

action. A request for Federal action or approval to implement specific noise compatibility measures may be required, and an FAA decision on the request may require an environmental assessment of the proposed action. Approval does not constitute a commitment by the FAA to financially assist in the implementation of the program nor a determination that all measures covered by the program are eligible for grant-in-aid funding from the FAA. Where federal funding is sought, requests for project grants must be submitted to the FAA Regional Office in Fort Worth, Texas.

The Greater Baton Rouge Airport District submitted to the FAA on May 14, 2007 the noise exposure maps, descriptions, and other documentation produced during the noise compatibility planning study conducted from May 2005 through May 2007. The Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport, Ryan Field noise exposure maps were determined by FAA to be in compliance with applicable requirements on July 30, 2007. Notice of this determination was published in the **Federal Register** on August 7, 2007.

The Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport, Ryan Field Part 150 study contains a proposed noise compatibility program comprised of actions designed for phased implementation by airport management and adjacent jurisdictions from November 2007 to the year 2011. It was requested that the FAA evaluate and approve this material as a noise compatibility program as described in section 47504 of the Act. The FAA began its review of the program on August 7, 2007, and was required by a provision of the Act to approve or disapprove the program within 180 days (other than the use of new or modified flight procedures for noise control). Failure to approve or disapprove such program within the 180-day period shall be deemed to be an approval of such program.

The submitted program contained ten proposed actions for noise mitigation located on and/or off the airport. The FAA completed its review and determined that the procedural and substantive requirements of the Act and FAR Part 150 have been satisfied. The overall program, therefore, was approved by the FAA effective November 13, 2007.

Outright approval was granted for nine of the specific program elements. Only one program element, Land Use Element 3a, was "Disapproved Pending Submittal of Additional Information to the FAA". Under this program element, the Airport District asked the FAA to approve the voluntary land acquisition

of one hundred eight (108) acres of undeveloped land that was zoned to allow incompatible development within the 2011 65 DNL around Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport, Ryan Field. The acreage in question amounted to 13 separate parcels in various locations northwest, northeast, east and southeast of the airport. In disapproving this program element, the FAA found the land in question to be zoned commercial or industrial (a compatible use under Part 150 guidelines), however the involved local zoning districts all permit a variety of noise-sensitive land uses; to include libraries, nursing homes, assisted living residences and hospitals (noncompatible use) within the areas described. In addition, it was determined that undeveloped, residential-zoned land (noncompatible use) northwest, northeast, and east of the Airport is inside the 65 DNL. The FAA therefore determined that supporting documentation would need to be provided showing that (1) the Airport is in compliance with its Grant Assurance 31, (2) appropriate existing and proposed new local land use controls are inadequate to prevent noncompatible development, and (3) noncompatible development of the parcel(s) is highly likely.

The nine program elements approved by the FAA included: Five Land Use Elements that addressed City/Parish compatible use planning around the airport; the development of an airport noise information program; the acquisition of seven (7) homes at various locations around the airport (within the 65 DNL); the offer to sound insulate ninety-two (92) homes located with the 65 DNL contour; and the offer to purchase noise servitudes from those owners who do not wish to participate in the sound insulation program or who's house cannot accommodate the sound insulation process.

Four Program Management Elements were approved that established a system for logging and tracking noise complaints; developing and maintaining a log for recording engine maintenance run-ups on the airport; periodically reviewing the Part 150 Study to determine if changing airport conditions warrant further review; and preparing a plan to deal with the disposal or development of noise lands acquired by the airport under previous noise mitigation actions.

These determinations are set forth in detail in a Record of Approval signed by the Airports Division Manager on November 13, 2007. The Record of Approval, as well as other evaluation materials and the documents comprising the submittal, are available

for review at the FAA office listed above and at the administrative offices of the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport, Ryan Field. The Record of Approval also will be available on-line at <http://www.faa.gov/apr/environmental/14cfr150/index14.cfm>.

Issued in Fort Worth, Texas, November 21, 2007.

**Kelvin L. Solco,**

*Manager, Airports Division.*

[FR Doc. 07-5873 Filed 11-28-07; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Maritime Administration

[Docket No. MARAD 2007 0014]

### Information Collection Available for Public Comments and Recommendations

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Maritime Administration's (MARAD's) intention to request extension of approval for three years of a currently approved information collection.

**DATES:** Comments should be submitted on or before January 28, 2008.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Rita Jackson, Maritime Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590. Telephone: (202) 366-0284; or E-Mail: [Rita.Jackson@dot.gov](mailto:Rita.Jackson@dot.gov). Copies of this collection can also be obtained from that office.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title of Collection:* Request for Waiver of Service Obligation, Request for Deferment of Service Obligation and Application for Review.

*Type of Request:* Extension of currently approved information collection.

*OMB Control Number:* 2133-00510.

*Form Numbers:* MA-935, MA-936, MA-937.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* Three years from date of approval by the Office of Management and Budget.

*Summary of Collection of Information:* This information collection is essential for determining if a student or graduate of the United States Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA) or subsidized student or graduate of a State maritime academy has a waivable situation preventing them from fulfilling the requirements of a service obligation contract signed at the time of their enrollment in a Federal maritime

training program. It also permits the Maritime Administration (MARAD) to determine if a graduate, who wishes to defer the service obligation to attend graduate school, is eligible to receive a deferment. Their service obligation is required by law.

