

components would fall in the following U.S. Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) lease blocks:

Buoy 1 (6708, 6709, 6758); Buoy 2 (6709); Lateral 1 (6708); Lateral 2 (6708, 6709); "Y" Assembly (6708); Mainline Pipeline (6708, 6658, 6657, 6607, 6606, 6556, 6555, 6554, 6504 and 6503).

The 145,000 cubic meter LNGRVs would have onboard closed-loop vaporization and metering and odorant capability. Each vessel would have three vaporization units capable of maximum send-out of 750 million standard cubic feet per day (MMscfd) (maximum pipeline system flow rate is 660 MMscfd with two buoys) with annual average expected to be 400 MMscfd. The LNGRVs have been designed to use a ballast water cooling system that will entirely re-circulate onboard the vessel during Port operations, eliminating vessel discharges associated with regasification while at the Port. Deliveries through Port Ambrose would be focused during peak demand winter and summer months, and it is anticipated that approximately 45 deliveries will occur each year.

As proposed, the LNGRVs would access the port inbound from the Hudson Canyon to Ambrose Traffic Lane and depart via the Ambrose to Nantucket Traffic Lane. MARAD and USCG are aware that Port Ambrose falls within the proposed area of interest for the Long Island—New York City Offshore Wind Collaborative wind energy project. This project has been acknowledged and considered in the cumulative impacts analysis section of the FEIS based on currently available information. If approved, the majority of the port and pipeline construction and installation would occur in 2017, with commissioning estimated to be in December 2018.

In addition, pipelines and structures such as the STL Buoy moorings will require permits under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, which are administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Port Ambrose will also require permits from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) pursuant to the provisions of the Clean Air Act, as amended, and the Clean Water Act, as amended.

The new pipeline is included in the NEPA review as part of the deepwater port application process. The EPA and the USACE, among others, are cooperating agencies (40 CFR 1501.6) and have assisted in development of the FEIS. See 40 CFR 1501.6. To the extent required, each agency will incorporate the FEIS into their permitting processes. Comments sent to the EPA or USACE

will be incorporated in the USCG Port Ambrose docket and considered under this notice to ensure consistency with the NEPA Process.

There have been some proposed project changes since the original Port Ambrose application was submitted, which were set forth in the Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS (DEIS). In summary, these include: (1) The original Application proposed a plowed mainline pipeline burial depth of three (3) feet to top of pipe. Pursuant to USACE requirements, the mainline pipeline is now proposed to be plow-buried to seven (7) feet (4 feet to top of pipe), and for approximately three (3) miles within the Ambrose Anchorage Area, buried to 10 feet (7 feet to top of pipe). The pipeline within the Ambrose Anchorage Area will then be backfilled and covered with three (3) feet of 8-inch rock to a point. Once the rock has been placed, gravelly sand will be deposited on top of the rock covered pipeline to restore the seabed to near its original seafloor bottom elevation; (2) the originally proposed impact driven mooring pile anchors are now proposed to be suction anchors; (3) the original port construction and commissioning was proposed to occur in 2015. This timetable has been amended to occur in 2018 (assuming license is approved and issued). Should a license be issued, the deepwater port would be designed, fabricated, constructed, commissioned, maintained, inspected and operated in accordance with applicable codes and standards.

#### Privacy Act

The electronic form of all comments received into the FDMS can be searched by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the comment, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). The DOT Privacy Act Statement can be viewed in the **Federal Register** published on April 11, 2000 (65 FR 19477).

**Authority:** The Deepwater Port Act of 1974, as amended, 33 U.S.C. 1501 *et seq.*; 49 CFR 1.93.

\* \* \* \* \*

Dated: October 5, 2015.

By Order of the Maritime Administrator.

**T. Mitchell Hudson, Jr.,**

*Secretary, Maritime Administration.*

[FR Doc. 2015-25727 Filed 10-15-15; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[Docket No. AB 57 (Sub-No. 63X)]

#### Soo Line Railroad Company— Abandonment Exemption—in Cook County, Ill.

Soo Line Railroad Company d/b/a Canadian Pacific (Soo Line) has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR part 1152 subpart F—*Exempt Abandonments* to abandon approximately 5,253 feet of railroad line between milepost 0.0 +/- (milepost 8.9 +/- on the Metra main line) and milepost 0.9 +/- at the intersection of Diversey Avenue in Chicago (Dunning Line), in Cook County, Ill. (the Line). The Line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Code 60707.

