

Issued in Washington, DC on June 26, 2000.

**Eric Gabler,**

*Manager, Passenger Facility Charge Branch.*

[FR Doc. 00-16664 Filed 6-29-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-M

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[Docket No. NHTSA-99-6586; Notice 02]

RIN 2127-AH76

### Final Theft Data; Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Standard

**AGENCY:** National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Department of Transportation.

**ACTION:** Publication of final theft data.

**SUMMARY:** This document publishes the final data on thefts of model year (MY) 1998 passenger motor vehicles that occurred in calendar year (CY) 1998. The final 1998 theft data indicate a decrease in the vehicle theft rate when compared to the theft rate experienced in CY/MY 1997. The final theft rate for MY 1998 passenger vehicles stolen in calendar year 1998 (2.53 thefts per thousand vehicles produced) decreased by 17.05 percent from the theft rate for CY/MY 1997 vehicles (3.05 thefts per thousand vehicles produced). Publication of these data fulfills NHTSA's statutory obligation to periodically obtain accurate and timely theft data and publish the information for review and comment.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Rosalind Proctor, Office of Planning and Consumer Programs, NHTSA, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Ms. Proctor's telephone number is (202) 366-0846. Her fax number is (202) 493-2290.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** NHTSA administers a program for reducing motor vehicle theft. The central feature of this program is the Federal Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Standard, 49 CFR Part 541. The standard specifies performance requirements for inscribing and affixing vehicle identification numbers (VINs) onto certain major

original equipment and replacement parts of high-theft lines of passenger motor vehicles.

The agency is required by 49 U.S.C. 33104(b)(4) to periodically obtain, from the most reliable source, accurate and timely theft data and publish the data for review and comment. To fulfill this statutory mandate, NHTSA has published theft data annually beginning with MYs 1983/84. Continuing to fulfill the § 33104(b)(4) mandate, this document reports the final theft data for CY 1998, the most recent calendar year for which data are available.

In calculating the 1998 theft rates, NHTSA followed the same procedures it used in calculating the MY 1997 theft rates. (For 1997 theft data calculations, see 64 FR 41183, July 29, 1999.) As in all previous reports, NHTSA's data were based on information provided to NHTSA by the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The NCIC is a government system that receives vehicle theft information from nearly 23,000 criminal justice agencies and other law enforcement authorities throughout the United States. The NCIC data also include reported thefts of self-insured and uninsured vehicles, not all of which are reported to other data sources.

The 1998 theft rate for each vehicle line was calculated by dividing the number of reported thefts of MY 1998 vehicles of that line stolen during calendar year 1998 by the total number of vehicles in that line manufactured for MY 1998, as reported to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The final 1998 theft data show a decrease in the vehicle theft rate when compared to the theft rate experienced in CY/MY 1997. The final theft rate for MY 1998 passenger vehicles stolen in CY 1998 decreased to 2.53 thefts per thousand vehicles produced, a decrease of 17.05 percent from the rate of 3.05 thefts per thousand vehicles experienced by MY 1997 vehicles in CY 1997. For MY 1998 vehicles, out of a total of 196 vehicle lines, 41 lines had a theft rate higher than 3.5826 per thousand vehicles, the established median theft rate for MYs 1990/1991. (See 59 FR 12400, March 16, 1994.) Of

the 41 vehicle lines with a theft rate higher than 3.5826, 35 are passenger car lines, 6 are multipurpose passenger vehicle lines, and none are light-duty truck lines.

On Tuesday, February 8, 2000, NHTSA published the preliminary theft rates for CY 1998 passenger motor vehicles in the **Federal Register** (65 FR 6250). The agency tentatively ranked each of the MY 1998 vehicle lines in descending order of theft rate. The public was requested to comment on the accuracy of the data and to provide final production figures for individual vehicle lines. The agency received written comments from General Motors Corporation (GM) and Volkswagen of America, Inc. (VW). The agency used all written comments to make the necessary adjustments to its data. As a result of the adjustments, some of the final theft rates and rankings of vehicle lines changed from those published in the February 2000 notice. In its comments, Volkswagen informed the agency that the production volume for the Audi A4 vehicle line was incorrect. In response to this comment, the production volume for the Audi A4 has been corrected and the final theft list has been revised accordingly. As a result of the correction, the Audi A4 previously ranked No. 163 with a theft rate of 0.8669 is now ranked No. 168 with a theft rate of 0.7147.

