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An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 34129, 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, one copy of each pleading must be served on (1) Gary A. Laakso, Esq., 5300 Broken Sound Blvd., NW., Second Floor, Boca Raton, FL 33487, and (2) Louis E. Gitomer, Esq., Ball Janik LLP, 1455 F Street, NW., Suite 225, Washington, DC 20005.

Board decisions and notices are available on our website at www.stb.dot.gov.

Decided: December 20, 2001.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 01-32008 Filed 12-27-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 34128]

RailAmerica, Inc.-Control Exemption-New StatesRail Holdings, Inc. and Alabama & Gulf Coast Railway L.L.C.¹

RailAmerica, Inc. (RailAmerica), a noncarrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption to acquire from StatesRail, L.L.C. (StatesRail) all of the outstanding stock of New StatesRail Holdings, Inc. (New StatesRail), and, through New StatesRail, to acquire control of its wholly owned subsidiary, the Alabama & Gulf Coast Railway, L.L.C. (Alabama & Gulf Coast), a Class III carrier.

The transaction is scheduled to be consummated on or after January 1, 2002.

On November 15, 2001, RailAmerica also filed a motion for protective order under CFR 1104.14, and the motion was granted.²

RailAmerica states that, as of its filing of the notice of exemption, it controls one Class II and 23 Class III rail

common carriers operating in 23 states.³ However, in *ParkSierra, infra*, RailAmerica is acquiring control of a second Class II carrier.

RailAmerica also states that: (i) these railroads do not connect with each other; (ii) the acquisition of control is not part of a series of anticipated transactions that would connect the railroads with each other or any railroad in their corporate family; and (iii) the transaction does not involve a Class I carrier.⁴ Therefore, the transaction is exempt from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 11323. See 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(2).

Under 49 U.S.C. 10502(g), the Board may not use its exemption authority to relieve a rail carrier of its statutory obligation to protect the interests of its employees. Because RailAmerica will control more than one Class II rail carrier, the transaction will be made subject to the labor protection conditions described in *New York Dock Ry.-Control-Brooklyn Eastern Dist.*, 360 I.C.C. 60 (1979).

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. 34128, 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, one copy of each pleading must be served on (1) Gary A. Laakso, Esq., 5300 Broken Sound Blvd., NW., Second Floor, Boca Raton, FL 33487, and (2) Louis E. Gitomer, Esq.,

³ On December 7, 2001, RailAmerica also filed: (1) a notice of exemption in STB Finance Docket No. 34129, *RailAmerica, Inc.-Control Exemption-StatesRail Acquisition Corp. and StatesRail, Inc.*, to continue in control of StatesRail Acquisition Corp. (Acquisition), and to obtain control of StatesRail, a holding company that controls Arizona Eastern Railway Company, Eastern Alabama Railway, Kyle Railroad Company, San Joaquin Valley Railroad Company, and SWKR Operating Co., all Class III railroads, upon the acquisition of all of the stock of StatesRail by Acquisition; and (2) a petition for exemption in STB Finance Docket No. 34130, *RailAmerica, Inc.-Control Exemption-Kiamichi Holdings, Inc. and Kiamichi Railroad L.L.C.*, to acquire control of Kiamichi Holdings, Inc., and its subsidiary Kiamichi Railroad L.L.C.

⁴ RailAmerica has invoked the Board's class exemption procedures to acquire control of Class II rail carrier ParkSierra Corp. (ParkSierra) in *RailAmerica, Inc.-Control Exemption-ParkSierra Acquisition Corp. and ParkSierra Corp.*, STB Finance Docket No. 34100 (STB served Dec. 20, 2001) (*ParkSierra*). RailAmerica indicates that ParkSierra's rail properties do not connect with those of Alabama & Gulf Coast or those of RailAmerica's other rail subsidiaries.

Ball Janik LLP, 1455 F Street, NW., Suite 225, Washington, DC 20005.

Board decisions and notices are available on our Website at www.stb.dot.gov.

Decided: December 20, 2001.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 01-32009 Filed 12-27-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 390X)]

The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company—Abandonment Exemption—Between Loving and Pecos Junction, NM, and Between Pecos Junction, NM, and Rustler Springs, TX

The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF) has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 subpart F—*Exempt Abandonments* to abandon a line of railroad between BNSF milepost 196.00 near Loving, NM, and milepost 217.20 near Pecos Junction, NM, and between milepost 0.00 near Pecos Junction, NM, and milepost 25.34 near Rustler Springs, TX, a total distance of 46.54 miles. The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Codes 88256, 88263, and 79855.

Applicant has certified that: (1) No local traffic has moved over the line for at least 2 years; (2) there is no overhead traffic to be rerouted; (3) no formal complaint filed by a user of rail service on the line (or by a state or local government agency acting on behalf of such user) regarding cessation of service over the line is either pending with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) or any U.S. District Court or has been decided in favor of complainant within the 2-year period; and (4) the requirements at 49 CFR 1105.7 (environmental reports), 49 CFR 1105.8 (historic reports), 49 CFR 1105.11 (transmittal letter), 49 CFR 1105.12 (newspaper publication), and 49 CFR 1152.50(d)(1) (notice to governmental agencies) have been met.

As a condition to this exemption, any employee adversely affected by the abandonment shall be protected under *Oregon Short Line R. Co—Abandonment—Goshen*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979). To address whether this condition adequately protects affected employees, a petition for partial

¹ On December 5, 2001, a protective order was issued in this proceeding. The title reflected the expected participation of West Texas and Lubbock Railroad Company, Inc. (West Texas). Because West Texas will not, in fact, be a party to the transaction, the above title has been revised to reflect that fact.

