

Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

Instructions: All submissions must include the agency name and docket number for this notice at the beginning of the comment. To avoid duplication, please use only one of these four methods. All comments received will be posted without change to the Federal Docket Management System (FDMS), including any personal information.

Docket: For access to the dockets to read background documents or comments received, go to <http://www.regulations.gov> or DOT's Docket Operations Office (see **ADDRESSES**).

Privacy Act: 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 document (or signing the document, 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 (65 FR 19477) which may be viewed at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2000-04-11/pdf/00-8505.pdf>.

Registration: It is requested that attendees pre-register for this meeting by emailing TaNika Dyson at tanika.dyson.ctr@dot.gov. Failure to pre-register may delay your access to the building. Participants attending in person are encouraged to arrive early to allow time for security checks necessary to obtain access to the building.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lucy DiGhionno or Dr. Kin Wong, Office of Hazardous Materials Safety, Research and Development, Department of Transportation, Washington, DC 20590; (202) 366-4545.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The primary purpose of this meeting is to present the results of recently completed actions and to seek comments relative to potential new research projects which may be considered for inclusion in future work. PHMSA will consider comments received for proposed list of new projects identified in the draft agenda. The meeting agenda and event information may be obtained from PHMSA's Web site at <http://pnhqwas027vg.ad.dot.gov/about/calendar>.

Topics on the agenda for the Research and Development Forum include:

- Modeling for Toxic Inhalation Hazard Zones
- Acute Exposure Guidelines and Emergency Response Guidebook Update

- Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus
- Cargo Tank Rollover Special Study
- Study on Improving Nurse Tank Safety
- R&D Initiatives on Packaging Testing
- Paperless Hazard Communications Pilot Program
- Odorization of LP Gas
- Safety Effectiveness of Pressure Relief Devices
- Explosives Testing
- Improving the Safety of Ammonium Nitrate Transport

Magdy El-Sibaie,

Associate Administrator.

[FR Doc. 2013-30789 Filed 12-24-13; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[Docket No. FD 35766]

City of Belfast, Me.—Acquisition Exemption—Certain Assets of Belfast and Moosehead Lake Railroad Company

The City of Belfast, Me. (the City), a noncarrier municipality, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.31 to acquire a line of railroad between Pierce Street in downtown Belfast, Me., to the Belfast/Waldo town line at milepost 3.14 (the Line).¹

The City states that it acquired the Line from Unity Property Management by Release Deed dated July 2, 2010. The City now seeks Board authorization for that transaction. The City states that it has not provided any freight service over the Line and was not aware at the time that it needed Board authorization to acquire the Line.

The City certifies that it derives only de minimis revenue from the Line and that the projected annual revenues as a result of this transaction will not exceed those that would qualify the City as a Class III rail carrier.

The exemption will become effective on January 9, 2014.²

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)

¹ In a related proceeding currently held in abeyance, the City is seeking authorization to abandon a portion of the Line. See *City of Belfast, Me.—Aban. Exemption—in Belfast, Me.*, Docket No. AB 1109X.

² This notice was scheduled to be published in the **Federal Register** during the time that the agency was closed due to a lapse in appropriations. Publication of this notice was further delayed by the unique circumstances of this case and the related abandonment proceeding. As a result, the effective date of the exemption has been delayed.

may be filed at any time. The filing of a petition to revoke will not automatically stay the effectiveness of the exemption. Petitions to stay must be filed no later than January 2, 2014.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to Docket No. FD 35766, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street SW., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on Kristin M. Collins, Kelly & Collins, LLC, 96 High Street, Belfast, ME 04915.

Board decisions and notices are available on our Web site at “WWW.STB.DOT.GOV.”

Decided: December 20, 2013.

By the Board,

Rachel D. Campbell,

Director, Office of Proceedings.

Raina S. White,

Clearance Clerk.

[FR Doc. 2013-30824 Filed 12-24-13; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[Docket No. FD 35724 (Sub-No. 1)]

California High-Speed Rail Authority—Construction Exemption—In Fresno, Kings, Tulare, and Kern Counties, CA

By petition filed on September 26, 2013, California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority), a state agency formed in 1996, seeks an exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502 from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 10901 for authority to construct an approximately 114-mile high-speed passenger rail line between Fresno and Bakersfield, Cal. (the Line).¹

In a decision served December 4, 2013, and published in the **Federal Register** on December 9, 2013 (78 Fed. Reg. 73,921), the Board instituted a proceeding and extended the deadline for comments on the transportation merits of the proposed construction to December 24, 2013. The Board also denied the Authority's request that the Board conditionally grant the exemption authority by addressing the transportation aspects of the proposed project before the environmental review process has been completed.

¹ By decision served June 13, 2013, in *California High-Speed Rail Authority—Construction Exemption—in Merced, Madera, & Fresno Counties, Cal.*, FD 35724 (the main docket), the Board granted an exemption for the Authority to construct the first 65-mile segment of the planned California High-Speed Train System (HST System), between Merced and Fresno, California. The Line is the second segment of the proposed HST System.