GM informed the agency that the production volumes for the Chevrolet Metro and Chevrolet Tracker were incorrect. Upon further review of the production volumes, it was later confirmed by GM that the volumes listed by the agency for the two lines were not in error. Therefore, the production volume and the theft rate for the Chevrolet Metro and Chevrolet Tracker vehicle lines will remain unchanged.

The following list represents NHTSA's final calculation of theft rates for all 1998 passenger motor vehicle lines. This list is intended to inform the public of calendar year 1998 motor vehicle thefts of model year 1998 vehicles and does not have any effect on the obligations of regulated parties under 49 U.S.C. Chapter 331, Theft Prevention.

### THEFT RATES OF MODEL YEAR 1998 PASSENGER MOTOR VEHICLES STOLEN IN CALENDAR YEAR 1998

Manufacturer	Make/model (line)	Thefts 1998	Production (mfr's) 1998	1998 theft rate (per 1,000 vehicles produced)
1 MITSUBISHI .....	DIAMANTE .....	87	6,584	13.2139
2 LAMBORGHINI .....	DB132/DIABLO .....	1	104	9.6154

## THEFT RATES OF MODEL YEAR 1998 PASSENGER MOTOR VEHICLES STOLEN IN CALENDAR YEAR 1998—Continued

Manufacturer	Make/model (line)	Thefts 1998	Production (mfr's) 1998	1998 theft rate (per 1,000 vehicles produced)
3 SAAB .....	9000 .....	12	1,335	8.9888
4 HONDA .....	ACURA INTEGRA .....	314	36,253	8.6614
5 MITSUBISHI .....	MIRAGE .....	357	41,904	8.5195
6 TOYOTA .....	TERCEL .....	92	11,207	8.2092
7 CHRYSLER CORP .....	DODGE STRATUS .....	750	107,276	6.9913
8 MITSUBISHI .....	MONTERO SPORT/NATIVA <sup>1</sup> .....	318	45,772	6.9475
9 GENERAL MOTORS .....	OLDSMOBILE ACHIEVA .....	181	26,922	6.7231
10 GENERAL MOTORS .....	GMC SAFARI VAN .....	161	24,451	6.5846
11 GENERAL MOTORS .....	BUICK SKYLARK .....	122	18,851	6.4718
12 HYUNDAI .....	SONATA .....	101	16,406	6.1563
13 SUZUKI .....	X-90 .....	3	500	6.0000
14 CHRYSLER CORP .....	PLYMOUTH BREEZE .....	393	66,612	5.8998
15 MITSUBISHI .....	GALANT .....	172	29,618	5.8073
16 CHRYSLER CORP .....	PLYMOUTH NEON .....	499	87,055	5.7320
17 CHRYSLER CORP .....	DODGE NEON .....	725	130,154	5.5703
18 MITSUBISHI .....	ECLIPSE .....	307	56,294	5.4535
19 NISSAN .....	MAXIMA .....	682	130,862	5.2116
20 CHRYSLER CORP .....	SEBRING CONVERTIBLE .....	251	50,812	4.9398
21 FORD MOTOR CO .....	MERCURY TRACER .....	177	35,850	4.9372
22 HYUNDAI .....	ELANTRA .....	169	35,792	4.7217
23 SUZUKI .....	SWIFT .....	15	3,265	4.5942
24 GENERAL MOTORS .....	PONTIAC SUNFIRE .....	409	90,469	4.5209
25 MITSUBISHI .....	MONTERO .....	38	8,506	4.4674
