

carrier railroads, have jointly filed a verified notice of exemption. C&M will agree to extend RJCP's current trackage rights from Curwensville, PA, milepost 18.0, to approximately East Bickford, PA, milepost 17.4, approximately 0.6 miles.<sup>2</sup> Simultaneously, RJCP and C&M will terminate a lease agreement over approximately 8.4 route miles of C&M rail line between milepost 25.8, at Clearfield, and milepost 17.4, at East Bickford.<sup>3</sup>

The transaction was to be consummated after the March 7, 1997 effective date of the exemption.

The new trackage rights agreement and the termination of the lease agreement between RJCP and C&M are transactions within a corporate family of the type specifically exempted from prior review and approval under 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(3). The parties state that the transaction will not result in adverse changes in service levels, significant operational changes, or a change in the competitive balance with carriers outside the corporate family.

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.

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. The filing of a petition to reopen will not automatically stay the transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 33365, 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 Kevin M. Sheys, Esq., Oppenheimer Wolff & Donnelly, 1020 Nineteenth Street, NW., Suite 400, Washington, DC 20036.

<sup>2</sup> RJCP currently operates, by assignment, incidental trackage rights over C&M's lines between Clearfield, PA, milepost 25.8, and CB Junction, PA, milepost 19.4, to Curwensville, PA, milepost 18.0, a distance of 7.8 miles.

<sup>3</sup> See *R. J. Corman Railroad Company/Pennsylvania Lines Inc.—Lease Exemption—Clearfield & Mahoning Railway Company*, STB Finance Docket No. 32861 (STB served June 21, 1996).

Decided: March 24, 1997.

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

**Vernon A. Williams,**  
*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 97-7933 Filed 3-27-97; 8:45 am]

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**[STB Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 101)]**

**Union Pacific Railroad Company—  
Abandonment—Plainville Branch  
(Plainville-Colby Line) in Rooks,  
Graham, Sheridan, and Thomas  
Counties, KS; Notice of Findings**

The Board has found that the public convenience and necessity permit Union Pacific Railroad Company to abandon its line of railroad known as the Plainville-Colby Line between milepost 102.0 near Plainville and milepost 201.0 near Colby, a distance of 99.0 miles, in Rooks, Graham, Sheridan and Thomas Counties, KS.

The abandonment authorization will be effective April 28, 1997, unless within 15 days after this publication, the Board also finds that one or more financially responsible persons (including a governmental authority) have offered financial assistance (through subsidy or purchase) to enable the rail service to be continued.

Any financial assistance offer must be filed with the Board and served on the applicant no later than 10 days from publication of this Notice. The following notation must be typed in boldface on the lower left-hand corner of the envelope containing the offer: "Office of Proceedings, ABOFA." Any offer previously made must be remade within this 10-day period.

Information and procedures regarding financial assistance for continued rail service are contained in 49 U.S.C. 10904, 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25), and 49 CFR 1152.27.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
Joseph H. Dettmar, (202) 565-1600.  
(TDD for the hearing impaired: (202) 565-1695.)

Decided: March 21, 1997.

By the Board, Chairman Morgan and Vice  
Chairman Owen.

**Vernon A. Williams,**  
*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 97-7931 Filed 3-27-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

**DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY**

**Internal Revenue Service**

**Announcement of Open Membership  
Application Period for the Information  
Reporting Program Advisory  
Committee**

**AGENCY:** Internal Revenue Service (IRS),  
Treasury.

**SUMMARY:** In 1991 the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) established the Information Reporting Program Advisory Committee (IRPAC) at the request of the United States Congress. The primary purpose of IRPAC is to provide an organized public forum for discussion of relevant information reporting issues between the officials of the IRS and representatives of the payer community. IRPAC offers constructive observations about current or proposed policies, programs, and procedures, and when necessary, suggests ways to improve the operation of the Information Reporting Program. IRPAC is currently comprised of 20 representatives from various segments of the private sector payer community. Nine of these appointments to IRPAC will expire at the end of 1997. Additional members will be selected for two-year terms beginning in January 1998. National business, technical, and professional associations are encouraged to submit multiple nominees.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** IRPAC reports to the National Director, Office of Specialty Taxes, who is the executive responsible for ensuring and facilitating compliance by payers with information reporting requirements. IRPAC is instrumental in providing advice to enhance the IRP Program. Increasing participation by external stakeholders in the planning and improvement of the tax system will help achieve the goals of increasing voluntary compliance, reducing burden, and improving customer service. IRPAC members are not paid for their time or services, but consistent with Federal regulations, they will be reimbursed for their travel and lodging expenses to attend two two-day public meetings each year. IRPAC members are expected to attend and pay their own way to between four and six working sessions each year, which are generally held in Washington, DC; New York, NY; or Martinsburg, WV.

The IRS is interested in representation from different areas of the payer community (e.g., life insurance, employee plans, securities, mutual funds, banking, payroll, etc.). Anyone wishing to be considered for membership on IRPAC should so advise the IRS. Please complete the following

application questionnaire (or a facsimile thereof prepared on a word processor), and forward it to Ms. Kate LaBuda of the Office Payer Compliance, at the address below.

