

Management Demonstration Project Order authorizing NGPL to conduct a risk management project on the pipeline system it operates, covering approximately 13,000 miles in 14 states. These states are Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Wisconsin and Wyoming. OPS has determined, after a comprehensive review of NGPL's demonstration project, that the project is expected to provide superior safety and environmental protection.

More detailed descriptions of all aspects of the NGPL demonstration project, including the OPS rationale for approving the project, are available in the following documents:

(1) 63 FR 46497, "Pipeline Safety: Intent To Approve Project and Environmental Assessment for the Natural Gas Pipe Line Company of America Pipeline Risk Management Demonstration Program", September 1, 1998.

(2) "Demonstration Project Prospectus: Natural Gas Pipeline Company", available by contacting Elizabeth M. Callsen at 202-366-4572. Includes a map of the NGPL pipeline system.

(3) "Natural Gas Pipeline Company—Application and Work Plan for DOT—OPS Risk Management Demonstration Program", as modified by the December 18, 1998, letter from KN Energy, Inc. to OPS.

(4) "OPS Project Review Team Evaluation of Phillips Demonstration Project".

(5) "Risk Management Demonstration Project Order" for Natural Gas Pipeline Company, December 31, 1998.

These documents and other information pertaining to the NGPL project are accessible to the public via the Pipeline Risk Management Information System (PRIMIS), on the OPS Home Page at <http://ops.dot.gov>.

#### **Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)**

OPS has reviewed NGPL's project for conformity with section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332), the Council on Environmental Quality implementing regulations (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), and Department of Transportation Order 5610.1c, Procedures for Considering Environmental Impacts. OPS conducted an Environmental Assessment of NGPL's project (63 FR 46497, "Pipeline Safety: Intent To Approve Project and Environmental Assessment for the Natural Gas Pipe Line Company of America Pipeline Risk Management Demonstration Program").

OPS received no public comment on the Environmental Assessment.

Based on the analysis and conclusions reached in the Environmental Assessment and the analyses conducted in the above-listed documents, OPS has found that there are no significant impacts on the environment associated with this action. The Environmental Assessment and the other above-listed documents are incorporated by reference into this FONSI. To summarize, the reason that the project will not have a significant effect on the human environment is that the project as now defined requires no regulatory exemption. This project is expected to demonstrate that risk management techniques can be successfully applied toward improving safety and environmental protection. All activities to be performed by NGPL as part of the demonstration project—including investigating risks, integrating risk information, identifying and allocating resources to manage risks, institutionalizing risk management within the company, and effectively communicating about risks with company employees, OPS, and other stakeholders—exceed what is currently required by pipeline safety regulations. This rationale is further discussed in the Environmental Assessment referenced above. When OPS determines that it plans to grant a regulatory exemption, it will amend the Environmental Assessment to analyze any environmental impacts of the proposed exemption.

Issued in Washington, DC, on December 31, 1998.

**Richard B. Felder,**

*Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.*

[FR Doc. 99-291 Filed 1-6-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-60-P

## **DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

### **Surface Transportation Board**

[STB Finance Docket No. 33688]

#### **State of Georgia, Department of Transportation—Acquisition Exemption—Line of Central of Georgia Railroad Company**

The State of Georgia, Department of Transportation (GDOT), a noncarrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.31 to acquire from Central of Georgia Railroad Company (COG) certain railroad assets, including approximately 42.4 miles of rail line. The assets consist of two portions of rail line: (1) a previously abandoned line of railroad between milepost GF-152.2

near Vidalia, Toombs County, GA, and milepost GF-171.0 near Kirby, Emanuel County, GA; and (2) COG's active rail line between milepost GF-171.0 near Kirby and milepost 194.6 near Midville, Burke County, GA.

GDOT, COG, and Ogeechee Railway Company (Ogeechee), a Class III rail carrier, will enter into certain agreements whereby GDOT will acquire from COG fee title to certain railroad assets, but not including the right to conduct common carrier freight operations. The assets will be sold by COG to GDOT, with COG retaining a permanent easement to conduct operations over the line. In a separate and concurrently executed agreement, COG will transfer its retained easement and all rights and obligations pertaining to the assets, including but not limited to the right to maintain and repair the physical assets on the line to Ogeechee, which will continue to conduct freight operations over the line.<sup>1</sup> It is intended that Ogeechee will assume COG's common carrier obligation, and that neither COG nor GDOT will have a common carrier obligation to provide freight services when the transaction is completed.

The transaction was scheduled to take place as soon as possible after the December 18, 1998 effective date of the notice of exemption.

This transaction is related to STB Finance Docket No. 33689, *Ogeechee Railway Company—Acquisition and Operation Exemption—Line of Central of Georgia Railroad Company*, wherein Ogeechee seeks to acquire the right to conduct common carrier freight operations over the line being acquired by GDOT.