26 SUZUKI .....	ESTEEM .....	67	15,222	4.4015
27 CHRYSLER CORP .....	JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE .....	1,085	249,097	4.3557
28 BMW .....	M3 .....	50	11,537	4.3339
29 TOYOTA .....	SUPRA .....	3	697	4.3042
30 MAZDA .....	MILLENNIA .....	82	19,908	4.1189
31 TOYOTA .....	LEXUS GS .....	124	30,810	4.0247
32 TOYOTA .....	4-RUNNER .....	489	121,745	4.0166
33 BMW .....	7 .....	73	18,179	4.0156
34 FORD MOTOR CO .....	CONTOUR .....	866	217,548	3.9807
35 HYUNDAI .....	ACCENT .....	123	31,692	3.8811
36 GENERAL MOTORS .....	PONTIAC GRAND AM .....	386	101,814	3.7912
37 MITSUBISHI .....	3000GT .....	18	4,753	3.7871
38 NISSAN .....	ALTIMA .....	602	159,224	3.7808
39 CHRYSLER CORP .....	EAGLE TALON .....	16	4,317	3.7063
40 AUDI .....	CABRIOLET .....	3	829	3.6188
41 FORD MOTOR CO .....	MUSTANG .....	612	170,587	3.5876
42 MERCEDES BENZ .....	140 (CL-CLASS & SL-CLASS) .....	34	9,593	3.5443
43 SUZUKI .....	SIDEKICK .....	65	18,396	3.5334
44 NISSAN .....	SENTRA/200SX .....	395	111,821	3.5324
45 MAZDA .....	PROTEGE .....	201	57,165	3.5161
46 GENERAL MOTORS .....	CHEVROLET BLAZER S10/T10 .....	759	216,854	3.5001
47 KIA MOTORS .....	SEPHIA .....	156	45,860	3.4017
48 GENERAL MOTORS .....	CHEVROLET PRIZM .....	153	45,000	3.4000
49 GENERAL MOTORS .....	PONTIAC FIREBIRD/FORMULA .....	107	32,228	3.3201
50 GENERAL MOTORS .....	CHEVROLET CAMARO .....	159	48,562	3.2742
51 FORD MOTOR CO .....	MERCURY MYSTIQUE .....	195	59,826	3.2595
52 ISUZU .....	RODEO .....	223	68,558	3.2527
53 CHRYSLER CORP .....	CIRRUS .....	121	37,295	3.2444
54 PORSCHE .....	911 .....	8	2,474	3.2336
55 GENERAL MOTORS .....	CHEVROLET METRO .....	104	32,499	3.2001
56 CHRYSLER CORP .....	DODGE AVenger .....	85	26,634	3.1914
57 GENERAL MOTORS .....	CHEVROLET CAVALIER .....	844	270,401	3.1213
58 FORD MOTOR CO .....	MERCURY SABLE .....	282	91,297	3.0888
59 FORD MOTOR CO .....	LINCOLN TOWN CAR .....	253	82,965	3.0495
60 TOYOTA .....	COROLLA .....	690	228,197	3.0237
61 MERCEDES BENZ .....	129 (SL-CLASS) .....	25	8,315	3.0066
62 FORD MOTOR CO .....	LINCOLN MARK VIII .....	43	14,357	2.9951
63 GENERAL MOTORS .....	CHEVROLET CORVETTE .....	86	28,732	2.9932
64 CHRYSLER CORP .....	JEEP CHEROKEE .....	439	148,207	2.9621
65 NISSAN .....	INFINITI I30 .....	92	31,060	2.9620
66 FORD MOTOR CO .....	ESCORT .....	995	336,729	2.9549
67 GENERAL MOTORS .....	CADILLAC DEVILLE .....	305	104,209	2.9268
68 GENERAL MOTORS .....	CHEVROLET MALIBU .....	669	231,143	2.8943
69 GENERAL MOTORS .....	GMC JIMMY S-15 .....	204	71,583	2.8498
70 FORD MOTOR CO .....	TAURUS .....	943	332,243	2.8383

