

Dated: January 15, 1998.
John T. Spotila,
Acting Administrator.
 [FR Doc. 98-2233 Filed 1-28-98; 8:45 am]
 BILLING CODE 8025-01-P

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[Declaration of Disaster #3049]

State of Tennessee

As a result of the President's major disaster declaration on January 13, 1998, I find that Carter County in the State of Tennessee constitutes a disaster area due to damages caused by severe storms and flooding beginning on January 6, 1998 and continuing. Applications for loans for physical damages may be filed until the close of business on March 13, 1998, and for loans for economic injury until the close of business on October 13, 1998 at the address listed below or other locally announced locations: U.S. Small Business Administration, Disaster Area 2 Office, One Baltimore Place, Suite 300, Atlanta, GA 30308.

In addition, applications for economic injury loans from small businesses located in the contiguous counties of Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi, and Washington in Tennessee, and Avery, Mitchell, and Watauga Counties in North Carolina may be filed until the specified date at the above location.

The interest rates are:

	Percent
<i>Physical damage:</i>	
Homeowners with credit available elsewhere	7.625
Homeowners without credit available elsewhere	3.812
Businesses with credit available elsewhere	8.000
Businesses and non-profit organizations without credit available elsewhere	4.000
Others (including non-profit organizations) with credit available elsewhere	7.125
<i>For economic injury:</i>	
Businesses and small agricultural cooperatives without credit available elsewhere	4.000

The number assigned to this disaster for physical damage is 304906. For economic injury the numbers are 971600 for Tennessee and 971700 for North Carolina.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 59002 and 59008)

Dated: January 15, 1998.
Herbert L. Mitchell,
Acting Associate Administrator for Disaster Assistance.
 [FR Doc. 98-2230 Filed 1-28-98; 8:45 am]
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Office of Defense Trade Controls

[Public Notice No. 2671]

Notifications to the Congress of Proposed Export Licenses

AGENCY: Department of State.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Department of State has forwarded the attached Notifications of Proposed Export Licenses to the Congress on the dates shown on the attachments pursuant to section 36(c) and in compliance with section 36(e) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2776).

EFFECTIVE DATE: As shown on each letter.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. William J. Lowell, Director, Office of Defense Trade Controls, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State ((703) 875-6644).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 38(e) of the Arms Export Control Act mandates that notifications to the Congress pursuant to section 36(c) must be published in the **Federal Register** when they are transmitted to Congress or as soon thereafter as practicable.

Dated: December 18, 1997.
William J. Lowell,
Director, Office of Defense Trade Controls.

United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

December 4, 1997.

Dear Mr. Speaker: Pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, I am transmitting herewith certification of a proposed export of defense articles or defense services sold under contract in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more.

The transaction described in the attached certification involves training, operation and maintenance for Peace Shield, a command, control and communications system supporting air defense for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The United States Government is prepared to license the export of these items having taken into account political, military, economic, human rights, and arms control considerations.

More detailed information is contained in the formal certification which, although unclassified, contains business information

submitted to the Department of State by the applicant, publication of which could cause competitive harm to the United States firm concerned.

Sincerely,
 Barbara Larkin,
Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs.
 Enclosure: Transmittal No. DTC-3-98
 The Honorable Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

[FR Doc. 98-2126 Filed 1-28-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-25-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-192 (Sub-No. 1)]

The Birmingham Southern Railroad Company; Abandonment and Discontinuance of Trackage Rights in Jefferson County, AL

On January 9, 1998, the Birmingham Southern Railroad Company (BS) amended an application it filed with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) on December 22, 1997, to abandon a portion of its line of railroad known as the Birmingham Branch, extending from BS Milepost 146+97.22 near East Thomas Station to the end of the line near Birmingham Station, a distance of 3.869 miles, in Jefferson County, AL;¹ and to discontinue its trackage rights over Norfolk Southern Railway Company's (NSR) line between NSR's Mileposts 143 and 144 near Birmingham Station, a distance of .614 miles in Jefferson County, AL. The trackage rights include the right of BS to travel over approximately 500 feet of main line track over which NSR continues to maintain traffic, and approximately 2,741 feet of yard track which was removed by NSR approximately 10 years ago. The line includes only one station, Birmingham Station No. 605, near BS Milepost 25+67.42 and

¹ BS amended its original filing to clarify that the portion of the Birmingham Branch sought to be abandoned consists of only two segments: (1) The Birmingham Running Track, extending a distance of 2.78 miles between BS station 0+00 and BS station 146+97.22; and (2) the Birmingham Yard, extending a distance of 1.08 miles between BS station 0+00 and BS station 56+83.94. BS maintains that a third segment originally included in its December 22, 1997 filing (the Ingalls Iron Works Track, extending a distance of .29 miles between BS station 3+20.28 and BS station 18+41.48), is actually exempt industry/switching track that should not have been included in the abandonment application. Accordingly, BS does not seek abandonment authorization for the Ingalls Iron Works Track. The abandonment application will be deemed to have been filed on January 9, 1998, the date the clarification was filed, and hence the procedural schedule will run from that date.

traverses United States Postal Service ZIP Codes 35203, 35204 and 35233.