² See *RailAmerica, Inc. and West Texas and Lubbock Railroad Company, Inc.-Control Exemption-New StatesRail Holdings, Inc. and Alabama & Gulf Coast Railway L.L.C.*, STB Finance Docket No. 34128 (STB served Dec. 5, 2001).

revocation under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) must be filed. Provided no formal expression of intent to file an offer of financial assistance (OFA) has been received, this exemption will be effective on January 29, 2002, unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay that do not involve environmental issues,¹ formal expressions of intent to file an OFA under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2),² and trail use/rail banking requests under 49 CFR 1152.29 must be filed by January 9, 2002. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by January 22, 2002, with the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001.

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to applicant's representative: Michael Smith, Freeborn & Peters, 311 S. Wacker Dr., Suite 3000, Chicago, IL 60606-6677. If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*.

Applicant has filed a separate environmental report which addresses the abandonment's effects, if any, on the environment and historic resources. SEA will issue an environmental assessment (EA) by January 4, 2002. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA by writing to SEA (Room 500, Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423-0001) or by calling SEA, at (202) 565-1552. Comments on environmental and historic preservation matters must be filed within 15 days after the EA becomes available to the public.

Environmental, historic preservation, public use, or trail use/rail banking conditions will be imposed, where appropriate, in a subsequent decision.

Pursuant to the provisions of 49 CFR 1152.29(e)(2), BNSF shall file a notice of consummation with the Board to signify that it has exercised the authority granted and fully abandoned the line. If consummation has not been effected by BNSF's filing of a notice of consummation by December 28, 2002, and there are no legal or regulatory

barriers to consummation, the authority to abandon will automatically expire.

Board decisions and notices are available on our Website at www.stb.dot.gov.

Decided: December 18, 2001.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 01-31767 Filed 12-27-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Bureau of Transportation Statistics

[Docket No. BTS-2001-11069]

Reports of Motor Carriers; Notice of Requests for Exemptions From Public Release; Request for Comments

AGENCY: Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS), DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This Notice announces BTS' receipt of exemption requests from the motor carriers listed below and invites public comments on the exemption requests. Class I and Class II for-hire motor carriers of property and household goods, with gross annual operating revenue of \$3 million or more, are required to file annual reports with the BTS and Class I motor carriers must also file quarterly reports. As provided by statute, carriers may request that their reports be withheld from public release. BTS has opened a public docket and is inviting comments on the exemption requests from motor carriers listed below.

DATES: Comments must be submitted by February 26, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to the U. S. Department of Transportation, Dockets Management System (DMS). You may submit your comments by fax, Internet, in person or via the U.S. mail to the Docket Clerk, Docket No. BTS-2001-11069, Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Room PL-401, Washington, DC 20590-0001. Please note that due to delays in the delivery of U.S. mail to Federal offices in Washington, DC, we recommend that persons consider an alternative method (the Internet, fax, or professional delivery service) to submit comments to the docket and ensure their timely receipt at U.S. DOT. You may fax your comments to the DMS at (202) 493-2251. If you have provided any correspondence related to any exemption request listed below, please

call (202) 366-5685 to verify receipt at U.S. DOT.

If you wish to file comments using the Internet, you may use the DOT DMS website at <http://dms.dot.gov>. Please follow the online instructions for submitting an electronic comment. Comments should identify the docket number and be submitted in duplicate. If you would like the Department to acknowledge receipt of your comments, you must submit a self-addressed stamped postcard on which the following statement is made: Comments on Docket BTS-2001-11069. The Docket Clerk will date stamp the postcard prior to returning it to you via the U.S. mail. The DMS is open for examination and copying, at the above address, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Russell B. Capelle, Jr., K-13, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001; (202) 366-5685; fax: (202) 366-3364; e-mail: russ.capelle@bts.gov or Robert A. Monniere, K-2, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001; (202) 366-5498; fax: (202) 366-3640; e-mail: robert.monniere@bts.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Under 49 U.S.C. 14123 and its implementing regulations at 49 CFR part 1420, BTS collects financial and operating information from for-hire motor carriers of property and household goods. The data are collected on annual Form M, filed by Class I and Class II carriers, and quarterly Form QFR, filed only by Class I carriers. The data are used by the Department of Transportation, other federal agencies, motor carriers, shippers, industry analysts, labor unions, segments of the insurance industry, investment analysts, and the consultants and data vendors that support these users. Among the uses of the data are: (1) Developing financial and operating performance indicators to better measure the trucking industry and the motor carriers' role in the economy; (2) Implementing performance-based government policies; (3) Developing benchmark data for competitive analysis of trucking companies and the basis for industry policies; and (4) Research and analysis by educational institutions.

Generally, all data are made publicly available. A motor carrier can, however, request that its report be withheld from public release, as provided for by statute, 49 U.S.C. 14123(c)(2), and its implementing regulations, 49 CFR

¹ The Board will grant a stay if an informed decision on environmental issues (whether raised by a party or by the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) in its independent investigation) cannot be made before the exemption's effective date. See *Exemption of Out-of-Service Rail Lines*, 5 I.C.C.2d 377 (1989). Any request for a stay should be filed as soon as possible so that the Board may take appropriate action before the exemption's effective date.

² Each offer of financial assistance must be accompanied by the filing fee, which currently is set at \$1000. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).