

is designed to provide insight on safety and security research, technology and analysis accomplishments that support FMCSA's mission to reduce the number and severity of commercial motor vehicle (CMV) crashes and fatalities and enhance efficiency of CMV operations. The forum topics will include a conference report on the 2005 International Conference on Fatigue Management in Transportation Operations; updated FMCSA activities in the hazardous materials area; and accomplishments to date on medical qualifications, driver health and medical reporting initiatives. Panelists will also cover the latest results of the Large Truck Crash Causation Study; a report on public input on FMCSA's notice requesting information on its Wireless Inspection Program; results of the field operational test on Lane Departure Warning Systems and Deployment of On-Board Safety Systems; and what progress has been made on improving Data Quality. A portion of the forum will be set aside for attendees to dialogue with FMCSA subject-matter experts through an open question and answer session.

DATES: The R&A Forum will be held on Sunday, January 22, 2006, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Registration will begin at 8 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The R&A Forum will take place at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, Salon III, 2660 Woodley Road, NW., Washington, DC 20008.

Registration: This forum is listed as a session in the TRB 85th Annual Meeting Program and all registrants are welcome to attend. TRB registration is not required to attend the forum and it is open to the public at no cost. To attend the forum only, send an email to RPartnerships@fmcsa.dot.gov.

Information about registration for the TRB Annual Meeting will be available at <http://www.trb.org>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Albert Alvarez, Office of Research and Analysis (MC-RRR), Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, 400 Virginia Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20024. Telephone (202) 385-2387 or e-mail albert.alvarez@fmcsa.dot.gov. Office hours are from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., E.S.T., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Forum attendees will receive an information packet on current R&A programs. While the forum is open to the public, it will be limited to space available. Individuals requiring special needs/accommodations (sign, reader, etc.), please call Joance Cole at (202) 334-2287, or e-mail jcole@nas.edu.

Issued on: January 10, 2006.

Annette M. Sandberg,

Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 34809]

Gregory B. Cundiff, Connie Cundiff, CGX, Inc., and Ironhorse Resources, Inc.—Control Exemption—Caney Fork and Western RR, Inc.

Gregory B. Cundiff and Connie Cundiff (together, Cundiffs), CGX, Inc. (CGX), and Ironhorse Resources, Inc. (Ironhorse), noncarriers (together, Applicants), have filed a verified notice of exemption to acquire control of Caney Fork and Western RR, Inc. (CFWR), a Class III railroad.¹ CFWR operates in Tennessee.

The transaction was expected to be consummated on or after December 23, 2005.

The Cundiffs directly control CGX, which in turn directly controls Ironhorse. CGX directly controls three Class III rail carriers: Mississippi Tennessee Holdings, LLC; Lone Star Railroad, Inc.; and Rio Valley Railroad, Inc. Ironhorse directly controls four Class III rail carriers: Mississippi Tennessee Railroad, LLC; Railroad Switching Service of Missouri; Rio Valley Switching Company; and Southern Switching Company.

Applicants state that: (1) The rail lines operated by CFWR, and by rail carriers controlled by CGX and Ironhorse do not connect with each other or any railroad in their corporate family; (2) the transaction is not part of a series of anticipated transactions that would connect the railroads with each other or any railroad in their corporate family; and (3) the transaction does not involve a Class I carrier. Therefore, the transaction is exempt from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 11323. See 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(2).

The purpose of this transaction is to make the efficiencies and economies of the Applicants' corporate structure available to CFWR.

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. Accordingly, the Board may not impose labor protective conditions here, because all of the carriers involved are Class III carriers.

If the verified 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 will not automatically stay the transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 34809, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on Thomas F. McFarland, Thomas F. McFarland, P.C., 208 South LaSalle Street, Suite 1890, Chicago, IL 60604-1112.

Board decisions and notices are available on our Web site at <http://www.stp.dot.gov>.

Decided: January 5, 2006.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 06-235 Filed 1-12-06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 34783]

The Indiana Rail Road Company—Acquisition—Soo Line Railroad Company

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board, DOT.

ACTION: Decision No. 2 in STB Finance Docket No. 34783; Notice of Acceptance of Application; Issuance of Procedural Schedule.

SUMMARY: The Surface Transportation Board (Board) is accepting for consideration the application filed December 15, 2005, by The Indiana Rail Road Company (INRD) and Soo Line Railroad Company (Soo). The application seeks Board approval under 49 U.S.C. 11323-26 for INRD's acquisition of (a) Soo's Latta Subdivision, a 92.3-mile railroad line extending from milepost 170.1 at Fayette, IN, to milepost 262.4 at Bedford, IN, (b) certain overhead trackage rights currently held by Soo between Chicago, IL, and Terre Haute, IN, and between Bedford, IN, and Louisville, KY, and (c) certain ancillary

¹ The Cundiffs will acquire CFWR pursuant to their acquiring a controlling interest in CFWR's stock.