

of these determinations be published in the **Federal Register**.

**Alyson Grunder,**

*Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Department of State.*

[FR Doc. 2017-27619 Filed 12-21-17; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4710-05-P**

## **SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

[Docket No. FD 36068 (Sub-No. 2)]

### **The Indiana Rail Road Company— Temporary Trackage Rights Exemption—CSX Transportation, Inc.**

The Indiana Rail Road Company (INRD), a Class II rail carrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(8) for its acquisition of limited, temporary overhead trackage rights over a line of railroad of CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT) between its connection with CSXT at approximately CSXT milepost OZA 204.5 at Sullivan, Ind., and the connection with trackage serving the Oaktown Mine at approximately CSXT milepost OZA 219.05 at Oaktown, Ind., a distance of approximately 14.55 miles.

As explained by INRD in its notice of exemption in Docket No. FD 36068, pursuant to a May 15, 2008 trackage rights agreement and two subsequent supplements to that agreement dated August 1, 2009, and November 20, 2009, INRD holds trackage rights over a line of railroad of CSXT from Sullivan to Carlisle and Oaktown, Ind.<sup>1</sup> The purpose of those trackage rights is to allow INRD to handle unit coal trains from mines at Carlisle and Oaktown to specified destinations on INRD or other railroads with which INRD interchanges. In 2016, the Board authorized temporarily expanding the existing trackage rights to allow INRD to handle loaded and empty coal trains between the Oaktown Mine and the Kentucky Utilities Generating Station in Harrodsburg, Ky., in interline service with other rail carriers.<sup>2</sup> The current temporary trackage rights agreement is scheduled to expire on December 31, 2017. INRD states that it intends to consummate the transaction on January

<sup>1</sup> See *Indiana R.R.—Trackage Rights Exemption—CSX Transp., Inc.*, FD 35328 (STB served Dec. 31, 2009); *Indiana R.R.—Trackage Rights Exemption—CSX Transp., Inc.*, FD 35287 (STB served Sept. 2, 2009); *Indiana R.R.—Amended Trackage Rights Exemption—CSX Transp., Inc.*, FD 35137 (STB served May 22, 2008, and Dec. 4, 2009).

<sup>2</sup> *Indiana R.R.—Trackage Rights Exemption—CSX Transp., Inc.*, FD 36068 (STB served Oct. 14, 2016); *Indiana R.R.—Trackage Rights Exemption—CSX Transp., Inc.*, FD 36068 (Sub-No. 1) (STB served Feb. 9, 2017).

6, 2018. The sole purpose of the trackage rights is to allow INRD to handle loaded and empty unit coal trains between the Oaktown Mine and the Kentucky Utilities Generating Station in Harrodsburg, Ky., in interline service with other rail carriers. The temporary trackage rights will expire on December 31, 2018.<sup>3</sup>

As a condition to this exemption, any employees affected by the acquisition of the temporary trackage rights will be protected by the conditions imposed in *Norfolk & Western Railway—Trackage Rights—Burlington Northern, Inc.*, 354 I.C.C. 605 (1978), as modified in *Mendocino Coast Railway—Lease & Operate—California Western Railroad*, 360 I.C.C. 653 (1980), and any employees affected by the discontinuance of those trackage rights will be protected by the conditions set out in *Oregon Short Line Railroad—Abandonment Portion Goshen Branch Between Firth & Ammon, in Bingham & Bonneville Counties, Idaho*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979).

This notice is filed under 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(8). 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.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to Docket No. FD 36068 (Sub-No. 2), must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street SW, Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on INRD's representative, Thomas J. Litwiler, Fletcher & Sippel LLC, 29 North Wacker Dr., Ste. 920, Chicago, IL 60606-2832.

According to INRD, this action is categorically excluded from environmental review under 49 CFR 1105.6(c) and historic reporting under 49 CFR 1105.8(b)(3).

Board decisions and notices are available on our website at "[WWW.STB.GOV](http://WWW.STB.GOV)."

Decided: December 19, 2017.

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

**Jeffrey Herzig,**

*Clearance Clerk.*

[FR Doc. 2017-27604 Filed 12-21-17; 8:45 am]

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<sup>3</sup> INRD states that, upon expiration of the temporary trackage rights, its underlying trackage rights authorized in Docket Nos. FD 35137, FD 35287, and FD 35328 will remain in place.

## **SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

[Docket No. EP 290 (Sub-No. 5) (2018-1)]

### **Quarterly Rail Cost Adjustment Factor**

**AGENCY:** Surface Transportation Board.  
**ACTION:** Approval of rail cost adjustment factor.

**SUMMARY:** The Board has approved the first quarter 2018 Rail Cost Adjustment Factor (RCAF) and cost index filed by the Association of American Railroads. A new base level for the index is calculated in the Board's decision, as the statute requires be done every five years. The first quarter 2018 RCAF (Unadjusted) is 1.027. The first quarter 2018 RCAF (Adjusted) is 0.422. The first quarter 2018 RCAF-5 is 0.402.

