

information; and (4) ways that the burdens could be minimized, including the use of electronic technology, without reducing the quality of the collected information.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Carmen Sevier, (202) 366-1595, Civil Rights Service Business Unit, Federal Highway Administration, 400 7th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001. Office hours are from 7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*OMB Control Number:* 2125-0019 (Expiration Date: December 31, 2000).

*Title:* Federal-Aid Highway Construction Equal Employment Opportunity.

*Abstract:* Under the provisions of Title 23 U.S.C. Part 140(a), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is required to ensure equal opportunity in contractors' employment practices on federal-aid highway projects. In order to implement this provision of the law, FHWA regulation, 23 CFR 230, Subpart A, requires that contractors submit to State Departments of Transportation (State DOTs) an annual report providing employment workforce data, which includes the number of minorities, women, and non-minority group employees in each construction craft. The information is reported on Form PR-1391, Federal-Aid Highway Construction Contractors Annual EEO Report. The regulation also requires State DOTs to submit an annual report to FHWA summarizing PR-1391 data. This summary is provided on Form PR-1392, Federal-aid Highway Construction, Summary of Employment Data.

*Affected Public:* Approximately 4,500 Federal-aid contractors and 52 State Departments of Transportation.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 3,916. FHWA estimates that approximately 4,500 federal-aid contractors are required to complete and submit Form PR-1391 for approximately 7,000 projects and that each report takes approximately 30 minutes. In addition, FHWA estimates that it takes each State DOT approximately 8 hours to complete and submit Form PR-1392.

**Authority:** The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995; 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended; and 49 CFR 1.48.

Issued on: October 16, 2000.

**James R. Kabel,**

*Chief, Management Programs and Analysis Division.*

[FR Doc. 00-26996 Filed 10-19-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-22-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**Surface Transportation Board**

[STB Docket No. MC-F-20974]

**Stagecoach Holdings PLC and Coach USA, Inc., et al.—Control—Royal West Tours & Cruises, Inc.**

**AGENCY:** Surface Transportation Board, Transportation.

**ACTION:** Notice tentatively approving finance transaction.

**SUMMARY:** Stagecoach Holdings PLC (Stagecoach) and its subsidiary, Coach USA, Inc. (Coach), noncarriers, and various subsidiaries of each (collectively, applicants), filed an application under 49 U.S.C. 14303 to acquire control of Royal West Tours & Cruises, Inc. (Royal), a motor passenger carrier. Persons wishing to oppose this application must follow the rules under 49 CFR part 1182.5 and 1182.8. The Board has tentatively approved the transaction, and, if no opposing comments are timely filed, this notice will be the final Board action.

**DATES:** Comments must be filed by December 4, 2000. Applicants may file a reply by December 19, 2000. If no comments are filed by December 4, 2000, this notice is effective on that date.

**ADDRESSES:** Send an original and 10 copies of any comments referring to STB Docket No. MC-F-20974 to: Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, send one copy of any comments to applicants' representatives: Betty Jo Christian and David H. Coburn, Steptoe & Johnson LLP, 1330 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20036-1795.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Joseph H. Dettmar (202) 565-1600. [TDD for the hearing impaired: 1-800-877-8339.]

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

Stagecoach is a public limited corporation organized under the laws of Scotland. With operations in several countries, Stagecoach is one of the world's largest providers of passenger transportation services. Stagecoach had annual revenues of \$3.29 billion for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2000. Coach is a Delaware corporation that currently controls over 80 motor passenger carriers.

Stagecoach and its subsidiaries currently control Coach,<sup>1</sup> its noncarrier

regional management subsidiaries, and the motor passenger carriers jointly controlled by Coach and the management subsidiaries.<sup>2</sup> In previous Board decisions, Coach management subsidiaries, including Coach USA West, Inc., have obtained authority to control motor passenger carriers jointly with Coach.<sup>3</sup>

Applicants state that, on July 25, 2000, Coach purchased all of the stock of Royal, a motor passenger carrier holding federally authorized operating authority. Simultaneously with that acquisition, Coach placed the stock of Royal into an independent voting trust. The control transaction that is the subject of this application will not involve any further transfer of the federal operating authority held by Royal and will not entail any change in its operations.<sup>4</sup> Royal will also be jointly controlled by Coach USA West, Inc.

Applicants have submitted information, as required by 49 CFR 1182.2(a)(7), to demonstrate that the proposed acquisition of control is consistent with the public interest under 49 U.S.C. 14303(b). Applicants state that the proposed transaction will not reduce competitive options, adversely impact fixed charges, or adversely impact the interests of the employees of Royal. Applicants assert that granting the application will allow Royal to take advantage of economies of scale and substantial benefits offered by applicants, including interest cost savings and reduced operating costs. In addition, applicants have submitted all of the other statements and certifications required by 49 CFR 1182.2. Additional information, including a copy of the application, may be obtained from the applicants' representatives.

Under 49 U.S.C. 14303(b), we must approve and authorize a transaction we

Limited, Stagecoach Nevada, and SCH US Holdings Corp.

