

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Federal Highway Administration****Notice of Intent To Prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement: Fond du Lac & Sheboygan Counties, WI**

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that a limited scope Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) will be prepared for the proposed capacity improvements to Wisconsin Highway 23 from U.S. Highway 151 to County Highway P in Fond du Lac and Sheboygan Counties, Wisconsin.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bethaney Bacher-Gresock, Environmental Program Manager, FHWA, 525 Junction Road, Suite 8000, Madison, WI 53717-2157; Telephone: (608) 662-2119. You may also contact Rebecca Burkel, Director, Bureau of Technical Services, Wisconsin Department of Transportation, 3502 Kinsman Blvd., Madison, WI 53704-2549; Telephone (608) 246-5399.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FHWA, in cooperation with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) will prepare a limited scope SEIS in accordance with 23 CFR 771.130(f) and 40 CFR 1502.9 for the proposed capacity improvements along approximately 19 miles of Wisconsin Highway 23 from U.S. Highway 151 in the City of Fond du Lac to County Highway P in the City of Plymouth, in Fond du Lac and Sheboygan Counties, Wisconsin. The purpose of the SEIS is to clarify certain parts of the previously approved June 3, 2010 Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and to reconsider certain portions, including parts of the Section 4(f) evaluation and indirect and cumulative impacts analysis. In accordance with its regulations, FHWA also will evaluate and provide additional analysis, if needed, on any new or changed impacts to the human and natural environment since the issuance of the Record of Decision (ROD) on September 27, 2010. The ROD selected a build alternative involving construction of a 4-lane divided highway along the existing Wisconsin Highway 23 alignment, three interchanges (at County Highway K, County Highway UU, and County Highway G), and local road and access improvements. The ROD also selected a corridor preservation alternative for the

Wisconsin Highway 23 corridor (except for the U.S. 151 interchange where there will be no corridor preservation), to preserve the right-of-way needed for future interchanges and grade separations.

The SEIS will follow the same process and format as the original EIS (Draft EIS, FEIS, and ROD), except that scoping is not required. The FEIS and ROD are available at <http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/projects/neregion/23/environ.htm>.

Public involvement is a critical component of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) project development process and will occur throughout the development of the environmental documents. Environmental documents will be made available for review by resource agencies and the public. Public hearing(s) will be held following the availability of the Draft SEIS and as necessary. The public hearing(s) will be accessible and held at a convenient time and location. Individuals will be provided the opportunity to offer official comments by publicly expressing their views to representatives of WisDOT and others in attendance, privately to a court reporter, or by submitting written comments. WisDOT will provide FHWA with a transcript of the public hearing(s) and copies of submitted written comments.

Letters describing the proposed action and soliciting comments will be sent to the appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies, and to private organizations and citizens who have previously expressed or are known to have interest in this proposed project. To ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposed action are addressed and all significant issues are identified, comments and suggestions are invited from interested parties. Comments or questions concerning this proposed action and the SEIS should be directed to the FHWA at the address above. (Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway, Planning, and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding the intergovernmental consultation on Federal programs and activities apply to this program.)

Issued on: January 11, 2012.

R. Kirk Fredrichs,

Assistant Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration, Madison, Wisconsin.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Federal Railroad Administration**

[Docket Number FRA-2003-15754]

Notice of Application for Approval of Discontinuance or Modification of a Railroad Signal System

In accordance with Part 211 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, this document provides the public notice that by a document dated December 16, 2011, the Reading, Blue Mountain and Northern Railroad (RBMN) has petitioned the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) seeking approval for the discontinuance or modification of a signal system. FRA has reopened and assigned the application Docket Number FRA-2003-15754.

Applicant: Reading, Blue Mountain and Northern Railroad, Mr. Jonathan Barket, AVP, Communications & Signals, 1 Railroad Boulevard, Port Clinton, Pennsylvania 19549.

RBMN seeks approval of the proposed discontinuance of the automatic block signal (ABS) system on Track 1 on the main line and Leighton Branch, Lehigh Division, between Milepost (MP) 119.3, Leighton, and MP 130.6, Independence, PA.

The reason given for the proposed change is that the signal system has been out of service since being damaged by weather in December 2003. RBMN applied, in Docket Number FRA-2003-15754, for an extension to the time allowed to repair the signal system after the damage. The application was denied due to not being filed correctly. At the time, there was another railroad operating in the application area and the application was not submitted as a joint application. RBMN did not resubmit a joint application as requested in FRA's decision letter denying the application. In the ensuing years, operations have changed, with RBMN being the sole operator on the trackage involved. RBMN records indicate that the ABS has been out of service since before the August 1996 acquisition of this section of railroad. Since the acquisition, RBMN states they have operated this section by means of Northeast Operating Rules Advisory Committee (NORAC) Form D permits. FRA records continue to show the area being operated under NORAC Rule 251. Therefore RBMN requests to discontinue the ABS.