**DATES:** *Applicability Date:* January 1, 2018.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Pedro Ramirez, (202) 245-0333. Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) for the hearing impaired: (800) 877-8339.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Additional information is contained in the Board's decision, which is available on our website, <http://www.stb.gov>. Copies of the decision may be purchased by contacting the Office of Public Assistance, Governmental Affairs, and Compliance at (202) 245-0238. Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through FIRS at (800) 877-8339.

This action is categorically excluded from environmental review under 49 CFR 1105.6(c).

Decided: December 18, 2017.

By the Board, Board Members Begeman and Miller.

**Jeffrey Herzig,**

*Clearance Clerk.*

[FR Doc. 2017-27634 Filed 12-21-17; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4915-01-P**

## **DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

### **Maritime Administration**

[Docket No. MARAD 2017-0199]

### **Requested Administrative Waiver of the Coastwise Trade Laws: Vessel CHASIN TAIL 2; Invitation for Public Comments**

**AGENCY:** Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Secretary of Transportation, as represented by the Maritime Administration (MARAD), is authorized to grant waivers of the U.S.-

build requirement of the coastwise laws under certain circumstances. A request for such a waiver has been received by MARAD. The vessel, and a brief description of the proposed service, is listed below.

**DATES:** Submit comments on or before January 22, 2018.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should refer to docket number MARAD-2017-0199. Written comments may be submitted by hand or by mail to the Docket Clerk, U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M-30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590. You may also send comments electronically via the internet at <http://www.regulations.gov>. All comments will become part of this docket and will be available for inspection and copying at the above address between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except federal holidays. An electronic version of this document and all documents entered into this docket is available at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Bianca Carr, U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Room W23-453, Washington, DC 20590. Telephone 202-366-9309, Email [Bianca.Carr@dot.gov](mailto:Bianca.Carr@dot.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** As described by the applicant the intended service of the vessel CHASIN TAIL 2 is:—Intended Commercial Use of Vessel: “Charter fishing”  
—Geographic Region: “Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Florida, North Carolina, Maryland”

The complete application is given in DOT docket MARAD-2017-0199 at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Interested parties may comment on the effect this action may have on U.S. vessel builders or businesses in the U.S. that use U.S.-flag vessels. If MARAD determines, in accordance with 46 U.S.C. 12121 and MARAD’s regulations at 46 CFR part 388, that the issuance of the waiver will have an unduly adverse effect on a U.S.-vessel builder or a business that uses U.S.-flag vessels in that business, a waiver will not be granted. Comments should refer to the docket number of this notice and the vessel name in order for MARAD to properly consider the comments. Comments should also state the commenter’s interest in the waiver application, and address the waiver criteria given in § 388.4 of MARAD’s regulations at 46 CFR part 388.

### Privacy Act

In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 553(c), DOT/MARAD solicits comments from the public to better inform its rulemaking process. DOT/MARAD posts these comments, without edit, to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), as described in the system of records notice, DOT/ALL-14 FDMS, accessible through [www.dot.gov/privacy](http://www.dot.gov/privacy). In order to facilitate comment tracking and response, we encourage commenters to provide their name, or the name of their organization; however, submission of names is completely optional. Whether or not commenters identify themselves, all timely comments will be fully considered. If you wish to provide comments containing proprietary or confidential information, please contact the agency for alternate submission instructions.

(Authority: 49 CFR 1.93(a), 46 U.S.C. 55103, 46 U.S.C. 12121)

\* \* \* \* \*

By Order of the Maritime Administrator

Dated: December 19, 2017.

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

*Secretary, Maritime Administration.*

[FR Doc. 2017-27576 Filed 12-21-17; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-81-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[U.S. DOT Docket Number NHTSA-2016-0065]

### Reports, Forms, and Recordkeeping Requirements

**AGENCY:** National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), U.S. Department of Transportation.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces that the Information Collection Request (ICR) abstracted below has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The ICR describes the nature of the information collections and their expected burden. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period was published on October 2, 2017.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted to OMB on or before January 22, 2018.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, OMB, 725 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503.

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Stephen Hench, Office of Chief Counsel (NCC-0100), Room W41-229, NHTSA, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590. Telephone: 202.366.2992.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, before an agency submits a proposed collection of information to OMB for approval, it must first publish a document in the **Federal Register** providing a 60-day comment period and otherwise consult with members of the public and affected agencies concerning each proposed collection of information. The OMB has promulgated regulations describing what must be included in such a document. Under OMB’s regulation, see 5 CFR 1320.8(d), an agency must ask for public comment on the following:

(i) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(ii) the accuracy of the agency’s estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(iii) how to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(iv) how to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, *e.g.*, permitting electronic submission of responses.

In compliance with these requirements, NHTSA asks for public comments on the following collection of information:

*Title:* Defect and Noncompliance Reporting and Notification.

*Type of Request:* Renewal of a currently approved information collection.

*OMB Control Number:* 2127-0004.

*Affected Public:* Businesses or individuals.

*Abstract:* The 60-day notice for this information collection received four (4) comments. Two of these comments were anonymously submitted and discuss issues unrelated to this information collection (a SEC rule, and global temperature changes). One of these comments, submitted by Gary and Sherry Buckingham, queries: “Where and when will we know to get our air bags from Takata fixed?” Vehicle manufacturers are required to mail letters to vehicle owners notifying them