## THEFT RATES OF MODEL YEAR 1998 PASSENGER MOTOR VEHICLES STOLEN IN CALENDAR YEAR 1998—Continued

Manufacturer	Make/model (line)	Thefts 1998	Production (mfr's) 1998	1998 theft rate (per 1,000 vehicles produced)
71 TOYOTA	TACOMA PICKUP TRUCK	484	170,992	2.8305
72 HONDA	PRELUDE	45	15,973	2.8173
73 JAGUAR	XJ8	32	11,374	2.8134
74 MAZDA	626	246	87,448	2.8131
75 GENERAL MOTORS	OLDSMOBILE BRAVADA	77	27,790	2.7708
76 CHRYSLER CORP	SEBRING COUPE	93	35,035	2.6545
77 HYUNDAI	TIBURON	17	6,444	2.6381
78 CHRYSLER CORP	DODGE INTREPID	182	70,283	2.5895
79 NISSAN	INFINITI QX4	44	17,109	2.5717
80 HONDA	PASSPORT	63	25,435	2.4769
81 GENERAL MOTORS	CHEVROLET LUMINA/MONTE CARLO	616	255,423	2.4117
82 GENERAL MOTORS	CHEVROLET TRACKER	50	20,999	2.3811
83 NISSAN	PATHFINDER	186	81,428	2.2842
84 HONDA	CIVIC	838	368,876	2.2718
85 GENERAL MOTORS	PONTIAC BONNEVILLE	146	65,539	2.2277
86 VOLKSWAGEN	GOLF/GTI	40	17,971	2.2258
87 MERCEDES BENZ	208 (CLK-CLASS)	11	5,103	2.1556
88 CHRYSLER CORP	JEEP WRANGLER	185	90,341	2.0478
89 BMW	3	76	38,098	1.9949
90 VOLKSWAGEN	JETTA	149	74,701	1.9946
91 CHRYSLER CORP	STRATUS <sup>2</sup>	1	505	1.9802
92 BMW	5	70	35,631	1.9646
93 FORD MOTOR CO	F-150 PICKUP TRUCK	805	409,940	1.9637
94 JAGUAR	XJR	3	1,534	1.9557
95 TOYOTA	CAMRY	790	404,850	1.9513
96 FORD MOTOR CO	WINDSTAR VAN	646	333,746	1.9356
97 CHRYSLER CORP	NEON <sup>2</sup>	1	518	1.9305
98 KIA MOTORS	SPORTAGE	51	26,455	1.9278
99 VOLVO	S70/V70	167	87,069	1.9180
100 CHRYSLER CORP	PLYMOUTH VOYAGER/GRAND	299	156,440	1.9113
101 TOYOTA	LEXUS ES	96	50,585	1.8978
102 CHRYSLER CORP	DODGE CARAVAN/GRAND	538	288,662	1.8638
103 GENERAL MOTORS	CADILLAC ELDORADO	33	17,950	1.8384
104 GENERAL MOTORS	OLDSMOBILE INTRIGUE	180	99,035	1.8175
105 HONDA	ACURA TL	33	18,337	1.7996
106 TOYOTA	LEXUS SC	5	2,801	1.7851
107 ISUZU	TROOPER	33	18,657	1.7688
108 ISUZU	OASIS VAN	3	1,702	1.7626
109 FORD MOTOR CO	MERCURY GRAND MARQUIS	154	87,762	1.7547
110 FORD MOTOR CO	EXPLORER	773	446,467	1.7314
111 GENERAL MOTORS	CADILLAC SEVILLE	47	27,650	1.6998
112 CHRYSLER CORP	DODGE DAKOTA PICKUP TRUCK	245	144,215	1.6989
113 MERCEDES BENZ	210 (E-CLASS)	72	42,466	1.6955
114 VOLVO	C70	4	2,394	1.6708
115 TOYOTA	T100 PICKUP TRUCK	18	10,783	1.6693
116 GENERAL MOTORS	CADILLAC CATERA	46	27,571	1.6684
117 MAZDA	MPV	25	15,037	1.6626
118 GENERAL MOTORS	OLDSMOBILE CUTLASS	86	52,679	1.6325
119 GENERAL MOTORS	OLDSMOBILE AURORA	39	23,955	1.6281
120 ISUZU	HOMBRE PICKUP TRUCK	32	20,289	1.5772
121 GENERAL MOTORS	BUICK CENTURY	198	128,899	1.5361
122 FORD MOTOR CO	RANGER PICKUP TRUCK	451	297,551	1.5157
123 FORD MOTOR CO	MERCURY MOUNTAINEER	77	51,022	1.5092
124 GENERAL MOTORS	PONTIAC GRAND PRIX	188	127,838	1.4706
125 MAZDA	B SERIES PICKUP TRUCK	70	48,270	1.4502
126 TOYOTA	RAV4	93	64,298	1.4464
127 GENERAL MOTORS	BUICK REGAL	101	70,556	1.4315
128 HONDA	ACURA CL	36	25,471	1.4134
129 GENERAL MOTORS	CHEVROLET S-10 PICKUP TRUCK	348	248,330	1.4014
130 ISUZU	AMIGO	13	9,374	1.3868
131 JAGUAR	XK8	8	5,792	1.3812
132 PORSCHE	BOXSTER CONVERTIBLE	10	7,253	1.3787
133 MERCEDES BENZ	202 (C-CLASS)	45	34,100	1.3196
134 GENERAL MOTORS	GMC SONOMA PICKUP TRUCK	77	59,359	1.2972
135 GENERAL MOTORS	BUICK PARK AVENUE	80	62,015	1.2900
136 GENERAL MOTORS	PONTIAC TRANS SPORT VAN	70	54,839	1.2765
137 NISSAN	FRONTIER PICKUP TRUCK	111	89,266	1.2435
138 GENERAL MOTORS	SATURN SC	42	34,035	1.2340

