

a petition to revoke will not automatically stay the transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 33834, 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, one copy of each pleading must be served on Yolanda Grimes Brown, Esq., The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company, P. O. Box 961039, Fort Worth, TX 76161-0039.

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

Decided: December 17, 1999.

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

**Vernon A. Williams,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-33336 Filed 12-22-99; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33818]

#### Central Columbiana & Pennsylvania Railway, Inc.—Lease and Operation Exemption—Columbiana County Port Authority

Central Columbiana & Pennsylvania Railway, Inc. (CCPR), a noncarrier and wholly owned subsidiary of Arkansas Short Line Railroads, Inc. (ASR), has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.31 to lease and operate 35.7 miles of rail line from Columbiana County Port Authority (CCPA) extending from milepost 0.0 at or near Youngstown, OH, to milepost 35.7 at or near Darlington, PA.<sup>1</sup> CCPR states that a tentative agreement has been reached with OHPA that will allow CCPR to operate over the 35.7-mile line and the

<sup>1</sup> The Board, under 49 U.S.C. 10502, exempted from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 10903, the abandonment by Railroad Ventures, Inc., of the 35.7-mile line and a connecting 1-mile line segment near Negley, OH, and the discontinuance of service over the line by The Ohio & Pennsylvania Railroad Company (OHPA). See *Railroad Ventures, Inc.—Abandonment Exemption—Between Youngstown, OH, and Darlington, PA, in Mahoning and Columbiana Counties, OH, and Beaver County, PA*, STB Docket No. AB-556 (Sub-No. 2X), et al. (STB served Sept. 3, 1999). On November 8, 1999, CCPA filed an offer of financial assistance (OFA) to purchase the entire line of railroad. This proceeding is currently pending. The OFA does not cover a connecting 3-mile line segment from milepost 0.0 to milepost -3.0 between Youngstown and Struthers, OH. Portions of this 3-mile segment are apparently owned separately by OHPA, Allied Erecting and Dismantling Company, Inc. (Allied Erecting), and Darlington Pipe Company, Inc./Matteson Equipment (Matteson).

portion of the connecting 3-mile segment that is owned by OHPA. In order for CCPR to interchange with CSX Transportation, Inc., at milepost -3.0 at or near Struthers and with Norfolk Southern Railway Company at milepost -1.5 at Haselton Yard, CCPR states that it hopes to take advantage of the existing easements whereby OHPA is operating over the portions of the line that it does not own. If it is unable to do so, CCPR will seek to negotiate agreements with other property owners<sup>2</sup> so that it will be able to perform railroad operations over the entire line of railroad.<sup>3</sup>

CCPR states that consummation of the transaction is contingent on the approval and acceptance of the OFA filed by CCPA to acquire the line and that CCPR has agreed to commence operations on the line at the earliest possible date after all approvals have been acquired and/or granted. The earliest date that the transaction could have been consummated was November 30, 1999, the effective date of the exemption.<sup>4</sup>

This transaction is related to STB Finance Docket No. 33817, *Arkansas Short Line Railroads, Inc.—Continuance in Control Exemption—Central Columbiana & Pennsylvania Railway, Inc.; Dardanelle & Russellville Railroad, Inc.; and the Ouachita Railroad*, wherein ASR seeks to continue in control of Dardanelle & Russellville, Inc., the Ouachita Railroad, and CCPR, upon CCPR's becoming a Class III railroad.

If this 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 does not automatically stay the transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 33818, 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 Richard H. Streeter, 1401 Eye Street, N.W., Suite 500, Washington, DC 20005.

<sup>2</sup> CCPR states that Matteson has indicated a willingness to negotiate with CCPR and that CCPR will seek to negotiate an agreement with Allied Erecting in the near future.

<sup>3</sup> In issuing this notice, the Board is making no ruling on the contractual rights of the parties. Therefore, by invoking the class exemption, CCPR has the right to perform common carrier service to the extent that it has or obtains the property rights to enable it to carry out the service.

<sup>4</sup> Under 49 CFR 1150.32(b), notices of exemption become effective 7 days after being filed. Here, the effective date is calculated from November 23, 1999, when supplemental information was filed by CCPR.

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

Decided: December 16, 1999.

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

**Vernon A. Williams,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-33181 Filed 12-22-99; 8:45 am]  
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## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Fiscal Service

#### Application Renewal Fees Imposed on Surety Companies and Reinsuring Companies; Increase in Fees Imposed

**AGENCY:** Financial Management Service, Fiscal Service, Department of the Treasury.

**ACTION:** Application and Renewal Fees Imposed on Surety Companies and Reinsuring Companies; Increase in Fees Imposed.

**SUMMARY:** Effective December 31, 1999, the Department of the Treasury, Financial Management Service, is increasing the fees it imposes on and collects from surety companies and reinsuring companies.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Surety Bond Branch, (202) 874-6765.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The fees imposed and collected, as referred to in 31 CFR 223.22, cover the costs incurred by the Government for services performed relative to qualifying corporate sureties to write Federal business. These fees are determined in accordance with the Office of Management and Budget Circular A-25, as amended. The increase in fees is the result of a thorough analysis of costs associated with the Surety Bond Branch.