**ADDRESSES:** Internal Revenue Service, CP:EX:ST:PC, 1111 Constitution Avenue, NW., Room 2013, Washington, DC 20224.

**DATES:** Completed questionnaires (or facsimiles) should be received by IRS no later than Friday, May 16, 1997.

Questionnaires received after this date will not be considered. An acknowledgment letter will be sent upon receipt.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** To have a copy of the application questionnaire mailed or faxed to you, please call Ms. Thomasine Matthews at 202-622-4214 (not a toll-free number). For general information about the application process or IRPAC in general, call Kate LaBuda at 202-622-3404 (not a toll-free number).

Dated: March 24, 1997.

Approved:

**Kate LaBuda,**

*Acting Director, Office of Payer Compliance.*

Attachment

#### **Information Reporting Program Advisory Committee Membership Application Questionnaire**

The following questions must be answered by anyone interested in becoming a member of the Information Reporting Program Advisory Committee (IRPAC). Applications (or facsimiles produced on a word processor) must be received at the address listed below by May 16, 1997. Those received after this date will not be considered. All applications received will be acknowledged. Questions may be directed to Kate LaBuda at 202-622-3404.

Ms. Kate LaBuda, CP:EX:ST:PC, Internal Revenue Service, Room 2013, 1111 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20224

1. Name:
2. Title:
3. Employer Name:
4. Business Address:
5. Business Phone:
6. Fax Number:
7. E-Mail Address:
8. If you are applying on behalf of an organization or association other than your employer, please state the name, and address of that organization. Also, provide a letter of reference from that organization stating that you are nominated on their behalf. This letter should contain the name of a contact and this contact's phone number.

9. Home Address:

10. Home Phone:

11. Have you ever served on IRPAC or the Commissioner's Advisory Group (CAG)? If so, please explain. Do you currently have an application pending for CAG membership?

12. Check the *one* segment of the Information Reporting Program (IRP) payer community to which the organization that you represent, and your experience, most closely relate:

- ☐ Real Estate
- ☐ Transmitter/Forms Developer
- ☐ Software Developer
- ☐ Insurance: Property & Casualty
- ☐ Insurance: Life
- ☐ Securities
- ☐ Mutual Funds
- ☐ Payroll
- ☐ State & Local Government
- ☐ Corporate Compliance
- ☐ Small Business Compliance
- ☐ Public Accounting
- ☐ Employee Plans
- ☐ Trust Company
- ☐ Corporate Transfer Agent/Utilities
- ☐ Large Banks/Financial Institution
- ☐ Small Banks/Financial Institution
- ☐ Restaurant Industry
- ☐ Other

(Please specify. \_\_\_\_\_)

13. List the number of years of IRP-related experience you have, and specific sources of this IRP experience. (Account for all years of IRP experience claimed.)

14. List professional credentials (e.g., Ph.D., CPA, Enrolled Agent, Attorney, Accountant, etc.)

15. Identify organizations to which you belong and any relevant leadership positions you have held.

16. List any previous IRS employment (please state position(s), title(s), and time in each position):

17. Please propose two topic ideas that you feel would be appropriate for discussion by IRPAC. Include a short description (three sentences) of each topic.

#### **The Following Three Items Are Required for an FBI Name Check**

18. Date of Birth:

19. Place of Birth:

20. Other names ever used:

#### **The Following Items Are Required for an IRS Tax Check. (Please Note That a Tax Check is not a Tax Audit.)**

The Internal Revenue Service will perform the standard Federal Advisory Committee member tax check, (pursuant to 26 U.S.C. 6103; 5 U.S.C. 1303; Executive Orders 9397, 11222, 10450; CFR 5.2; 31 CFR Part O, Treasury Department Order Nos. 82 (Revised) and 150-87) and provide the information

obtained to the Assistant Secretary (Administration) of the Treasury Department. The purpose of this tax check is to promote public confidence in the integrity of the Treasury Department and its administration of the Federal tax system. Your Social Security Number is required to identify your tax records accurately. This tax check must be completed prior to any appointment to this Federal Advisory Committee and you are now being asked to voluntarily provide the following information and, at a later time, you will be asked to sign a formal tax check waiver:

21. Social Security Number (SSN):

22. Spouse's name and SSN (if married and filing jointly):

#### **The Following Item is Required Because of the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA), as Amended**

23. I presently \_\_\_\_ am/ \_\_\_\_ am not required to register as an agent of a foreign principal under FARA, as amended.

**Note:** Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. sec. 219, an individual who is required to register as an agent of a foreign principal under FARA is prohibited from serving on IRPAC. By executing this questionnaire, you agree that (1) if you are required to register as an agent of a foreign principal under the FARA before your term commences on IRPAC, you will terminate any and all such agencies prior to beginning your tenure and will provide appropriate verification therefor; and (2) you will immediately resign from IRPAC if you become such an agent at any time during your term.

#### **CERTIFICATION**

24. I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, all of my statements are true, correct, complete, and made in good faith. I also agree to the background checks set forth herein.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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#### **Office of Thrift Supervision**

#### **Proposed Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request**

**AGENCY:** Office of Thrift Supervision, Department of Treasury.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort