

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.

0001. In addition, one copy of each pleading must be served on Karl Morell, Suite 225, 1455 F St., NW., Washington, DC 20005.

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Decided: June 18, 2004.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 04-14326 Filed 6-23-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses and Deployment Health Scientific Merit Review Board; Notice of Establishment

As required by section 9(a)(2) of Public Law 92-463 (Federal Advisory Committee Act), the Department of

Veterans Affairs (VA) hereby gives notice of the establishment of the Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses and Deployment Health Scientific Merit Review Board. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs has determined that establishing the Board is both necessary and in the public interest.

The Board is expected to make recommendations that will improve the quality of VA research pertaining to the health consequences of participation in the Gulf War (Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm, August 1990-July 1991) and other military deployments. Focused advice from subject matter experts on the Board will enhance the Department's efforts to restore the capabilities of veterans with deployment-related disabilities and to improve the quality of their lives by promoting their functional independence.

The Board will advise VA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) leadership on the scientific merit,

technical merit, and mission relevance of research pertaining to the health effects of participation in the Gulf War and other military deployments before and since that conflict. The Board will: (1) Review Gulf War veterans' illnesses and deployment health research and development proposals administered locally by VA facilities for scientific and technical merit; (2) prepare summary recommendations to ORD leadership on all proposals based upon independent review, Board discussions, and site visits, where necessary; and (3) advise ORD leadership regarding the status of Gulf War veterans' illnesses and deployment health research and development as applicable to the Board members' areas of expertise.

Dated: June 17, 2004.

By Direction of the Secretary.

E. Philip Riffin,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 04-14277 Filed 6-23-04; 8:45 am]

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