3. This decision will be effective on June 22, 1998, unless timely opposing comments are filed.

Decided: May 27, 1998.

By the Board, Vernon A. Williams, Secretary.

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98–14470 Filed 6–1–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915–00–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33591]

The Indiana & Ohio Rail Passenger Corporation—Trackage Rights Exemption—Indiana & Ohio Railway Company, Inc.

Indiana & Ohio Railway Company, Inc. (IORY) has agreed to grant local trackage rights to The Indiana & Ohio Rail Passenger Corporation (IORP), for the operation of rail passenger service over the following points: (1) from milepost 39.8, near Diann, MI, to milepost 107.3, near Leipsic, OH; (2) from milepost 110.8 to milepost 114.9 in Ottaway, OH; and (3) from milepost 128.3, near Lima, OH, to milepost 202.7, near Springfield, OH, a distance of approximately 146.02 miles.[1]

The parties expected to consummate the transaction on or about May 26, 1998. The earliest the transaction could be consummated was May 22, 1998, the effective date of the exemption (7 days after the notice of exemption was filed).

The purpose of the trackage rights is to extend IORP's passenger operations over newly-acquired IORY lines.[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. Section 11326(c), however, does not provide for labor protection for transactions under sections 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.

This notice is filed under 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(7). If it 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 transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 33591, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423–0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on Robert L. Calhoun, Esq., Redmon, Boykin & Braswell, L.L.P., 510 King Street, Suite 301, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Board decisions and notices are available on our website at ''WWW.STB.DOT.GOV.''

Decided: May 26, 1998.

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

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98–14467 Filed 6–1–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915–00–P

[1] The agreement that is the subject of this notice is a confirmation of and an amendment to an earlier trackage rights agreement between IORP and IORY and certain other Class III railroads affiliated with the IORY. *See* STB Finance Docket No. 32976, *The Indiana & Ohio Rail Passenger Corporation—Acquisition by Trackage Rights and Operation Exemption—Cincinnati Terminal Railway Corp., Indiana and Ohio Railroad Company, Indiana & Ohio Railway Company, Inc., and Indiana & Ohio Central Railroad Company, Inc.,* (STB served June 21, 1996).

[2] *See* STB Finance Docket No. 33180, *Indiana & Ohio Railway Company—Acquisition Exemption—Lines of The Grand Trunk Railroad Inc.,* (STB served Feb. 10, 1997).

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33587]

City of Rochelle, Illinois; Notice of Exemption; Commencement of Rail Common Carrier Operations

The City of Rochelle, IL (the City), a noncarrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.31 to commence operations over 2.06 miles of track located within the limits of Rochelle, IL.[1] The City states that its projected revenues will not exceed those of a Class III railroad.

The effective date of the exemption was May 5, 1998 (7 days after the exemption was filed).[2]

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*. Petitions to reopen the proceeding to revoke the exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) may be filed at any time.[3] The filing of a petition to revoke will not automatically stay the transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 33587, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20423–0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on counsel for the City: John W. Robinson, 9616 Old Spring Road, Kensington, MD 20895.

Board decisions and notices are available on our website at ''WWW.STB.DOT.GOV.''

Decided: May 27, 1998.

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

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98–14571 Filed 6–1–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915–00–P

[1] The line was not further described in the notice filed by the City, but a map included with the filing indicates that it begins at a switch near the intersection of Caron Road and Creston Road and ends in a stub east of Gredco Drive.

[2] Under 49 CFR 1150.32(b), a notice of exemption becomes effective 7 days after filing.

[3] By petition filed on May 1, 1998, the Rochelle Railroad Company requests that the Board reject and or revoke this exemption. That petition will be addressed in a decision to be issued by the Board.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33600]

Wisconsin Central Ltd.—Trackage Rights Exemption—Wisconsin & Southern Railroad Company

Wisconsin & Southern Railroad Company (WSOR), a Class III rail carrier, has agreed to grant non-exclusive overhead trackage rights to Wisconsin Central Ltd (WCL), a Class II rail carrier, over WSOR's line of railroad between milepost 112.6, at Rugby Junction, WI, and milepost 93.4, at North Milwaukee, WI, including trackage connecting with Fox Valley & Western Ltd.''s (FVW) main line at DBR Junction (milepost 103.1), a distance of approximately 19.2 miles.

The purpose of the trackage rights is to interchange cars between WCL and the Canadian Pacific and Union Pacific and between WCL and FVW, as well as connecting various WCL and FVW lines and trackage rights.

As a condition to this exemption, any employees affected by the trackage rights will be protected as required by 49 U.S.C. 11326(b), subject to the procedural interpretations of the analogous statutory provisions at 49 U.S.C. 10902 contained in the Board's decision in *Wisconsin Central Ltd.—Acquisition Exemption—Lines of Union Pacific Railroad Company,* STB Finance Docket No. 33116 (STB served Apr. 17, 1997) (*WCL Exemption*).[1]

[1] WCL has stated that it is alternatively willing to accept the conditions set out in *Norfolk and*

The transaction is scheduled to be consummated on or after June 1, 1998.[2]

This notice is filed under 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(7). If it 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 transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 33600, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423–0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on Michael J. Barron, Jr., Esq., Wisconsin Central Ltd., 6250 North River Road, Suite 9000, Rosemont, IL 60018.

