

notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.31 to lease and operate approximately 37.26 miles of rail line owned by Oklahoma Department of Transportation (OKDOT) and Blackwell Industrial Authority (BIA) extending from milepost 0.09 at Wellington, Kan., to milepost 35.35 at Blackwell, Okla., and from milepost 127.0 at Blackwell to milepost 125.0 also at Blackwell (the Line). OKRL states that OKDOT owns the portions of the Line extending from milepost 18.32 at Hunnewell, Kan., to milepost 35.35, and from milepost 127.0 to milepost 126.45. OKRL further states that BIA owns the portions of the Line extending from milepost 0.09 to milepost 18.32 and from milepost 126.45 to milepost 125.0. The verified notice states that under the proposed transaction OKRL will replace Blackwell Northern Gateway Railroad Company (BNGR), the current common carrier service provider on the Line. *See State of Okla.—Alt. Rail Serv.—Line of Blackwell N. Gateway R.R.*, FD 36762 (STB served July 26, 2024).

According to the verified notice, the transaction involves OKRL's proposed lease of, and commencement of common carrier service over, the Line. OKRL further states that once the proposed lease transaction is effectuated, OKRL will assume a common carrier status over the Line in place of BNGR.¹

This transaction is related to a concurrently filed verified notice of exemption in *Chicago Rock Island & Pacific Railroad—Continuance in Control Exemption—Oklahoma & Kansas Railroad*, Docket No. FD 36812, in which Chicago Rock Island & Pacific Railroad LLC seeks to continue in control of OKRL upon OKRL's becoming a Class III rail carrier.

OKRL certifies that the agreement governing the transaction does not include any provision that may limit future interchange with a third-party connecting carrier. OKRL also certifies that its projected annual revenues as a result of this transaction will not result in its becoming a Class II or Class I rail carrier and that its projected annual revenue will not exceed \$5 million.

Under 49 CFR 1150.32(b), a change in operator requires that notice be given to shippers. OKRL certifies that it has provided a copy of its verified notice of exemption to all customers on the Line in accordance with the Board's change of operator rules.

The transaction may be consummated on or after October 13, 2024, the

¹ The verified notice states that OKRL understands that BNGR does not object to the proposed change in operator.

effective date of the exemption (30 days after the verified notice was filed).

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 effectiveness of the exemption. Petitions for stay must be filed no later than October 4, 2024 (at least seven days before the exemption becomes effective).

All pleadings, referring to Docket No. FD 36811, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board either via e-filing on the Board's website or in writing addressed to 395 E Street SW, Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on OKRL's representative, Robert A. Wimbish, Fletcher & Sippel LLC, 29 North Wacker Drive, Suite 800, Chicago, IL 60606.

According to OKRL, this action is categorically excluded from environmental review under 49 CFR 1105.6(c) and from historic preservation reporting requirements under 49 CFR 1105.8(b).

Board decisions and notices are available at www.stb.gov.

Decided: September 24, 2024.

By the Board, Scott M. Zimmerman, Acting Director, Office of Proceedings.

Aretha Laws-Byrum,
Clearance Clerk.

[FR Doc. 2024-22216 Filed 9-26-24; 8:45 am]

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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

[Docket No. FD 36812]

Chicago Rock Island & Pacific Railroad LLC—Continuance in Control Exemption—Oklahoma & Kansas Railroad, LLC

Chicago Rock Island & Pacific Railroad LLC (Rock Island), a Class III rail carrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(2) to continue in control of Oklahoma & Kansas Railroad, LLC (OKRL), upon OKRL's becoming a Class III rail carrier. Rock Island currently controls the Gulf & Ship Island Railroad LLC (G&SI) and Ottawa Northern Railroad LLC (ONR), both Class III rail carriers. Rock Island operates in Mississippi; G&SI operates in Mississippi; ONR operates in Kansas; and OKRL intends to operate in Oklahoma and Kansas.

This transaction is related to a concurrently filed verified notice of exemption in *Oklahoma & Kansas Railroad—Change of Operator*

Exemption—Oklahoma Department of Transportation, Docket No. FD 36811, in which OKRL seeks Board approval to lease and operate approximately 37.26 miles of rail line owned by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation and Blackwell Industrial Authority extending from milepost 0.09 at Wellington, Kan., to milepost 35.35 at Blackwell, Okla., and from milepost 127.0 at Blackwell to milepost 125.0 also at Blackwell.

Rock Island represents that: (1) none of Rock Island's railroad lines, G&SI's lines, or ONR's lines will connect with OKRL's; (2) the transaction is not part of a series of anticipated transactions that would result in such interconnection; and (3) the transaction does not involve a Class I rail carrier. 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. However, 49 U.S.C. 11326(c) does not provide for labor protection for transactions under 49 U.S.C. 11324 and 11325 that involve only Class III rail carriers. Accordingly, because this transaction involves Class III rail carriers only, the Board may not impose labor protective conditions here.

