

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Federal Highway Administration****Environmental Impact Statement:
Kennebec County, ME**

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared for a proposed project in the City of Augusta, Kennebec County, Maine.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jim Linker, Manager of Right of Way and Environmental Programs, Room 614, Muskie Federal Building, Augusta, Maine 04330, Telephone (207) 622-8355 ext. 23; or Ray Faucher, Project Manager, Maine Department of Transportation, Design Division, State House Station 16, Child Street, Augusta, Maine 04333, Telephone (207) 287-3171.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FHWA, in cooperation with the Maine Department of Transportation, will prepare an EIS on a proposal to improve highway connections across the Kennebec River to National Highway System and other State highways on the east and west sides of Augusta. This proposal is in response to a need to improve traffic congestion, improve traffic service and access, and to provide for projected traffic demands in a manner consistent with the City's Growth Management Plan.

The EIS will examine the feasibility and potential impacts of the following alternatives:

- Taking no action;
 - Improving the existing highway corridor through Augusta from routes 201, 202, 3, 9, 17, 27, 100 and 105 on the east, to I-95 and routes 201, 202, 8, 11, 27, 100, and 104 on the west side of the city.
 - Construction on new alignment in a corridor in the northern portion of Augusta, connecting major transportation routes on the east and west of the Kennebec River. The corridor is approximately 5 kilometers in length.
 - Construction on new alignment in a corridor in the southern portion of Augusta, connecting major transportation routes on the east and west of the Kennebec River. The corridor is approximately 5 kilometers in length.
- Coordination and scoping has been initiated with the City of Augusta, and appropriate Federal, State and local

agencies. A public scoping meeting will be held on July 17, 1997, 7:00 p.m. at the Augusta City Hall. Other public meetings are anticipated during development of the EIS. The draft EIS will be available for public and agency review and comment and a public hearing will be held following publication of the draft. Public notice will be given of the time and place of the meetings and hearings.

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

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

Authority: 23 U.S.C. 315; 49 CFR 1.48.

Issued on: July 2, 1997.

Paul L. Lariviere,

Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration, Augusta, Maine.

[FR Doc. 97-17851 Filed 7-8-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-22-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Maritime Administration**

[Docket MSP-007/Docket S-946]

**American President Lines, LTD.;
Application for Approvals for
Proposed Transfer of Operating-
Differential Subsidy Agreement (MA/
MSB-417) and Maritime Security
Program Operating Agreements (MA/
MSP-1 Through MA/MSP-9)**

American President Lines, Ltd. (APL) by letter dated June 25, 1997, applied to the Maritime Administration (MARAD), for all approval, findings, and determinations necessary in order to transfer APL's Operating-Differential Subsidy Agreement, Contract MA/MSB-417 (ODSA) and notice of APL's planned transfer of Maritime Security Program Operating Agreements MA/MSP-1 through MA/MSP-9 (MSP) to American Ship Management, LLC (ASM). The proposed transfer would be effectuated immediately prior to the effective time of the proposed merger of APL Limited (Limited) and Neptune U.S.A., Inc. pursuant to the Agreement and Plan of Merger dated as of April 13, 1997 among Limited, Neptune Orient Lines, Ltd. and Neptune U.S.A., Inc. (Merger).

More particularly, the approval, findings and determinations requested include those that may be deemed necessary under statute, regulation or contract in order:

1. For APL (or the corporate affiliate(s) of APL holding title) to transfer title to all vessels currently operated under the ODSA and to be operated under MSP Operating Agreements to an Owner Trustee;
2. For APL to transfer the ODSA and MSP to ASM;
3. For the owner trustee to bareboat charter the ODS Vessels to ASM for operation by ASM under the ODSA for the remaining term of the ODSA, and to bareboat charter the MSP vessels to ASM for the term of the MSP Operating Agreements; and
4. For ASM to time charter the ODS Vessels to APL for the remaining term of the ODSA and to time charter the MSP vessels to APL for the term of the MSP Operating Agreements.

APL considers it important to make clear that although effectuation of the proposed transfer of the ODSA is conditioned on transfer of APL's MSP Operating Agreements to ASM—the proposed transfer of the MSP Operating Agreements *is not* conditioned on grant of the instant application to transfer the ODSA. Accordingly, in the event that MARAD should not grant the instant application to transfer the ODSA, APL alternatively requests that MARAD expressly consent to APL's termination of the ODSA, pursuant to Article II-25 thereof, immediately prior to the effective time of the Merger.