Decided: May 26, 1998.

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

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98–14468 Filed 6–1–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915–00–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Community Development Financial Institutions Fund

[No. 981–0158]

Notice Inviting Applications to the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Microenterprise Development

AGENCY: Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, Treasury.

ACTION: Notice inviting applications.

SUMMARY: The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Microenterprise Development (''Microenterprise Awards'') is a non-monetary awards program created as a result of one of the commitments made by the United States at the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing, China in September 1995. As a key development finance initiative of the Administration, the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (''Fund'') of the U.S. Department of the Treasury was selected to administer the Microenterprise Awards Program. The Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4701 *et seq.*) created the Fund to promote economic revitalization and community development through investment in community development financial institutions. This Notice provides guidance on the Microenterprise Awards Program requirements, selection criteria and how to obtain an application packet.

DATES: Applications are currently being accepted by the Fund. The deadline for receipt of an application is 6 p.m. EDT, July 31, 1998. Applications received in the office of the Fund after that date and time will be returned to the sender. Applications sent electronically or by facsimile will not be accepted.

ADDRESSES: Applications shall be sent to: Awards Manager, the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, U.S. Department of the Treasury, 601 Thirteenth Street, NW., Washington DC 20005.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Microenterprise Awards Program Manager, the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, U.S. Department of the Treasury, 601 Thirteenth Street, NW., Suite 200 South, Washington DC 20005, (202) 622–8662. (This is not a toll free number.) If you have any questions about this Notice or the application packet, you may call or write to the Fund at the above telephone number or address, or you may send questions via facsimile to (202) 622–7754. To request an application packet, please send by facsimile a written request which includes the name of the requester, the organization, mailing address, telephone number and facsimile number. Requests for an application packet should be sent by facsimile to (202) 622–7754.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:

I. Background

The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Microenterprise Development (''Microenterprise Awards'') were created to recognize the important and growing role of microenterprises within the economy of the United States. In the past decade, the number of microenterprises and Microentrepreneurs has grown significantly, as well as the number of community development organizations that have worked to facilitate the growth and development of this Microenterprise industry. A microenterprise is a sole proprietorship, partnership, family business or an incorporated entity that has no more than five employees, including the owner(s), does not generally have access to the commercial banking sector, and has use for and/or seeks a loan of $25,000 or less. The Microenterprise Awards reflect a national commitment to advance the role that microenterprise development plays in enhancing entrepreneurial opportunities for all Americans, particularly women, low income people, and others that have had difficulty gaining access to the financial services industry and the economic mainstream. By recognizing outstanding microenterprise development and support organizations, the Microenterprise Awards' mission is to advance an understanding of ''best practices'' in the field of microenterprise development and bring wider public attention to the important successes of microenterprise development in the United States. Awards are non-monetary and given annually. They are available in different categories designed to reflect the diverse activities, purposes and challenges faced by the microenterprise industry.

II. Definitions

(a) *Low Income* means having an income of no more than 80 percent of the area median family income.

(b) *Microenterprise Development Organization (MDO)* means a ''practitioner'' organization that works directly with Microentrepreneurs and meets three tests, primary purpose, domestic program and program activities.

(i) *Primary Purpose.* The organization must have a primary purpose of promoting Microenterprise development. An applicant will be considered to have such a primary purpose if it:

(A) Has been in operation for at least two complete calendar or fiscal years;

(B) Made at least one Micro Loan to a Microenterprise within the past 12-months; and

(C) Has targeted its efforts principally to activities that support Microentrepreneurs. Such activity targeting may be evaluated by the number of Microentrepreneurs served, number of Micro Loans made, the total dollar amount of Micro Loans made, or other criteria deemed appropriate by the Fund. The primary purpose requirement will be applied to the applicant as a whole or an affiliate, division or a discrete program of a larger organization, as deemed appropriate by the Fund.

(ii) *Domestic Program.* The organization must exclusively serve or have a program that exclusively serves

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Western Ry. Co.—Trackage Rights—BN, 354 I.C.C. 605 (1978), as modified in *Mendocino Coast Ry., Inc.—Lease and Operate,* 360 I.C.C. 653 (1980). Section 11326(b) provides that parties may agree to terms other than as provided in that subsection.

[2] The notice to employees discussed in *WCL Exemption* and recently adopted as a requirement for certain transactions in *Acquisition of Rail Lines Under 49 U.S.C. 10901 and 10902—Advance Notice of Proposed Transactions,* STB Ex Parte No. 562 (STB served Sept. 9, 1997), does not apply to exempt trackage rights transactions.