<sup>2</sup> See *Stagecoach Holdings PLC—Control—Coach USA, Inc., et al.*, STB Docket No. MC-F-20948 (STB served July 22, 1999).

<sup>3</sup> See *Coach USA, Inc. and Coach USA North Central, Inc.—Control—Nine Motor Carriers of Passengers*, STB Docket No. MC-F-20931, et al. (STB served July 14, 1999).

<sup>4</sup> Royal is a Florida corporation, based in San Diego, CA. It holds federally-issued operating authority in Docket No. MC-239135, authorizing it to provide charter and special services between points in the United States, as well as regular route service between specified points in California and other southwestern states. Royal also holds intrastate operating authority issued by the California Public Service Commission. Royal operates a fleet of 29 buses and one van and employs approximately 56 employees. Its operations are composed primarily of charter services provided in California and between California and other states. For the 12-month period ended June 30, 2000, Royal earned operating revenues of approximately \$3.6 million.

<sup>1</sup> Stagecoach controls Coach through various subsidiaries, namely, SUS 1 Limited, SUS 2

find consistent with the public interest, taking into consideration at least: (1) The effect of the transaction on the adequacy of transportation to the public; (2) the total fixed charges that result; and (3) the interest of affected carrier employees.

On the basis of the application, we find that the proposed acquisition of control is consistent with the public interest and should be authorized. If any opposing comments are timely filed, this finding will be deemed vacated and, unless a final decision can be made on the record as developed, a procedural schedule will be adopted to reconsider the application. See 49 CFR 1182.6(c). If no opposing comments are filed by the expiration of the comment period, this decision will take effect automatically and will be the final Board action.

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This decision will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

*It is ordered:*

1. The proposed acquisition of control is approved and authorized, subject to the filing of opposing comments.

2. If timely opposing comments are filed, the findings made in this decision will be deemed as having been vacated.

3. This decision will be effective on December 4, 2000, unless timely opposing comments are filed.

4. A copy of this notice will be served on: (1) The U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration—MC—RI, 400 Virginia Avenue, S.W., Suite 600, Washington, DC 20024; (2) the U.S. Department of Justice, Antitrust Division, 10th Street & Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20530; and (3) the U.S. Department of Transportation, Office of the General Counsel, 400 7th Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20590.

Decided: October 13, 2000.

By the Board, Chairman Morgan, Vice Chairman Burkes, and Commissioner Clyburn.

**Vernon A. Williams,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 00-27070 Filed 10-19-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4915-00-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-414 (Sub-No. 3X)]

#### Iowa Interstate Railroad, Ltd.— Abandonment Exemption—in Marion and Jasper Counties, IA

Iowa Interstate Railroad, Ltd. (IAIS) has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR Part 1152 Subpart F—*Exempt Abandonments and Discontinuances* to abandon a 13.36-mile line of railroad between milepost 123.50 near Otley and milepost 136.86 near Prairie City, in Marion and Jasper Counties, IA. The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Codes 50170, 50214, 50219 and 50228.

IAIS has certified that: (1) No local traffic has moved over the line for at least 2 years; (2) there is no overhead traffic on the line; (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 financial assistance (OFA) has been received, this exemption will be effective on November 21, 2000, unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay that do not involve environmental issues,<sup>1</sup> formal expressions of intent to file an OFA

<sup>1</sup>The Board will grant a stay if an informed decision on environmental issues (whether raised by a party or by the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis in its independent investigation) cannot be made before the exemption's effective date. See *Exemption of Out-of-Service Rail Lines*, 5 I.C.C.2d 377 (1989). Any request for a stay should be filed as soon as possible so that the Board may take appropriate action before the exemption's effective date.

under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2),<sup>2</sup> and trail use/rail banking requests under 49 CFR 1152.29 must be filed by October 30, 2000. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by November 9, 2000, with: Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20423.

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to applicant's representative: T. Scott Bannister, 1300 Des Moines Building, 405—Sixth Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50309.

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

IAIS has filed an environmental report which addresses the abandonment's effects, if any, on the environment and historic resources. The Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) will issue an environmental assessment (EA) by October 25, 2000. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA by writing to SEA (Room 500, Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423) or by calling SEA, at (202) 565-1545. Comments on environmental and historic preservation matters must be filed within 15 days after the EA becomes available to the public.

Environmental, historic preservation, public use, or trail use/rail banking conditions will be imposed, where appropriate, in a subsequent decision.

Pursuant to the provisions of 49 CFR 1152.29(e)(2), IAIS shall file a notice of consummation with the Board to signify that it has exercised the authority granted and fully abandoned the line. If consummation has not been effected by IAIS's filing of a notice of consummation by October 20, 2001, and there are no legal or regulatory barriers to consummation, the authority to abandon will automatically expire.

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

Decided: October 13, 2000.

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

**Vernon A. Williams,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 00-27069 Filed 10-19-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4915-00-P**

<sup>2</sup>Each offer of financial assistance must be accompanied by the filing fee, which currently is set at \$1000. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).