ASM by letter dated June 30, 1997, filed an application in support of APL's June 25, 1997 application with respect to the transfer of APL's ODSA and MSP Operating Agreements to ASM. It is ASM's belief that ASM's application, which, in part, incorporates by reference certain portions of APL's November 7, 1996 application for participation in the MSP, provides MARAD the information as to ASM required for action by MARAD on the application to transfer APL's ODSA to ASM (in addition to providing the requisite information to support MARAD permission for the transfer to ASM of the MSP Operating Agreements).

ASM requests that MARAD:

1. Allow such transfers to become effective in accordance with such application and pursuant to law; and
2. Take any and all actions that MARAD may deem necessary or appropriate in order to confirm and/or effectuate ASM's participation in the MSP as transferee of the MSP Operating Agreements.

This notice, which is published entirely as a matter of discretion, invites comments on maritime policy issues that may be raised by APL/ASM's proposal relating to transfer of the ODS and MSP contracts to ASM. This application may be inspected in the Office of the Secretary, Maritime Administration. Any person, firm, or corporation having any interest in such request and desiring to submit comments concerning the application must file written comments in triplicate with the Secretary, Maritime Administration, Room 7210, Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, D.C. 20590. Comments must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on July 23, 1997. This notice is published as a matter of discretion and the fact of its publication should in no way be considered a favorable or unfavorable decision on the application, as filed or as may be amended. The Maritime Subsidy Board/Maritime Administrator will consider any comments submitted and take such action with respect thereto as may be deemed appropriate.

By Order of the Maritime Administration.

Dated: July 3, 1997.

Joel C. Richard,

Secretary, Maritime Administration.

[FR Doc. 97-18048 Filed 7-8-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-81-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

Notice of Public Information Collection Submitted to OMB for Review

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board.

ACTION: Extension of a currently approved collection.

SUMMARY: The Surface Transportation Board has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for review and approval the following proposal for collection of information as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub. L. 104-13 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).
OMB Form Number: 2140-0003.

Title: Financial Assistance of Railroad Lines.

No. of Respondents: 15.

Total Annual Hours: 625.

Title: System Diagram Maps.

No. of Respondents: 75.

Total Annual Hours: 2,400.

DATES: Persons wishing to comment on this information collection should submit comments by September 8, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Direct all comments to Case Control, Surface Transportation Board, Room 706, 1925 K Street, NW,

Washington, DC 20423. When submitting comments refer to the OMB number and title of the information collection.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Charles L. Renninger, (202) 565-1631.

Requests for copies of the information collection may be obtained by contacting Ellen R. Keys, Forms Clearance Officer, (202) 565-1654.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Surface Transportation Board is, by statute, responsible for the economic regulation of surface transportation carriers operating in interstate and foreign commerce. The ICC Termination Act of 1995, Pub. L. No. 104-88, 109 Stat. 803 (1995), which took effect on January 1, 1996 abolished the Interstate Commerce Commission and transferred the responsibility for regulating rail transportation, including the proposed abandonment and discontinuance of rail lines, to the Surface Transportation Board.

The Board needs, in abandonment proceedings, information concerning offers of financial assistance. Respondents are those making offers.

The regulations and reporting requirements relate to the filing of system diagram maps by railroads. The rules are necessary for the Board to learn what lines are contemplated for abandonment. Respondents are railroads.

Dated: July 1, 1997.

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-17949 Filed 7-8-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33416]

The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company; Trackage Rights Exemption; Union Pacific Railroad Company

Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) has agreed to grant overhead trackage rights to The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF) over trackage located between a point in Houston, TX, near UP's milepost 377.98 (Gulf Coast Jct.), and a point in Beaumont, TX, near UP's milepost 458.69, a distance of approximately 80.7 miles.

The transaction is expected to be consummated on June 26, 1997, the effective date of the exemption.

The purpose of the trackage rights is to improve UP's and BNSF's operating efficiencies.

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 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 stay the transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 33416, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on Michael E. Roper, Senior General Attorney, The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company, 3017 Lou Menk Drive, P.O. Box 961039, Fort Worth, TX 76161-0039.

Decided: June 27, 1997.

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

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-17862 Filed 7-8-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33418]

The Texas Mexican Railway Company; Trackage Rights Exemption; Southern Pacific Transportation Company

Southern Pacific Transportation Company (SP) has agreed to grant bridge trackage rights to The Texas Mexican Railway Company over trackage located between a point in Houston, TX, at or near SP's milepost 360.42, and a point in Beaumont, TX, at or near SP's milepost 282.4, a distance of approximately 78.02 miles.

The transaction is expected to be consummated on June 26, 1997, the effective date of the exemption.

The purpose of the trackage rights is to enable SP to implement directional operations between Houston and Beaumont.

As a condition to this exemption, any employees affected by the trackage