CSF to Reduce  
Incidence and Duration of Mucositis  
Associated with Concomitant  
Chemoradiation Therapy in Head and

Neck Cancer Patients; Integrating  
Practice Guidelines for Smoking  
Cessation into Mental Health Care for  
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder;  
Risperidone Treatment for Refractory  
Combat-Related Post-Traumatic Stress  
Disorder; and A Randomized,  
Multicenter, Double-Blind, Placebo-  
Controlled Trial of DL-Alpha-tocopherol  
for the Treatment of Functional Decline  
in Outpatients with Alzheimer's Disease  
on Donepezil. On December 17, the  
Committee will review the study  
submitted on S-Adenosylmethionine  
Improves Survival in Alcoholic  
Cirrhosis.

The meeting will be open to the  
public December 16 from 8 a.m. to 8:30  
a.m. to discuss the general status of the  
program. Those who plan to attend  
should contact Mrs. Karen Hood, Staff  
Assistant, Department of Veterans  
Affairs, Washington, DC, at (202) 254-  
0276. The meeting will be closed  
December 16 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.  
and December 17 from 7:30 a.m. to 2  
p.m. That portion of the meeting  
involves committee business that falls  
within the scope of provisions set forth  
in section 10(d) of Public Law 92-463,  
as amended by sections 5(c) of Public  
Law 94-409, and 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(6).  
During the closed session of the  
meeting, discussions and  
recommendations will deal with  
qualifications of personnel conducting  
the studies, staff and consultant  
critiques of research proposals, and  
similar documents, and the medical  
records of patients who are study  
subjects, the disclosure of which would  
constitute a clearly unwarranted  
invasion of personal privacy.

Dated: October 14, 2003.