A copy of the petition, as well as any written communications concerning the petition, is available for review online at www.regulations.gov and in person at the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Docket Operations Facility, 1200

New Jersey Ave. SE., W12-140, Washington, DC 20590. The Docket Operations Facility is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays.

Interested parties are invited to participate in these proceedings by submitting written views, data, or comments. FRA does not anticipate scheduling a public hearing in connection with these proceedings since the facts do not appear to warrant a hearing. If any interested party desires an opportunity for oral comment, they should notify FRA, in writing, before the end of the comment period and specify the basis for their request.

All communications concerning these proceedings should identify the appropriate docket number and may be submitted by any of the following methods:

- *Web site:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

- *Fax:* (202) 493-2251.

- *Mail:* Docket Operations Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., W12-140, Washington, DC 20590.

- *Hand Delivery:* 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Room W12-140, Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays.

Communications received by March 5, 2012 will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered as far as practicable.

Anyone is able to search the electronic form of any written communications and comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the comment, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). You may review DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement in the **Federal Register** published on April 11, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 70; Pages 19477-78), or online at <http://www.dot.gov/privacy.html>.

Issued in Washington, DC, on January 12, 2012.

Ron Hynes,

Acting Deputy Associate Administrator for Regulatory and Legislative Operations.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[Docket No. NHTSA-2011-0033; Notice 2]

Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, Grant of Petition for Decision of Inconsequential Noncompliance

AGENCY: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of Petition Grant.

SUMMARY: Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, (Goodyear),¹ has determined that approximately 26,224 Goodyear Assurance ComforTred Touring passenger replacement car tires manufactured between January 4, 2010 and September 11, 2010, did not fully comply with paragraph S5.5(e) of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 139, *New Pneumatic Radial Tires for Light Vehicles*. Goodyear has filed an appropriate report pursuant to 49 CFR part 573, *Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports* (dated December 16, 2010).

Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 30118(d) and 30120(h) and the rule implementing those provisions at 49 CFR part 556, Goodyear has petitioned for an exemption from the notification and remedy requirements of 49 U.S.C. chapter 301 on the basis that this noncompliance is inconsequential to motor vehicle safety.

Notice of receipt of Goodyear's petition was published with a 30-day public comment period, on March 18, 2011, in the **Federal Register** (76 FR 15045). No comments were received. To view the petition and all supporting documents log onto the Federal Docket Management System Web site at: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Then follow the online search instructions to locate docket number "NHTSA-2011-0033."

Contact Information: For further information on this decision contact Mr. George Gillespie, Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), telephone (202) 366-5299, facsimile (202) 366-7002.

Summary of Goodyear's Petition: Affected are approximately 26,224 Goodyear Assurance ComforTred Touring passenger car replacement tires, size 215/70R15 that were manufactured between January 4, 2010 and September 11, 2010.

Goodyear explains that the noncompliance is that, due to a mold

labeling error, the sidewall marking on the tires incorrectly describes the generic name of the cord material in the tread area of the tires as required by paragraph S5.5(e). Specifically, the tires in question were inadvertently manufactured with "Tread: 1 Polyester Cord + 2 Steel Cords + 1 Polyester Cord. The labeling should have been "Tread: 1 Polyester Cord + 2 Steel Cords + 1 Nylon Cord."

Goodyear argues that this noncompliance is inconsequential to motor vehicle safety because while the non-compliant tires are mislabeled they meet or exceed all applicable Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards, the noncompliant sidewall marking does not create an unsafe condition, and all other labeling requirements have been met.

Goodyear points out that NHTSA has previously granted similar petitions for non-compliances in sidewall marking.

Goodyear additionally states that it has corrected the affected tire molds and all future production will have the correct material shown on the sidewall.

In summation, Goodyear believes that the described noncompliance of its tires to meet the requirements of FMVSS No. 139 is inconsequential to motor vehicle safety, and that its petition, to exempt from providing recall notification of noncompliance as required by 49 U.S.C. 30118 and remedying the recall noncompliance as required by 49 U.S.C. 30120, and should be granted.

NHTSA Decision: The agency agrees with Goodyear that the noncompliances are inconsequential to motor vehicle safety. The agency believes that the true measure of inconsequentiality to motor vehicle safety in this case is that there is no effect of the noncompliances on the operational safety of vehicles on which these tires are mounted. Although tire construction affects the strength and durability, neither the agency nor the tire industry provides information relating tire strength and durability to the number of plies and types of ply cord material in the tread and sidewall. Therefore, tire dealers and customers should consider the tire construction information along with other information such as load capacity, maximum inflation pressure, and tread wear, temperature, and traction ratings, to assess performance capabilities of various tires.

In the agency's judgment, the incorrect labeling of the tire construction information will have an inconsequential effect on motor vehicle safety because most consumers do not base tire purchases or vehicle operation parameters on the ply material in a tire.

¹ Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company (Goodyear) is a replacement equipment manufacturer incorporated in the state of Ohio.