Soo Line has certified that: (1) No local traffic has moved over the Line for at least two years; (2) any overhead traffic can be and has been rerouted over other lines; (3) no formal complaint filed by a user of rail service on the Line (or by a state or local government entity acting on behalf of such user) regarding cessation of service over the Line either is pending with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) or with any U.S. District Court or has been decided in favor of complainant within the two-year period; and (4) the requirements at 49 CFR 1105.7(c) (environmental report), 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 Railroad—Abandonment Portion Goshen Branch Between Firth & Ammon, in Bingham & Bonneville Counties, Idaho*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979). To address whether this condition adequately protects affected employees, a petition for partial 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 November 17, 2015, unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay that do not involve environmental issues,<sup>1</sup> formal expressions of intent to

<sup>1</sup> The Board will grant a stay if an informed decision on environmental issues (whether raised by a party or by the Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) in its independent investigation) cannot be made before the exemption's effective date. See *Exemption of Out-of-Serv. Rail Lines*, 5 I.C.C. 2d 377 (1989). Any request for a stay should

file an OFA under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2),<sup>2</sup> and trail use/rail banking requests under 49 CFR 1152.29 must be filed by October 26, 2015. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by November 5, 2015, with the Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street SW., Washington, DC 20423-0001.

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to Soo Line's representative: W. Karl Hansen, Stinson Leonard Street LLP, 150 South Fifth Street, Suite 2300, Minneapolis, MN 55402.

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void ab initio.

Soo Line has filed environmental and historic reports that address the effects, if any, of the abandonment on the environment and historic resources. OEA will issue an environmental assessment (EA) by October 23, 2015. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA by writing to OEA (Room 1100, Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423-0001) or by calling OEA at (202) 245-0305. Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. 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), Soo Line 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 Soo Line's filing of a notice of consummation by October 16, 2016, and there are no legal or regulatory barriers to consummation, the authority to abandon will automatically expire.

be filed as soon as possible so that the Board may take appropriate action before the exemption's effective date.

<sup>2</sup> Each OFA must be accompanied by the filing fee, which is currently set at \$1,600. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

Board decisions and notices are available on our Web site at "[www.stb.dot.gov](http://www.stb.dot.gov)."

Decided: October 13, 2015.

By the Board, Rachel D. Campbell, Director, Office of Proceedings.

**Tia Delano,**

*Clearance Clerk.*

[FR Doc. 2015-26383 Filed 10-15-15; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. FD 35874]

#### Lone Star Railroad, Inc. and Southern Switching Company—Track Construction and Operation Exemption—in Howard County, Tex

**AGENCY:** Surface Transportation Board.

**ACTION:** Issuance of Draft Environmental Assessment; Request for Comments.

**SUMMARY:** On February 24, 2015, Applicants, Lone Star Railroad, Inc. (LSR) and Southern Switching Company (SSC), filed a petition with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) pursuant to 49 United States Code (U.S.C.) 10502 and 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1121.1. The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) is responsible for ensuring the Board's compliance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. Applicants seek Board authority for LSR to construct and SSC to operate approximately 3.18 miles of rail line that would connect to an existing Union Pacific Railroad Company mainline and provide rail service to an industrial park property near Big Spring, in Howard County, Texas. The primary purpose for the proposed action is the efficient delivery of frac sand by rail to the industrial park property, where it would be transloaded to trucks for delivery to crude oil wellhead locations in the Permian Basin. Applicants anticipate that the proposed rail line would support an average of five trains per week.

Today, OEA has issued the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA), which

is available on the Board's Web site, [www.stb.dot.gov](http://www.stb.dot.gov), by clicking "Decisions" under "Quick Links," and locating the document under the service date of 10/16/2015. The Draft EA identifies the natural and man-made resources in the area of the proposed rail line and analyzes the potential impacts of the proposal on these resources. Based on the information provided from all sources to date and its independent analysis, OEA preliminarily concludes that construction of the proposed rail line would have no significant environmental impacts if the Board imposes and Applicants implement the recommended mitigation measures set forth in the Draft EA.

**DATES:** Interested parties are invited to submit written comments on the Draft EA by November 16, 2015. OEA will consider and respond to comments received on the Draft EA in the Final EA. The Board will issue a final decision on the proposed transaction after issuance of the Final EA.

Filing Environmental Comments: Comments submitted by mail should be addressed to: Kenneth Blodgett, Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street SW., Washington, DC 20423-0001, Attention: Environmental Filing, Docket No. FD 35874. Comments may also be submitted electronically on the Board's Web site, [www.stb.dot.gov](http://www.stb.dot.gov), by clicking on the "E-FILING" link on the home page and then selecting "Environmental Comments." Please refer to *Docket No. FD 35874* in all correspondence, including e-filings, addressed to the Board.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kenneth Blodgett at the address above or by phone at 202-245-0305. Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

By the Board, Victoria Rutson, Director, Office of Environmental Analysis.

**Tia Delano,**

*Clearance Clerk.*

[FR Doc. 2015-26313 Filed 10-15-15; 8:45 am]

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