The earliest this transaction may be consummated is October 13, 2024, the effective date of the exemption (30 days after the verified notice was filed). 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(g) may be filed at any time. The filing of a petition to revoke will not automatically stay the effectiveness of the exemption. Petitions for stay must be filed by October 4, 2024 (at least seven days before the exemption becomes effective).

All pleadings, referring to Docket No. FD 36812, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board either via e-filing on the Board's website or in writing addressed to 395 E Street SW, Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on Rock Island's representative, Robert A. Wimbish, Fletcher & Sippel LLC, 29 North Wacker Drive, Suite 800, Chicago, IL 60606.

Board decisions and notices are available at www.stb.gov.

Decided: September 24, 2024.

By the Board, Scott M. Zimmerman, Acting Director, Office of Proceedings.

Aretha Laws-Byrum,

Clearance Clerk.

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

[Docket Number USTR-2024-0011]

Cancellation of Public Hearing Concerning Russia's Implementation of Its WTO Commitments

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR).

ACTION: Notice; cancellation of public hearing.

SUMMARY: The interagency Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) sought public comments to assist USTR in the preparation of its annual report to Congress on Russia's compliance with its obligations as a Member of the World Trade Organization (WTO). Because USTR received no requests to testify, USTR is canceling the public hearing that was scheduled to take place on October 10, 2024.

DATES: The public hearing scheduled for October 10, 2024 is cancelled.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Silvia Savich, Deputy Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Russia and Eurasia at Silvia.Savich@ustr.eop.gov or 202.395.2256.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On August 5, 2024, the TPSC sought public comments to assist USTR in the preparation of its annual report to Congress on Russia's compliance with its obligations as a Member of the WTO. See 89 FR 63463 (Aug 5, 2024). The notice included a September 18, 2024 deadline for the submission of written comments and requests to testify at a public hearing that was scheduled to take place on October 10, 2024. In response to the notice, USTR received two submissions and no requests to testify. Therefore, USTR is canceling the October 10, 2024 public hearing.

Laura Buffo,

*Chair of the Trade Policy Staff Committee,
Office of the United States Trade Representative.*

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

[Docket No. FHWA-2024-0066]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Request for Comments for a New Information Collection

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The FHWA invites public comments about our intention to request the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) approval for a new information collection, which is summarized below under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**. We are required to publish this notice in the **Federal Register** by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Please submit comments by November 26, 2024.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments identified by DOT Docket ID Number 0066 by any of the following methods:

Website: For access to the docket to read background documents or comments received go to the Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

Fax: 1-202-493-2251.

Mail: Docket Management Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590-0001.

Hand Delivery or Courier: U.S. Department of Transportation, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Melissa Corder, 202-366-5853, Office of Real Estate Services, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590. Office hours are from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Relocation Assistance Personal Interviews for FHWA Federal and Federally Assisted Programs under the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Polies Act of 1970, as amended (Uniform Act).

Background: This program implements 42 U.S.C. 4602, concerning acquisition of real property and relocation assistance for persons displaced by FHWA Federal and

federally assisted programs. It requires the provision of relocation assistance and payments to U.S. citizens and persons legally present in the United States. The information collected consists of a personal interview of affected persons to establish eligibility for relocation assistance and payments. Displacing agencies will request each person who is to be displaced by a FHWA Federal or federally assisted project to voluntarily assist the agency in determining the benefits that their household, business, farm, or non-profit organization may be eligible to receive through the personal interview to determine their needs and preferences related to the move. This information is not required from the displaced person for the agency to proceed.

Respondents: Any of the 56 State Departments of Transportations (52, including the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico), and the United States territories of American Samoa, Guam, N. Mariana Is., and the Virgin Islands of the United States (4 territories), local government agencies, persons administering projects or programs receiving financial assistance for expenditures of Federal funds on acquisition and relocation payments and required services to displaced persons that are subject to the Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended, (Uniform Act) for determination of Uniform Act relocation program benefit amounts, and file maintenance.

Frequency: The information will be collected once per displacement of a household, business, farm, or non-profit organization.

Estimated Average Burden per Response: 1.5 hours per respondent per personal interview.

Estimated Total Annual Burden

Hours: It is expected that the respondents will complete approximately 4,800 personal interviews for an estimated total of 6,900 annual burden hours.

Public Comments Invited: You are asked to comment on any aspect of this information collection, including: (1) Whether the proposed collection is necessary for the FHWA's performance; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burdens; (3) ways for the FHWA to enhance the quality, usefulness, and clarity of the collected information; and (4) ways that the burden could be minimized, including the use of electronic technology, without reducing the quality of the collected information. The agency will summarize and/or include your comments in the request