

of these determinations be published in the **Federal Register**.

Alyson Grunder,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 2017-27619 Filed 12-21-17; 8:45 am]

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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

[Docket No. FD 36068 (Sub-No. 2)]

The Indiana Rail Road Company— Temporary Trackage Rights Exemption—CSX Transportation, Inc.

The Indiana Rail Road Company (INRD), a Class II rail carrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(8) for its acquisition of limited, temporary overhead trackage rights over a line of railroad of CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT) between its connection with CSXT at approximately CSXT milepost OZA 204.5 at Sullivan, Ind., and the connection with trackage serving the Oaktown Mine at approximately CSXT milepost OZA 219.05 at Oaktown, Ind., a distance of approximately 14.55 miles.

As explained by INRD in its notice of exemption in Docket No. FD 36068, pursuant to a May 15, 2008 trackage rights agreement and two subsequent supplements to that agreement dated August 1, 2009, and November 20, 2009, INRD holds trackage rights over a line of railroad of CSXT from Sullivan to Carlisle and Oaktown, Ind.¹ The purpose of those trackage rights is to allow INRD to handle unit coal trains from mines at Carlisle and Oaktown to specified destinations on INRD or other railroads with which INRD interchanges. In 2016, the Board authorized temporarily expanding the existing trackage rights to allow INRD to handle loaded and empty coal trains between the Oaktown Mine and the Kentucky Utilities Generating Station in Harrodsburg, Ky., in interline service with other rail carriers.² The current temporary trackage rights agreement is scheduled to expire on December 31, 2017. INRD states that it intends to consummate the transaction on January

¹ See *Indiana R.R.—Trackage Rights Exemption—CSX Transp., Inc.*, FD 35328 (STB served Dec. 31, 2009); *Indiana R.R.—Trackage Rights Exemption—CSX Transp., Inc.*, FD 35287 (STB served Sept. 2, 2009); *Indiana R.R.—Amended Trackage Rights Exemption—CSX Transp., Inc.*, FD 35137 (STB served May 22, 2008, and Dec. 4, 2009).

² *Indiana R.R.—Trackage Rights Exemption—CSX Transp., Inc.*, FD 36068 (STB served Oct. 14, 2016); *Indiana R.R.—Trackage Rights Exemption—CSX Transp., Inc.*, FD 36068 (Sub-No. 1) (STB served Feb. 9, 2017).

6, 2018. The sole purpose of the trackage rights is to allow INRD to handle loaded and empty unit coal trains between the Oaktown Mine and the Kentucky Utilities Generating Station in Harrodsburg, Ky., in interline service with other rail carriers. The temporary trackage rights will expire on December 31, 2018.³

As a condition to this exemption, any employees affected by the acquisition of the temporary trackage rights will be protected by the conditions imposed in *Norfolk & Western Railway—Trackage Rights—Burlington Northern, Inc.*, 354 I.C.C. 605 (1978), as modified in *Mendocino Coast Railway—Lease & Operate—California Western Railroad*, 360 I.C.C. 653 (1980), and any employees affected by the discontinuance of those trackage rights will be protected by the conditions set out in *Oregon Short Line Railroad—Abandonment Portion Goshen Branch Between Firth & Ammon, in Bingham & Bonneville Counties, Idaho*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979).

This notice is filed under 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(8). 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 effectiveness of the exemption.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to Docket No. FD 36068 (Sub-No. 2), 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 INRD's representative, Thomas J. Litwiler, Fletcher & Sippel LLC, 29 North Wacker Dr., Ste. 920, Chicago, IL 60606-2832.

According to INRD, this action is categorically excluded from environmental review under 49 CFR 1105.6(c) and historic reporting under 49 CFR 1105.8(b)(3).

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

Decided: December 19, 2017.

By the Board, Scott M. Zimmerman, Acting Director, Office of Proceedings.

Jeffrey Herzig,

Clearance Clerk.

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³ INRD states that, upon expiration of the temporary trackage rights, its underlying trackage rights authorized in Docket Nos. FD 35137, FD 35287, and FD 35328 will remain in place.

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

[Docket No. EP 290 (Sub-No. 5) (2018-1)]

Quarterly Rail Cost Adjustment Factor

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board.

ACTION: Approval of rail cost adjustment factor.

SUMMARY: The Board has approved the first quarter 2018 Rail Cost Adjustment Factor (RCAF) and cost index filed by the Association of American Railroads. A new base level for the index is calculated in the Board's decision, as the statute requires be done every five years. The first quarter 2018 RCAF (Unadjusted) is 1.027. The first quarter 2018 RCAF (Adjusted) is 0.422. The first quarter 2018 RCAF-5 is 0.402.

DATES: *Applicability Date:* January 1, 2018.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Pedro Ramirez, (202) 245-0333. Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) for the hearing impaired: (800) 877-8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Additional information is contained in the Board's decision, which is available on our website, <http://www.stb.gov>.

Copies of the decision may be purchased by contacting the Office of Public Assistance, Governmental Affairs, and Compliance at (202) 245-0238. Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through FIRS at (800) 877-8339.

This action is categorically excluded from environmental review under 49 CFR 1105.6(c).

Decided: December 18, 2017.

By the Board, Board Members Begeman and Miller.

Jeffrey Herzig,

Clearance Clerk.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

[Docket No. MARAD 2017-0199]

Requested Administrative Waiver of the Coastwise Trade Laws: Vessel CHASIN TAIL 2; Invitation for Public Comments

AGENCY: Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of Transportation, as represented by the Maritime Administration (MARAD), is authorized to grant waivers of the U.S.-