## THEFT RATES OF MODEL YEAR 1998 PASSENGER MOTOR VEHICLES STOLEN IN CALENDAR YEAR 1998—Continued

Manufacturer	Make/model (line)	Thefts 1998	Production (mfr's) 1998	1998 theft rate (per 1,000 vehicles produced)
139 GENERAL MOTORS .....	BUICK RIVIERA .....	13	10,601	1.2263
140 VOLKSWAGEN .....	CABRIO .....	15	12,252	1.2243
141 HONDA .....	ACCORD .....	490	403,085	1.2156
142 BMW .....	Z3 .....	20	16,482	1.2134
143 TOYOTA .....	LEXUS LS .....	27	22,840	1.1821
144 SUBARU .....	IMPREZA .....	23	19,550	1.1765
145 CHRYSLER CORP .....	CONCORDE .....	52	46,543	1.1172
146 MERCEDES BENZ .....	163 (ML-CLASS) .....	44	39,493	1.1141
147 HONDA .....	ACURA SLX .....	2	1,800	1.1111
148 MERCEDES BENZ .....	170 (SLK-CLASS) .....	14	12,658	1.1060
149 GENERAL MOTORS .....	OLDSMOBILE 88/REGENCY .....	69	64,116	1.0762
150 TOYOTA .....	AVALON .....	80	76,189	1.0500
151 SUBARU .....	LEGACY .....	95	90,721	1.0472
152 GENERAL MOTORS .....	CHEVROLET VENTURE VAN .....	93	93,027	0.9997
153 GENERAL MOTORS .....	SATURN SL .....	146	147,604	0.9891
154 HONDA .....	ACURA RL .....	14	14,182	0.9872
155 NISSAN .....	QUEST .....	26	26,388	0.9853
156 FORD MOTOR CO .....	LINCOLN CONTINENTAL .....	38	38,671	0.9826
157 CHRYSLER CORP .....	DODGE VIPER .....	1	1,067	0.9372
158 VOLVO .....	S90/V90 .....	12	12,825	0.9357
159 VOLKSWAGEN .....	PASSAT .....	24	25,869	0.9278
160 NISSAN .....	240SX .....	2	2,178	0.9183
161 NISSAN .....	INFINITI Q45 .....	7	7,795	0.8980
162 TOYOTA .....	CELICA .....	3	3,343	0.8974
163 CHRYSLER CORP .....	TOWN & COUNTRY MPV .....	52	62,976	0.8257
164 GENERAL MOTORS .....	BUICK LESABRE .....	111	143,354	0.7743
165 HONDA .....	CR-V .....	74	96,828	0.7642
166 JAGUAR .....	VANDEN PLAS .....	4	5,284	0.7570
167 FORD MOTOR CO .....	MERCURY VILLAGER MPV .....	28	37,471	0.7472
168 AUDI .....	A4 .....	21	29,383	0.7147
169 TOYOTA .....	SIENNA VAN .....	48	73,777	0.6506
170 SUBARU .....	FORESTER .....	28	43,490	0.6438
171 AUDI .....	A6 .....	10	16,938	0.5904
172 VOLKSWAGEN .....	NEW BEETLE .....	22	38,999	0.5641
173 HONDA .....	ODYSSEY VAN .....	8	14,633	0.5467
174 FORD MOTOR CO .....	CROWN VICTORIA .....	43	85,305	0.5041
175 GENERAL MOTORS .....	OLDSMOBILE SILHOUETTE VAN .....	17	35,827	0.4745
176 GENERAL MOTORS .....	SATURN SW .....	8	18,322	0.4366
177 SAAB .....	900 .....	5	12,003	0.4166
178 GENERAL MOTORS .....	CHEVROLET ASTRO VAN .....	34	83,317	0.4081
179 ASTON MARTIN .....	DB7 .....	0	213	0.0000
180 AUDI .....	A8 .....	0	1,978	0.0000
181 CHRYSLER CORP .....	INTREPID <sup>2</sup> .....	0	171	0.0000
182 FERRARI .....	456 .....	0	25	0.0000
183 FERRARI .....	550 .....	0	149	0.0000
184 FERRARI .....	F355 .....	0	511	0.0000
185 GENERAL MOTORS .....	BUICK FUNERAL COACH .....	0	1,061	0.0000
186 GENERAL MOTORS .....	CADILLAC LIMOUSINE .....	0	1,134	0.0000
187 HONDA .....	ACURA NSX .....	0	254	0.0000
188 LOTUS .....	ESPRIT .....	0	54	0.0000
189 ROLLS-ROYCE .....	BENTLEY AZURE .....	0	99	0.0000
190 ROLLS-ROYCE .....	BENTLEY BROOKLANDS .....	0	39	0.0000
191 ROLLS-ROYCE .....	BENTLEY CONTINENTAL R .....	0	24	0.0000
192 ROLLS-ROYCE .....	BENTLEY CONTINENTAL T .....	0	20	0.0000
193 ROLLS-ROYCE .....	BENTLEY TURBO R/RT .....	0	25	0.0000
194 ROLLS-ROYCE .....	SILVER SPUR PARK WARD .....	0	12	0.0000
195 ROLLS-ROYCE .....	SILVER SPUR .....	0	30	0.0000
196 VECTOR AUTO .....	AVTECH SC/M12 .....	0	5	0.0000