If the notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*.<sup>2</sup> Petitions to reopen the proceeding 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. 33688, 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 Luke Cousins, Georgia Department of

<sup>1</sup> Ogeechee currently leases and operates over both portions of the line. See *Ogeechee Railway Company—Lease Exemption—Line of Central of Georgia Railroad Company*, STB Finance Docket No. 33683 (STB served Dec. 16, 1998).

<sup>2</sup> A motion to dismiss has been filed in this proceeding. The motion will be addressed in a subsequent Board decision.

Transportation, #2 Capitol Square, Atlanta, GA 30334-1002.

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

Decided: December 29, 1998.

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

**Vernon A. Williams,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-204 Filed 1-6-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33689]

#### Ogeechee Railway Company— Acquisition and Operation Exemption—Line of Central of Georgia Railroad Company

The Ogeechee Railway Company (Ogeechee), a Class III rail carrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.41 to acquire from Central of Georgia Railroad Company (COG) the right to conduct common carrier freight operation over approximately 42.4 miles of rail line as follows: (1) a previously abandoned line of railroad between milepost GF-152.2 near Vidalia, Toombs County, GA and milepost GF-171.0 near Kirby, Emanuel County, GA; and (2) COG's active rail line between milepost GF-171.0 near Kirby and milepost 194.6 near Midville, Burke County, GA.<sup>1</sup>

The transaction was scheduled to take place as soon as possible after the December 16, 1998 effective date of the notice of exemption.

This transaction is related to STB Finance Docket No. 33688, *State of Georgia, Department of Transportation—Acquisition Exemption—Line of Central of Georgia Railroad Company*, wherein the State of Georgia, through its Department of Transportation is acquiring certain railroad assets of COG, including the above-noted 42.4-mile line of railroad, but not including the right to conduct common carrier freight operations.

If the notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*. Petitions to reopen the proceeding 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.

<sup>1</sup> Ogeechee currently leases and operates over both portions of the line. See *Ogeechee Railway Company—Lease Exemption—Line of Central of Georgia Railroad Company*, STB Finance Docket No. 33683 (STB served Dec. 16, 1998).

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 33689, 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 John M. Robinson, 9616 Old Spring Road, Kensington, MD 20895.

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

Decided: December 29, 1998.

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

**Vernon A. Williams,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-205 Filed 1-6-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-M

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33694]

#### City of Oakland, a Municipal Corporation of the State of California, Acting by and Through its Board of Port Commissioners—Acquisition Exemption—Union Pacific Railroad Company

The City of Oakland, a municipal corporation of the State of California, acting by and through its Board of Port Commissioners (Port of Oakland), a noncarrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.31 to acquire the physical assets of a rail line and the underlying right-of-way from Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP), between milepost 4.97 and milepost 5.80, in Oakland, CA, a distance of approximately 0.83 miles. UP will retain a permanent, exclusive easement to provide rail freight service over the line.

The transaction is expected to be consummated on or shortly after December 18, 1998, but not later than December 31, 1998.

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.<sup>1</sup>

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 33694, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, Office

<sup>1</sup> The Port of Oakland indicates that it will shortly be filing a motion to dismiss this notice on grounds that the Board lacks jurisdiction over the involved purchase. If such a motion is filed, it will be dealt with in a subsequent Board decision.

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 Karl Morell, BALL JANIK LLP, Suite 225, 1455 F Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20005.

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

Decided: December 29, 1998.

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

**Vernon A. Williams,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-203 Filed 1-6-99; 8:45 am]

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## UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

### Culturally Significant Objects Imported for Exhibition Determinations: "Picasso: Painter and Sculptor in Clay"

ACTION: Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given of the following determinations: Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Act of October 19, 1965 (79 Stat. 985, 22 U.S.C. 2459), Executive Order 12047 of March 27, 1978 (43 FR 13359, March 29, 1978), and Delegation Order No. 85-5 of June 27, 1985 (50 FR 27393, July 2, 1985). I hereby determine that the objects to be included in the exhibit, "Picasso: Painter and Sculptor in Clay," imported from abroad for the temporary exhibition without profit within the United States, are of cultural significance. These objects are imported pursuant to loan agreements with foreign lenders. I also determine that the exhibition or display of the exhibit objects at the The Metropolitan Museum of Art from March 1-June 6, 1999 is in the national interest. Public Notice of these Determinations is ordered to be published in the **Federal Register**.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTRACT:** For a copy of the list of exhibit objects or for further information, contact Nelia Sheahan, Assistant General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, 202/619-5030, and the address is Room 700, U.S. Information Agency, 301 4th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20547-0001.

Dated: December 31, 1998.

**Les Jin,**

General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 99-314 Filed 1-6-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8230-01-M