

Provided no formal expression of intent to file an offer of financial assistance (OFA) has been received, this exemption will be effective on October 11, 2012, unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay that do not involve environmental issues,² formal expressions of intent to file an OFA under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2),³ and trail use/rail banking requests under 49 CFR 1152.29 must be filed by September 21, 2012. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by October 1, 2012, with the Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street SW., Washington, DC 20423-0001.

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to NSR's representative: Robert A. Wimbish, Baker & Miller PLLC, 2401 Pennsylvania Ave. NW., Suite 300, Washington, DC 20037.

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

NSR has filed a combined environmental and historic report that addresses the effects, if any, of the abandonment on the environment and historic resources. OEA will issue an environmental assessment (EA) by September 14, 2012. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA by writing to OEA (Room 1100, Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423-0001) or by calling OEA at (202) 245-0305. Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. 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), NSR 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 NSR's filing of a notice of consummation by September 11, 2013,

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 Web site at www.stb.dot.gov.

Decided: September 6, 2012.

By the Board, Rachel D. Campbell, Director, Office of Proceedings.

Derrick A. Gardner,
Clearance Clerk.

[FR Doc. 2012-22339 Filed 9-10-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[Docket No. AB 55 (Sub-No. 725X)]

CSX Transportation, Inc.— Discontinuance of Service Exemption—in Raleigh County, WV

On August 22, 2012, CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT) filed with the Board a petition under 49 U.S.C. 10502 for exemption from the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 10903 to discontinue rail service over approximately 13.5 miles of rail line between milepost WG 12.0 near Helen and milepost WG 25.5 at McVey in Raleigh County, W. Va. The line is owned by Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSR) and has been operated by CSXT since 1996 under lease from NSR.¹ The line traverses U.S. Postal Service Zip Codes 25915, 25920, 25823, and 25827 and includes no stations.

CSXT states that the line does not contain any federally granted rights-of-way. Any documentation in CSXT's possession will be made available promptly to those requesting it.

CSXT points out that, in a letter dated May 16, 2011, NSR invoked its termination rights under the lease. According to CSXT, NSR may, upon a written 30-day notice, terminate the lease at its sole discretion provided that NSR offers trackage rights or another appropriate agreement to CSXT that would allow CSXT to continue operating between milepost WG 12.0 near Helen and milepost WG 23.6 at Pemberton, W. Va., for CSXT's own purposes and with its own trains and crews. In a decision served on August 10, 2012, pursuant to a written trackage rights agreement dated May 18, 2012, between the parties, CSXT was authorized to acquire overhead and local trackage rights from NSR to

continue operating over the line of railroad, known as the Pemberton Line, between milepost WG 12.0 near Helen and milepost WG 23.6 at Pemberton, a distance of 11.6 miles.² CSXT states that NSR will resume providing rail service on the 13.5-mile line but that, pursuant to the lease, CSXT will retain the right and obligation to continue to provide common carrier service on the line between Helen and McVey until it receives discontinuance authority from the Board and consummates that authority.

The interest of railroad employees will be protected by the conditions set forth in *Oregon Short Line Railroad—Abandonment Portion Goshen Branch Between Firth & Ammon, in Bingham & Bonneville Counties, Idaho*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979).

By issuance of this notice, the Board is instituting an exemption proceeding pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10502(b). A final decision will be issued by December 10, 2012.

Any offer of financial assistance (OFA) under 49 CFR 1152.27(b)(2) to subsidize continued rail service will be due no later than 10 days after service of a decision granting the petition for exemption.³ Each offer must be accompanied by the filing fee, which is currently set at \$1,600. *See Regulations Governing Fees for Services Performed in Connection with Licensing and Related Services—2012 Update*, Ex Parte No. 542 (Sub-No. 20) (STB served July 27, 2012).

All filings in response to this notice must refer to Docket No. AB 55 (Sub-No. 725X) and must be sent to: (1) Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street, SW., Washington, DC 20423-0001, and (2) Melanie B. Yasbin, Law Offices of Louis E. Gitomer, LLC, 600 Baltimore Avenue, Suite 301, Towson, MD 21204. Replies to the petition are due on or before October 1, 2012.

Persons seeking further information concerning discontinuance procedures may contact the Board's Office of Public Assistance, Governmental Affairs, and Compliance at (202) 245-0238 or refer to the full abandonment and discontinuance regulations at 49 CFR part 1152. Questions concerning environmental issues may be directed to the Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) at (202) 245-0305.

² See *CSXT Transp., Inc.—Trackage Rights Exemption—Norfolk S. Ry.*, FD 35626 (STB served Aug. 10, 2012).

³ Because this is a discontinuance proceeding and not an abandonment proceeding, trail use/rail banking and public use conditions are not appropriate. Similarly, no environmental or historic documentation is required under 49 CFR 1105.6(c)(2) and 1105.8.

² The Board will grant a stay if an informed decision on environmental issues (whether raised by a party or by the Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) in its independent investigation) cannot be made before the exemption's effective date. *See Exemption of Out-of-Serv. 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.

