

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration****International Standards on the Transport of Dangerous Goods; Public Meeting**

AGENCY: Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice is to advise interested persons that PHMSA will conduct a public meeting in preparation for the 29th session of the United Nations Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (UNSCOE) to be held 3–12 (a.m.) July 2006 in Geneva, Switzerland.

DATES: Wednesday June 21, 2006; 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Room 3328.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at DOT Headquarters, Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC 20590.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Duane Pfund, Acting Director, Office of International Standards, Office of Hazardous Materials Safety, Department of Transportation, Washington, DC 20590; (202) 366–0656.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The primary purpose of this meeting will be to prepare for the 29th session of the UNSCOE and to discuss draft U.S. positions on UNSCOE proposals. The 29th session of the UNSCOE is the third meeting in the current biennium cycle. The UNSCOE will consider proposals for the 15th Revised Edition of the United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods Model Regulations. Topics to be covered during the public meetings include:

(1) Explosive classification, (2) Transport of compressed gases, (3) Requirements for Intermediate Bulk Containers (IBC), (4) Transport of dangerous goods in limited and excepted quantities, (5) Requirements for lithium batteries and fuel cell systems, (6) Requirements for the classification and packaging of Division 6.2 Infectious Substances, (7) Harmonization with the IAEA Regulations for the safe transport of radioactive materials, (8) Options to facilitate global harmonization of transport of dangerous goods regulations, (9) Miscellaneous proposals related to listing and classification, and the use of packaging and tanks.

The public is invited to attend without prior notification. Due to the

heightened security measures participants are encouraged to arrive early to allow time for security checks necessary to obtain access to the building. In lieu of conducting a public meeting after the 29th session of the UNSCOE to present the results of the session, PHMSA will place a copy of the Sub-Committee's report and an updated copy of the pre-meeting summary document on PHMSA's Hazardous Materials Safety Homepage at <http://hazmat.dot.gov/regs/intl/intstandards.htm>.

Documents

Copies of documents for the UNSCOE meeting and the meeting agenda may be obtained by downloading them from the United Nations Transport Division's Web site at <http://www.unecce.org/trans/main/dgdb/dgsubc/c32006.html>. This site may also be accessed through PHMSA's Hazardous Materials Safety Homepage at <http://hazmat.dot.gov/regs/intl/intstandards/htm>. PHMSA's site provides additional information regarding the UNSCOE and related matters such as a summary of decisions taken at previous sessions of the UNSCOE.

Robert A. McGuire,

Associate Administrator for Hazardous Materials Safety.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Surface Transportation Board**

[STB Finance Docket No. 34865]

Arkansas Midland Railroad Company, Inc.—Petition for Declaratory Order—Caddo Valley Railroad Company

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board, DOT.

ACTION: Institution of declaratory order proceeding; request for comments.

SUMMARY: In response to a petition filed by the Arkansas Midland Railroad Company, Inc. (AKMD), the Board is instituting a declaratory order proceeding under 49 U.S.C. 721 and 5 U.S.C. 554(e) to determine if the right of first refusal provided in 49 U.S.C. 10907(h), to repurchase a line sold under the Feeder Line Development Program, applies when a transfer of control of a feeder line operator occurs by stock sale. Responses to the petition have been filed by Caddo Valley Railroad Company (CVR); Bean Lumber Company and Curt Bean Lumber Company (Bean Companies); GS Roofing Products Company, Inc. (GS)

and CertainTeed Corporation (CertainTeed); and Pioneer Railcorp (Pioneer) (jointly, Respondents). International Paper Company (IP) also has submitted a response. The Board seeks public comment on this issue.

DATES: Comments are due June 19, 2006. Replies are due June 29, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Send an original and 10 copies of any comments, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 34865, to: Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423–0001. In addition, send one copy of comments to (1) AKMD's representative, William C. Sippel, Fletcher & Sippel LLC, 29 North Wacker Drive, Suite 920, Chicago, IL 60606–2832; (2) CVR and Bean Companies' representative, Richard H. Streeter, Barnes & Thornburg LLP, 750 17th Street, NW., Suite 900, Washington, DC 20006–4675; (3) GS and CertainTeed's representative, Mark J. Andrews, Strasburger & Price, LLP, 1800 K Street, NW., Suite 301, Washington, DC 20006; (4) Pioneer's representative, Daniel A. LaKemper, Pioneer Railcorp, 1318 S. Johanson Road, Peoria, IL 61607; and (5) IP's representative, Edward D. Greenberg, Galland, Kharasch, Greenberg, Fellman & Swirsky, P.C., 1054 Thirty-First Street, NW., Washington, DC 20007–4492.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joseph H. Dettmar, (202) 565–1609. [Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at: 1–800–877–8339].

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: AKMD's petition for declaratory order concerns the Norman Branch line between Gurdon and Birds Mill, AR, which AKMD was forced to sell under the Feeder Line Development Program at 49 U.S.C. 10907. *See Caddo Antoine, et al.—Feeder Li. Acq.—Arkansas Midland RR*, 4 S.T.B. 610 (2000); *GS Roofing Products Co. v. STB*, 262 F.3d 767 (8th Cir. 2001). The Bean Companies and CertainTeed's subsidiary, GS, were two of the five shippers authorized to acquire the line. According to the petition, the shippers created a corporation, CVR, to own the assets of, and to operate, the line.¹

AKMD claims that the shippers are now proposing to sell the stock ownership of CVR to Pioneer, an owner of several Class III shortline railroads. AKMD claims that the proposed sale of all of CVR's stock will subvert its first-refusal rights under 49 U.S.C. 10907(h).²

¹ It is unclear who currently owns CVR's stock.

² Section 10907(h) provides that: "If a purchasing carrier under this section proposes to sell or