**Need and Use of the Information:** This information collected establishes overall compliance with the service obligation contract in support of the Economic Growth and Trade and National Security goals identified in the DOT Strategic Plan. Because the graduates are required to serve as commissioned officers in the U.S. Merchant Marine Reserve, U.S. Naval Reserve (as an aspect of the service obligation), they become the Navy's single largest source of naval reserve officers except for Naval R.O.T.C. In their civilian capacities, they are required first to sail on their professional merchant marine licenses or work in the maritime industry ashore. This dual role makes the graduates especially valuable because national defense planning initiatives and the Nation's economic needs depend on available personnel who are highly trained.

**Description of Respondents:** U.S. Merchant Marine Academy students and graduates, and subsidized students and graduates.

**Annual Responses:** 21.

**Annual Burden:** 4.2 hours.

**Comments:** Comments should be referred to the docket number that appears at the top of this document. Written comments may be submitted to the Docket Clerk, U.S. DOT Dockets, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590. Comments also may be submitted by electronic means via the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Specifically address whether this information collection is necessary for proper performance of the functions of the agency and will have practical utility, accuracy of the burden estimates, ways to minimize this burden, and ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected. All comments received will be available for examination at the above address between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. EDT (or EST), Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. An electronic version of this document is available on the World Wide Web at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

**Privacy Act:** Anyone is able to search the electronic form of all comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the comment, if submitted on behalf of an association,

business, labor union, etc.). You may review DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement in the **Federal Register** published on April 11, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 70; Pages 19477-78) or you may visit <http://www.regulations.gov>.

**Authority:** 49 CFR 1.66.

By order of the Maritime Administrator.

Dated: November 20, 2007.

**Christine S. Gurland,**

*Acting Secretary, Maritime Administration.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 35087]

#### Canadian National Railway Company and Grand Trunk Corporation—Control—EJ&E West Company<sup>1</sup>

**AGENCY:** Surface Transportation Board, DOT.

**ACTION:** Decision No. 2 in STB Finance Docket No. 35087; Notice of Acceptance of Primary Application and Related Filings; Issuance of Procedural Schedule.

**SUMMARY:** The Surface Transportation Board (Board) is accepting for consideration the primary application filed October 30, 2007, by Canadian National Railway Corporation (CNR) and Grand Trunk Corporation (GTC), a noncarrier holding company through which CNR controls its U.S. rail subsidiaries, and seven related filings. The primary application seeks Board approval under 49 U.S.C. 11321-26 of the acquisition of control of EJ&E West Company (EJ&EW), a wholly owned noncarrier subsidiary of Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway Company (EJ&E), by CNR and GTC. This proposal is referred to as the Control Transaction, and CNR

and GTC are referred to collectively as applicants.

The related filings are notices of exemption involving an intra-corporate family transaction and the granting of trackage rights. The Sub-No. 1 filing provides for EJ&E to transfer property to EJ&EW, which, at that time, would become a rail common carrier, prior to applicants acquiring control of EJ&EW. The Sub-Nos. 2 through 7 filings provide for grants of trackage rights by EJ&EW to Grand Trunk Western Railroad (GTW), Illinois Central Railroad Company (IC), Chicago, Central & Pacific Railroad Company (CCP), and Wisconsin Central Ltd. (WCL), and by IC and CCP to EJ&EW, promptly upon applicants' acquisition of control of EJ&EW, should the Board approve the proposed Control Transaction.

The Board finds that the Control Transaction is a "minor transaction" under 49 CFR 1180.2(c), and adopts a procedural schedule for consideration of the application. In finding that the transaction is a minor transaction, the Board has preliminarily determined that any anticompetitive effects of the transaction will clearly be outweighed by the transaction's anticipated contribution to the public interest in meeting significant transportation needs. 49 CFR 1180.2(b)(2). The Board makes this determination based solely on evidence presented in the application. The Board stresses that this is not a final determination, and its finding may be rebutted by filings and evidence submitted into the record for this proceeding. The Board will give careful consideration to any claims that the transaction will have anticompetitive effects that are not apparent from the application itself.

Moreover, the Board has determined to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) with respect to the transaction.

**DATES:** The effective date of this decision is November 29, 2007. Any person who wishes to participate in this proceeding as a party of record (POR) must file, no later than December 13, 2007, a notice of intent to participate. All comments, protests, requests for conditions, and any other evidence and argument in opposition to the primary application and related filings, including filings by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), must be filed by January 28, 2008. Responses to comments, protests, requests for conditions, and other opposition, and rebuttal in support of the primary application or related filings must be filed by March 13, 2008. If a public

<sup>1</sup> This decision also embraces *Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway Company—Corporate Family Exemption—EJ&E West Company*, STB Finance Docket No. 35087 (Sub-No. 1); *Chicago, Central & Pacific Railroad Company—Trackage Rights Exemption—EJ&E West Company*, STB Finance Docket No. 35087 (Sub-No. 2); *Grand Trunk Western Railroad Incorporated—Trackage Rights Exemption—EJ&E West Company*, STB Finance Docket No. 35087 (Sub-No. 3); *Illinois Central Railroad Company—Trackage Rights Exemption—EJ&E West Company*, STB Finance Docket No. 35087 (Sub-No. 4); *Wisconsin Central Ltd.—Trackage Rights Exemption—EJ&E West Company*, STB Finance Docket No. 35087 (Sub-No. 5); *EJ&E West Company—Trackage Rights Exemption—Chicago, Central & Pacific Railroad Company*, STB Finance Docket No. 35087 (Sub-No. 6); and *EJ&E West Company—Trackage Rights Exemption—Illinois Central Railroad Company*, STB Finance Docket No. 35087 (Sub-No. 7).