<sup>1</sup> Nativia is the name applied to Montero Sport vehicles that are manufactured for sale only in Puerto Rico.<sup>2</sup> These vehicles were manufactured for sale only in U.S. territories under the Chrysler name plate.

Issued on: June 23, 2000.

**Stephen R. Kratzke,**

*Associate Administrator for Safety Performance Standards.*

[FR Doc. 00-16428 Filed 6-29-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-59-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. MC-F-20968]

#### **National Express Group plc, et al.—Control Exemption—School Services and Leasing, Inc., et al.**

**AGENCY:** Surface Transportation Board.

**ACTION:** Notice of filing of petition for exemption.

**SUMMARY:** National Express Group plc (NEG) and National Express Corporation (NEC), noncarriers, seek an exemption under 49 U.S.C. 13541 from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 14303(a)(5) to acquire control of five motor passenger carriers. Expedited action has been requested.

**DATES:** Comments must be filed by July 17, 2000. Petitioners may file a reply by July 20, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Send an original and 10 copies of any comments referring to STB Docket No. MC-F-20968 to: Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, send one copy of comments to petitioner's representative: Frank M. Putman, Gardere Wynne Sewell & Riggs, L.L.P., 1000 Louisiana, Suite 3400, Houston, TX 77002.

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

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** NEG, an English corporation, and NEC, a Delaware corporation controlled by NEG (collectively petitioners),<sup>1</sup> request an exemption under 49 U.S.C. 13541 from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 14303(a)(5) to acquire control of the following five motor passenger carriers (collectively carriers): School

Services and Leasing, Inc.;<sup>2</sup> School Services and Leasing of Massachusetts, Inc.;<sup>3</sup> Student Bus Services, Inc.;<sup>4</sup> Helweg and Farmer Transportation Company, Inc.;<sup>5</sup> and Swope Farm & Livestock Company, Inc.<sup>6</sup>

Petitioners will acquire control of the carriers through the acquisition by NEC of all of the issued and outstanding capital stock of School Services of Kansas and Helweg. Indirect control of the other three carriers, School Services of Massachusetts, Student Bus Services, and Swope, will result from the acquisition of the stock of their parent corporations.<sup>7</sup> The transaction will be accomplished pursuant to a Share Purchase and Sale Agreement dated May 26, 2000, by and between NEC and Graydon J. Kincaid, Jr., the registered and beneficial owner of all of the issued and outstanding shares of capital stock of School Services of Kansas and Helweg. Upon completion of the acquisition of the stock, NEC will operate the carriers.