The new fee rate schedule is as follows:

(1) Examination of a company's application for a Certificate of Authority as an acceptable surety or as an acceptable reinsuring company on Federal bonds—\$4,950.

(2) Determination of a company's continued qualification for annual renewal of its Certificate of Authority—\$2,900.

(3) Examination of a company's application for recognition as an Admitted Reinsurer (except on excess risks running to the United States)—\$1,750.

(4) Determination of a company's continued qualification for annual renewal of its authority as an Admitted Reinsurer—\$1,235.

Questions concerning this notice should be directed to the Surety Bond Branch, Financial Accounting and Services Division, Financial Management Service, Department of the Treasury, Hyattsville, MD 20782, Telephone (202) 874-6850.

Dated: December 15, 1999.

**Judith R. Tillman,**

*Assistant Commissioner, Financial Operations, Financial Management Service.*  
[FR Doc. 99-33257 Filed 12-22-99; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4810-35-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Fiscal Service

#### **Surety Companies Acceptable on Federal Bonds: The Service Insurance Company, Inc.**

**AGENCY:** Financial Management Service, Fiscal Service, Department of the Treasury.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This is Supplement No. 6 to the Treasury Department Circular 570; 1999 Revision, published July 1, 1999, at 64 FR 35864.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Surety Bond Branch at (202) 874-6905.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** A Certificate of Authority as an acceptable surety on Federal bonds is hereby issued to the following Company under 3 U.S.C. 9304 to 9308. Federal bond-approving officers should annotate their reference copies of the Treasury Circular 570, 1999 Revision, on page 35888 to reflect this addition *The Service Insurance Company, Inc.* Business Address: 80 Main Street, West Orange, New Jersey 07052. Phone: (973) 731-7650. Underwriting Limitation b/: \$122,000. Surety Licenses c/: NJ. Incorporated In: New Jersey.

Certificates of Authority expire on June 30 each year, unless revoked prior to that date. The Certificates are subject to subsequent annual renewal as long as the companies remain qualified (31 CFR Part 223). A list of qualified companies is published annually as of July 1 in Treasury Department Circular 570, with details as to underwriting limitations, areas in which licensed to transact surety business and other information.

The Circular may be viewed and downloaded through the Internet at <http://www.fms.treas.gov/c570/index.html>. A hard copy may be purchased from the Government Printing Office (GPO) Subscription Service, Washington, DC, Telephone (202) 512-1800. When ordering the

circular from GPO, use the following stock number: 048-000-00527-6.

Questions concerning this Notice may be directed to the U.S. Department of the Treasury, Financial Management Service, Financial Accounting and Services Division, Surety Bond Branch, 3700 East-West Highway, Room 6A04, Hyattsville, MD 20782.

Dated: December 15, 1999.

**Wanda J. Rogers,**

*Director, Financial Accounting and Services Division, Financial Management Service.*  
[FR Doc. 99-33256 Filed 12-22-99; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4810-35-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

**[OMB Control No. 2900-0045]**

### **Proposed Information Collection Activity: Proposed Collection; Comment Request**

**AGENCY:** Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice

**SUMMARY:** The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed collection of certain information by the agency. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension of a currently approved collection for which approval has expired, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. This notice solicits comments for information needed to determine the reasonable value of properties proposed as security for guaranteed or direct home loans.

**DATES:** Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before February 22, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit written comments on the collection of information to Nancy J. Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administration (20S52), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0045" in any correspondence.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Nancy J. Kessinger at (202) 273-8310 or FAX (202) 275-4884.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under the PRA of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13; 44 U.S.C., 3501-3520), Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of

Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. This request for comment is being made pursuant to Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA.

With respect to the following collection of information, VBA invites comments on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of VBA's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of VBA's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology.

*Title and Form Number:* VA Request for Determination of Reasonable Value, VA Form 26-1805.

*OMB Control Number:* 2900-0045.

*Type of Review:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Abstract:* VA Form 26-1805 is used to collect data necessary for VA compliance with the requirements of Title 38, U.S.C. 3710 (b)(4), (5), and (6). These requirements prohibit the VA guaranty or making of any loan unless the suitability of the security property for dwelling purposes is determined, the loan amount does not exceed the reasonable value, and if the loan is for purposes of alteration, repair, or improvements, the work substantially improves the basic livability of the property. The data supplied by persons and firms completing VA Form 26-1805 is used by VA personnel to identify and locate properties for appraisal and to make assignments to appraisers. VA is required to notify potential veteran-purchasers of such properties of the VA-established reasonable value. VA will also use VA Form 26-1843, Certificate of Reasonable Value, (included in the VA Form 1805 Package) as a notice to requesters of the reasonable (appraised) value or an authorized lender will issue a notice of value in connection with the Lender Appraisal Processing Program.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households.

*Estimated Annual Burden:* 60,000 hours.

*Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent:* 12 minutes.

*Frequency of Response:* On occasion.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 300,000.

Dated: December 3, 1999.