

originating and terminating at points on IR north of Davis Junction) and milepost 0.29 at Flag Center, all in Ogle County, Ill. (the Line). The Line traverses U.S. Postal Service Zip Codes 61068 and 61020.

IR has certified that: (1) No local traffic has moved over the Line for at least two years; (2) overhead traffic on the Line can be 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 1105.12 (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)¹ to subsidize continued rail service has been received, this exemption will be effective on May 19, 2019, unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay that do not involve environmental issues and formal expressions of intent to file an OFA to subsidize continued rail service under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2)² must be filed by April 29, 2019.³ Petitions for reconsideration must be

¹ The Board modified its OFA procedures effective July 29, 2017. Among other things, the OFA process now requires potential offerors, in their formal expression of intent, to make a preliminary financial responsibility showing based on a calculation using information contained in the carrier's filing and publicly available information. See *Offers of Financial Assistance*, EP 729 (STB served June 29, 2017); 82 FR 30,997 (July 5, 2017).

² Each OFA must be accompanied by the filing fee, which currently is set at \$1,800. See CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

³ Because this is a discontinuance proceeding and not an abandonment, trail use/rail banking and public use conditions are not appropriate. Because there will be an environmental review during abandonment, this discontinuance does not require environmental review.

filed by May 9, 2019, 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 IR's representative, Bradon J. Smith, Fletcher & Sippel LLC, 29 North Wacker Drive, Suite 800, Chicago, IL 60606.

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

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

Decided: April 16, 2019.

By the Board, Allison C. Davis, Acting Director, Office of Proceedings.

Regena Smith-Bernard,
Clarence Clerk.

[FR Doc. 2019-07893 Filed 4-18-19; 8:45 am]

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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

[Docket No. FD 36289]

3i RR Holdings GP LLC, 3i Holdings Partnership L.P., and 3i RR LLC—Control Exemption—Regional Rail Holdings, LLC

3i RR Holdings GP LLC, 3i Holdings Partnership L.P., and 3i RR LLC (3i RR),¹ all noncarriers, have filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(2) to acquire control of Regional Rail Holdings, LLC (Regional Rail), a non-carrier holding company that indirectly controls three Class III rail carriers: East Penn Railroad, LLC; Middletown & New Jersey Railroad, LLC; and Tyburn Railroad LLC (the Subsidiary Railroads).² According to the verified notice, 3i RR intends to acquire 100% of the equity interests of Regional Rail in a transaction in which 3i RR's wholly owned noncarrier subsidiary, Coltrane Merger Sub, LLC, will merge with and into Regional Rail, with Regional Rail continuing as the surviving entity and as a wholly owned subsidiary of 3i RR.

The transaction is expected to be consummated on or after May 5, 2019, the effective date of the exemption.³

¹ The verified notice states that 3i RR Holdings GP LLC controls 3i Holdings Partnership L.P., which in turn controls 3i RR, and that none are carriers or are affiliated with carriers.

² In *Regional Rail Holdings, LLC—Acquisition of Control Exemption—Regional Rail, LLC*, Docket No. FD 35945, Regional Rail acquired control of Regional Rail, LLC, a holding company for the Subsidiary Railroads.

³ On April 5, 2019, 3i RR Holdings GP LLC, 3i Holdings Partnership L.P., and 3i RR filed a motion

The verified notice states that: (i) The Subsidiary Railroads do not connect with each other; (ii) the subject acquisition of control is not intended to connect the Subsidiary Railroads with any railroad in the corporate family of 3i RR Holdings GP LLC, 3i Holdings Partnership L.P., and 3i RR; and (iii) the transaction does not involve a Class I 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. Because this transaction involves Class III rail carriers only, the Board, under the statute, may not impose labor protective conditions for this transaction.

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 to stay must be filed no later than April 26, 2019 (at least seven days before the exemption becomes effective).

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings referring to Docket No. FD 36289, 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 Louis E. Gitomer, Law Offices of Louis E. Gitomer LLC, 600 Baltimore Ave., Suite 301, Towson, MD 21204.

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

Decided: April 15, 2019.

By the Board, Allison C. Davis, Acting Director, Office of Proceedings.

Regena Smith-Bernard,
Clarence Clerk.

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for protective order under 49 CFR 1104.14(b), which will be addressed in a separate decision.