A copy of this notice will be served on: (1) The U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration-HMCE-20, 400 Virginia Avenue, SW., Suite 600, Washington, DC 20024; (2) the U.S. Department of Justice, Antitrust Division, 10th Street & Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20530; and (3) the U.S. Department of Transportation, Office of the General

<sup>2</sup> School Services and Leasing, Inc. (School Services of Kansas), is a Kansas corporation. It holds federally issued operating authority in Docket No. MC-250907, which authorizes it to carry passengers for hire in interstate commerce, but it primarily provides non-regulated school transportation services.

<sup>3</sup> School Services and Leasing of Massachusetts, Inc. (School Services of Massachusetts), is a Massachusetts corporation and is a wholly owned subsidiary of School Services of Kansas. It is primarily a provider of non-regulated school transportation services.

<sup>4</sup> Student Bus Services, Inc. (Student Bus Services), is a Connecticut corporation and is a wholly owned subsidiary of School Services of Kansas. It is primarily a provider of non-regulated school transportation services.

<sup>5</sup> Helweg and Farmer Transportation Company, Inc. (Helweg), is a New Mexico corporation. It holds federally issued operating authority in Docket No. MC-337007 and has applied to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration for authority to operate as a motor passenger contract carrier, but it is primarily a provider of non-regulated school transportation services.

<sup>6</sup> Swope Farm & Livestock Company, Inc. (Swope), is a New Mexico corporation and is a wholly owned subsidiary of Helweg. It holds federally issued operating authority in Docket No. MC-128026, but it is primarily a provider of non-regulated school transportation services.

<sup>7</sup> The appropriate filing has been made under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act of 1976, 15 U.S.C. 18a, with respect to that portion of the transaction that involves NEG's control of non-federally regulated entities.

Counsel, 400 7th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590.

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

Decided: June 23, 2000.

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

**Vernon A. Williams,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 00-16647 Filed 6-29-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4915-00-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33883]

#### **Iowa Interstate Railroad, Ltd. and Union Pacific Railroad Company—Joint Relocation Project Exemption—in Council Bluffs, Pottawattamie County, IA**

On June 13, 2000, Iowa Interstate Railroad, Ltd. (IAIS) and Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(5) to relocate certain lines of railroad in Council Bluffs, Pottawattamie County, IA. The transaction was scheduled to be consummated on or after June 20, 2000.<sup>1</sup>

Under the joint relocation project, IAIS and UP propose the following transactions:

(1) IAIS will grant UP trackage rights between IAIS milepost 488.0 and IAIS milepost 486.8.

(2) UP will grant IAIS trackage rights between UP milepost 503.6 and UP milepost 504.05, and over the connecting track between this UP track segment and the IAIS near IAIS milepost 486.8.

(3) UP's operations north and west of UP milepost 504.05 will be moved to the IAIS trackage described in (1) above. The UP track between UP milepost 504.05 and UP milepost 505.2 will be abandoned and removed.

The proposed joint relocation project will not disrupt service to shippers.<sup>2</sup> Its purpose is to consolidate UP and IAIS operations on the IAIS line described above, to abandon the parallel UP track, and to eliminate 11 public grade crossings in metropolitan Council Bluffs. In addition, the project will facilitate expansion of a shipper facility

<sup>1</sup> The representatives of both IAIS and UP have acknowledged by telephone that the earliest the transaction could go forward was June 20, 2000.

<sup>2</sup> There are no shippers served by the UP track to be abandoned.

<sup>1</sup> Petitioners' existing subsidiaries include: ATC Vancom, Inc., Kenneth E. Bauman Bus, Inc., Durham Transportation, Inc., Crabtree-Harmon Corporation, Forsythe & Associates, Inc., Multisystems, Inc., and Robinson Bus Service, Inc. All of these subsidiaries provide non-regulated transportation services, although Robinson Bus Service, Inc., holds motor carrier authority in Docket No. MC-2844 (Sub-No. 7). NEG conducts a portion of its operations in North America through its wholly owned subsidiary, Nexus Investment General Partnership (NIGP), a Nevada general partnership, in which the only partners are two United Kingdom companies, both of which are wholly owned by NEG.