

in 2001, transportation improvements are needed to support the regional economic development goals planned for the area, encourage the regional intermodal needs of the area by providing safe and efficient access to the airport, and maintain consistency with the region's transportation goals and objectives as defined by the North Central Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission.

Alternatives that will be considered include: The no-build; upgrade of existing roadways within the study area; and new roadway alignment with a new interchange on Interstate 80. These alternatives will be the basis for a recommendation of alternatives to be carried forward for detailed environmental and engineering studies in the EIS. Incorporated into and studied with the various alternatives will be design variations of grade and alignment.

Public meetings have been and will continue to be held throughout the development of the EIS for the general public and agencies. A Project Mailing List, a Project Newsletter and a Project Web Site will be established to inform the public of project milestones.

Periodic meetings are scheduled with the state and federal environmental agencies through an Agency Coordination Meetings (ACM) to present project as well as receive comments and concerns from the agencies on the development of the project alternatives, the assessment of impacts and the identification of mitigations measures. Letters describing the proposed action and soliciting comments will be sent to appropriate federal, state and local agencies and to private organizations and citizens who have previously expressed or are known to have an interest in the project.

To ensure the full range of issues related to this proposed action are addressed and all significant issues identified, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments and questions concerning this proposed action and the EIS should be directed to the FHWA or PENNDOT at the addresses provided above.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 20.205, Highway Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation of Federal programs and activities apply to this program)

James A. Cheatham,

FHWA Division Administrator, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 34151]

Beaufort & Morehead Railway, Inc.— Acquisition and Operation Exemption—North Carolina Ports Railway Commission d/b/a Beaufort & Morehead Railway

Beaufort & Morehead Railway, Inc. (BMRI), a noncarrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.31 to acquire by lease, pursuant to an agreement with its owner the North Carolina Ports Railway Commission d/b/a Beaufort & Morehead Railway (NCPRC), all of NCPRC's railroad line extending from the connection with the Norfolk Southern Railway Company (Atlantic & East Carolina Railway) at milepost 0.0 in Morehead City to milepost 0.87 at Gallants Channel near Morehead City, a distance of .87 miles in Carteret County, NC, serving the intermediate stations of Marsh Island, Radio Island and Beaufort Team Track, together with all of the NCPRC's yard and interchange tracks.¹ BMRI will be the operator of the line. BMRI certifies that its projected annual revenues as a result of this transaction will not result in the creation of a Class II or Class I rail carrier, and that its projected annual revenues will not exceed \$5 million.

The transaction was scheduled to be consummated on December 28, 2001.

If this 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. 34151, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on Fritz R. Kahn, P.C., 1920 N Street, N.W., 8th Floor, Washington, DC 20036-1601.

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

Decided: January 11, 2002.

¹ See *North Carolina Ports Railway Commission d/b/a Beaufort & Morehead Railway—Acquisition and Operation Exemption—Beaufort & Morehead Railway, Inc.*, STB Finance Docket No. 33826 (STB served Dec. 2, 1999).

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 02-1276 Filed 1-17-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 34125]

South Dakota Railroad Authority— Acquisition Exemption—The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company

South Dakota Railroad Authority (SDRA), noncarrier, has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.31 to acquire approximately 49.48 miles of rail line located in Brown and Marshall Counties, SD, owned by The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF). The line to be acquired is located between milepost 115.08 near Aberdeen, SD, and milepost 65.60 near Kidder, SD, at the South Dakota/North Dakota border. SDRA will also acquire limited operating rights to conduct rail freight service only, for the sole purpose of interchanging freight cars and equipment, over BNSF's rail line at or near Aberdeen, SD, between milepost 115.08 and milepost 118.6 of BNSF's Geneseo subdivision, and between milepost 706.1 and milepost 707.1 of BNSF's main line, for the sole purpose of SDRA or its designee interchanging rail cars and equipment at BNSF's Aberdeen Yard.¹ SDRA certifies that its projected annual revenues will not exceed those that would qualify it as a Class III carrier.

SDRA reports that an agreement for the transaction was reached and the transaction was consummated on June 15, 2001. The effective date of the exemption was December 27, 2001 (7 days after the exemption was filed).

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. 34125 must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on Bruce E.

¹ SDRA states that an operator on the track being acquired has not yet been determined.