

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Baltimore/Washington International (BWI) Airport Marriott, 1743 West Nursery Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21240, telephone number (410) 859-8300. Suggestions for specific research and development topics as described below and questions for the July 26, 2001, meeting relating to the agency's research and development programs should be submitted to the Office of the Associate Administrator for Research and Development, NRD-01, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Room 6206, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. The fax number is (202) 366-5930.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In recent years, since April 1993, NHTSA has provided detailed information about its research and development programs in presentations at a series of public meetings. The purpose is to make available more complete and timely information regarding the agency's research and development programs. This is the twenty-ninth meeting in that series, and it will be held on Thursday, July 26, 2001, at the BWI Airport Marriott, 1743 West Nursery Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21240.

NHTSA requests suggestions from interested parties on specific agenda topics to be presented at this meeting. NHTSA will base its decisions about the agenda, in part, on the suggestions it receives by 5 p.m. on July 2, 2001. Before the meeting, NHTSA will publish a notice with an agenda listing the research and development topics to be discussed. The agenda can also be obtained by calling or faxing the request to the telephone numbers listed in this notice, through the E-mail address listed in this notice, or from NHTSA's Web site at URL <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/nhtsa/announce/meetings/>.

NHTSA asks that the suggestions be limited to three topics, in priority order, so that the presentations at the July 26, 2001, meeting can be most useful to the audience. Specific research and development topics are listed below. Many of these topics have been discussed at previous meetings. Suggestions for agenda topics are not restricted to this listing, and interested parties are invited to suggest other research and development topics of specific interest to their organizations or items of general interest. Additionally, if any interested parties would like to make a presentation regarding technical issues concerning any of NHTSA's research programs, information concerning the proposed topic and speaker should be submitted in writing by 5:00 p.m. on July 2, 2001, to the

Office of the Associate Administrator for Research and Development, NRD-01, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Room 6206, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. The fax number is (202) 366-5930.

Specific R&D topics are:
Fiscal Year 2001 R&D Research Efforts, International Harmonized Research Activities (IHRA),
On-line tracking system for NHTSA's research projects, and
Crash Injury Research and Engineering Network (CIREN).

Specific Crashworthiness R&D topics are:

Preparation of new dummies for assessment of advanced air bag technology,
Improved frontal crash protection (program status, problem identification, offset testing),
Vehicle compatibility,
Upgrade side crash protection,
Child restraint/air bag interaction (CRABI) dummy testing,
Head and neck injury research,
Lower extremity injury research, and
Thorax injury research.

Specific Crash Avoidance R&D topics are:

National Advanced Driving Simulator (NADS), Intelligent vehicle initiative (the rear-end collision avoidance system operational test),
Drowsy driver monitoring,
Driver workload assessment, and
Lane change/merge collision avoidance system guidelines.

Specific National Center for Statistics and Analysis (NCSA) topics are:

Special crash investigation studies and
Crash avoidance data collection.

Separately, questions regarding research projects that have been submitted in writing not later than 5 p.m. on July 6, 2001, will be answered. The summary minutes of the meeting, copies of materials handed out at the meeting, and answers to the questions submitted for response at the meeting will be available for public inspection in the DOT Docket in Washington, DC, within 3 weeks after the meeting. Copies of this material will then be available at ten cents a page upon request to DOT Docket, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. The DOT Docket is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The summary minutes, handouts, and answers to the questions will also be available on NHTSA's Web site URL <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/nhtsa/announce/meetings/>.

NHTSA will provide technical aids to participants as necessary, during the

Research and Development Programs Meeting. Thus, any person desiring the assistance of "auxiliary aids" (e.g., sign-language interpreter, telecommunication devices for deaf persons (TTDs), readers, taped texts, braille materials, or large print materials and/or a magnifying device), please contact Rita Gibbons by telephone on (202) 366-4862, by telefax on (202) 366-5930, or by E-mail at rgibbons@nhtsa.dot.gov by 5 p.m. July 2, 2001.

Should it be necessary to cancel the meeting due to inclement weather or to any other emergencies, a decision to cancel will be made as soon as possible and posted immediately on NHTSA's Web site URL <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/nhtsa/announce/meetings/>. If you do not have access to the Web site, you may call for information at the contact listed below and leave your telephone or telefax number. You will be called only if the meeting is postponed or canceled.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rita Gibbons, Staff Assistant, Office of Research and Development, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Telephone: (202) 366-4862. Fax number: (202) 366-5930. E-mail: rgibbons@nhtsa.dot.gov.

Issued: June 4, 2001.

H. Keith Brewer,

Acting Associate Administrator for Research and Development.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 179X);
STB Docket No. AB-458X]

Union Pacific Railroad Company— Abandonment Exemption—in Merced County, CA; California Northern Railroad Company—Discontinuance Exemption—in Merced County, CA

On May 22, 2001, the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) and the California Northern Railroad Company (CNR) jointly filed with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) a petition under 49 U.S.C. 10502 for exemption from the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 10903, permitting UP to abandon and CNR to discontinue service over a 1.10-mile segment of the Los Banos Branch, extending from milepost 140.07 to milepost 141.17 in Los Banos, Merced County, CA. There are no stations on the line, which traverses U. S. Postal Service Zip Code 93635.

The line does not contain federally granted rights-of-way. Any documentation in the railroads' possession will be made available promptly to those requesting it.

The interests of railroad employees will be protected by the conditions set forth in *Oregon Short Line R. Co.—Abandonment—Goshen*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979).

By issuance of this notice, the Board is instituting an exemption proceeding pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10502(b). A final decision will be issued by September 7, 2001.

Any offer of financial assistance (OFA) under 49 CFR 1152.27(b)(2) will be due no later than 10 days after service of a decision granting the petition for exemption. Each offer must be accompanied by a \$1,000 filing fee. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

All interested persons should be aware that, following abandonment of rail service and salvage of the line, the line may be suitable for other public use, including interim trail use. Any request for a public use condition under 49 CFR 1152.28 or for trail use/rail

banking under 49 CFR 1152.29 will be due no later than July 2, 2001. Each trail use request must be accompanied by a \$150 filing fee. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(27).

All filings in response to this notice must refer to STB Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 179X) *et al.* and must be sent to: (1) Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20423-0001; (2) Mack H. Shumate, Jr., 101 North Wacker Drive, Room 1920, Chicago, IL 60606; and (3) David L. Parkinson, 221 Gateway Road West, Suite 401, Napa, CA 94558. Replies to the exemption petition are due July 2, 2001.

Persons seeking further information concerning abandonment procedures may contact the Board's Office of Public Services at (202) 565-1592 or refer to the full abandonment or discontinuance regulations at 49 CFR part 1152. Questions concerning environmental issues may be directed to the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) at (202) 565-1545. [TDD for the

hearing impaired is available at 1-800-877-8339.]

An environmental assessment (EA) (or environmental impact statement (EIS), if necessary) prepared by SEA will be served upon all parties of record and upon any agencies or other persons who commented during its preparation. Any other persons who would like to obtain a copy of the EA (or EIS) may contact SEA. EAs in these abandonment proceedings normally will be made available within 60 days of the filing of the petition. The deadline for submission of comments on the EA will generally be within 30 days of its service.

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

Decided: June 4, 2001.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

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