The line does not contain federally granted rights-of way. Any documentation in the railroad's possession will be made available promptly to those requesting it. The applicant's entire case for abandonment and discontinuance was filed with the application.

The Birmingham Branch has appeared on the applicant's system diagram map or has been included in its narrative in category 1 since 1990.

The interest of railroad employees will be protected by the conditions in *Oregon Short Line R. Co.—Abandonment—Goshen*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979).

Any interested person may file with the Board written comments concerning the proposed abandonment and discontinuance or protests (including the protestant's entire opposition case), by February 23, 1998. All interested persons should be aware that following any abandonment of rail service and salvage of the line, the line may be suitable for other public use, including interim trail use. Any request for a public use condition under 49 U.S.C. 10905 (49 CFR 1152.28) or for a trail use condition under 16 U.S.C. 1247(d) (49 CFR 1152.29) must be filed by February 23, 1998. Each trail use request must be accompanied by a \$150 filing fee. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(27). The applicant's reply to any opposition statements and its response to trail use requests must be filed by March 10, 1998. See 49 CFR 1152.26(a).

Persons opposing the proposed abandonment and discontinuance that wish to participate actively and fully in the process should file a protest. Persons who may oppose the abandonment and discontinuance but who do not wish to participate fully in the process by appearing at any oral hearings or by submitting verified statements of witnesses containing detailed evidence should file comments. Persons interested only in seeking public use or trail use conditions should also file comments.

In addition, a commenting party or protestant may provide:

- (i) An offer of financial assistance (OFA) for continued rail service under 49 U.S.C. 10904 (due 120 days after the application is filed or 10 days after the application is granted by the Board, whichever occurs sooner);
- (ii) Recommended provisions for protection of the interests of employees;
- (iii) A request for a public use condition under 49 U.S.C. 10905; and
- (iv) A statement pertaining to prospective use of the right-of way for

interim trail use and rail banking under 16 U.S.C. 1247(d) and 49 CFR 1152.29.

All filings in response to this notice must refer to STB Docket No. AB-192 (Sub-No. 1) and must be sent to: (1) Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001; and (2) Maria A. Sandala, Attorney, 135 Jamison Lane, P.O. Box 68, Monroeville, PA 15146. The original and 10 copies of all comments or protests shall be filed with the Board with a certificate of service. Except as otherwise set forth in part 1152, every document filed with the Board must be served on all parties to the abandonment proceeding. 49 CFR 1104.12(a).

The lines sought to be abandoned and discontinued will be available for subsidy or sale for continued rail use if the Board decides to permit the abandonment and discontinuance in accordance with applicable laws and regulations (49 U.S.C. 10904 and 49 CFR 1152.27). Each OFA must be accompanied by a \$900 filing fee. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25). No subsidy arrangement approved under 49 U.S.C. 10904 shall remain in effect for more than 1 year unless otherwise mutually agreed by the parties (49 U.S.C. 10904(f)(4)(B)). Applicant will promptly provide upon request to each interested party an estimate of the subsidy and minimum purchase price required to keep the line in operation. The carrier's representative to whom inquiries may be made concerning sale or subsidy terms is Mr. J. L. Neis, General Superintendent, Birmingham Southern Railroad Company, 6200 E. J. Oliver Blvd., P.O. Box 579, Fairfield, AL 35064.

Persons seeking further information concerning the abandonment and discontinuance procedures may contact the Board's Office of Public Services at (202) 565-1592 or refer to the full abandonment or discontinuance regulations at 49 CFR part 1152. Questions concerning environmental issues may be directed to the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) at (202) 565-1545. [TDD for the hearing impaired is available at (202) 565-1695.]

An environmental assessment (EA) (or environmental impact statement (EIS), if necessary), prepared by SEA will be served upon all parties of record and upon any agencies or other persons who commented during its preparation. Other interested persons may contact SEA to obtain a copy of the EA (or EIS). EAs in abandonment proceedings normally will be made available within 33 days of the filing of the application.

The deadline for submission of comments on the EA will generally be within 30 days of its service. The comments received will be addressed in the Board's decision. A supplemental EA or EIS may be issued where appropriate.

Decided: January 22, 1998.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-2198 Filed 1-28-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-31 (Sub-No. 31X)]

Grand Trunk Western Railroad, Incorporated—Abandonment Exemption—in Oakland County, MI

Grand Trunk Western Railroad Incorporated (GTW) has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR Part 1152 Subpart F—*Exempt Abandonments* to abandon a 0.72-mile line of its railroad between milepost MP-0.0 (south end) and MP-0.72 (north of Tregent Street) on the Cass City Subdivision in Pontiac, Oakland County, MI. The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Code 48342.

GTW has certified that: (1) No local traffic has moved over the line for at least 2 years; (2) any overhead traffic that previously moved over the line can be rerouted over other GTW 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 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 revocation under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) must be filed. Provided no formal expression of intent to file an offer of