³ Each OFA must be accompanied by the filing fee, which is currently set at \$1,600. *See* 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

¹ See *CSX Transp., Inc.—Lease & Operation Exemption—Norfolk & W. Ry.*, FD 32768 (ICC served Oct. 27, 1995). According to CSXT, the lease was amended in 1996.

Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

Board decisions and notices are available on our Web site at www.stb.dot.gov.

Decided: August 31, 2012.

By the Board, Richard Armstrong, Acting Director, Office of Proceedings.

Derrick A. Gardner,

Clearance Clerk.

[FR Doc. 2012-22340 Filed 9-10-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork burdens, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on a currently approved information collection that is due for extension approval by the Office of Management and Budget. The Office of International Affairs within the Department of the Treasury is soliciting comments concerning the Annual Report of U.S. Ownership of Foreign Securities, including Selected Money Market Instruments. The next such collection is a benchmark survey is to be conducted as of December 31, 2012.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before November 13, 2012 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Dwight Wolkow, International Portfolio Investment Data Systems, Department of the Treasury, Room 5422 MT, 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20220. In view of possible delays in mail delivery, you may also wish to send a copy to Mr. Wolkow by email (comments2TIC@do.treas.gov) or FAX (202-622-2009). Mr. Wolkow can also be reached by telephone (202-622-1276).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Copies of the proposed forms and instructions are available on the Treasury International Capital (TIC) Forms Web page for "Forms SHL/SHLA & SHC/SHCA", at: <http://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/data-chart-center/tic/Pages/forms-sh.aspx>. Requests for additional information should be directed to Mr. Wolkow.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Treasury Department Forms SHC and SHCA, U.S. Ownership of Foreign Securities, including Selected Money Market Instruments.

OMB Number: 1505-0146.

Abstract: These forms are used to conduct annual surveys of holdings by U.S. residents of foreign securities for portfolio investment purposes. These data are used by the U.S. Government in the formulation of international financial and monetary policies, and for the computation of the U.S. balance of payments accounts and of the U.S. international investment position. These data are also used to provide information to the public and to meet international reporting commitments. This survey is part of an internationally coordinated effort under the auspices of the International Monetary Fund to improve data on securities worldwide. Most of the major industrial and financial countries conduct similar surveys.

A benchmark survey (Form SHC) of all significant U.S.-resident custodians and end-investors is conducted every five years. In non-benchmark years, the annual survey (Form SHCA) requires reports generally from only the very largest U.S.-resident custodians and end-investors. The data requested in Form SHCA will generally be the same as in the preceding benchmark report. The determination of who must report in the annual surveys (Form SHCA) is based primarily on the data submitted during the preceding benchmark survey. The data collected under the annual surveys (SHCA) will be used in conjunction with the results of the preceding benchmark survey to make economy-wide estimates for the non-benchmark years.

Current Actions: None. No changes in the forms or in the instructions will be made from the previous survey that was conducted as of December 31, 2011. [Note that some clarifications may be made in the instructions.]

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

Affected Public: Business/Financial Institutions.

Forms: TDF SHC, Schedules 1, 2 and 3 (1505-0146);

TDF SHCA, Schedules 1, 2 and 3 (1505-0146).

Estimated Number of Respondents: an annual average (over five years) of 395, but this varies widely from about 1,200 in benchmark years (once every five years) to about 195 in other years (four out of every five years).

Estimated Average Time per Respondent: An annual average (over five years) of about 142 hours, but this will vary widely from respondent to

respondent. (a) In the year of a benchmark survey (using Form SHC), i.e., once every five years, it is estimated that exempt respondents will require an average of 16 hours; custodians of securities providing security-by-security information will require an average of 360 hours, but this figure will vary widely for individual custodians; end-investors providing security-by-security information will require an average of 120 hours; and end-investors and custodians employing U.S. custodians will require an average of 40 hours. (b) In a non-benchmark year (using Form SHCA), i.e., four years out of every five years, custodians of securities providing security-by-security information will require an average of 700 hours (because only the largest U.S.-resident custodians will report), but this figure will vary widely for individual custodians; end-investors providing security-by-security information will require an average of 145 hours; and reporters entrusting their foreign securities to U.S. custodians will require an average of 48 hours. The exemption level, which applies only in benchmark years, for custodians is the holding of less than \$100 million in foreign securities and for end-investors the owning of less than \$100 million in foreign securities with a single custodian.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: annual average (over five years) of 56,080 hours.

Frequency of Response: Annual.

Request for Comments: Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. The public is invited to submit written comments concerning: (a) Whether the Survey is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Office of International Affairs within the Department of the Treasury, including whether the information collected will have practical uses; (b) the accuracy of the above estimate of the burdens; (c) ways to enhance the quality, usefulness and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the reporting and/or record keeping burdens on respondents, including the use of information technologies to automate the collection of the data requested; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs of operation, maintenance and purchase