

State (telephone: 202-632-6471; email: section2459@state.gov). The mailing address is U.S. Department of State, L/PD, 2200 C Street NW (SA-5), Suite 5H03, Washington, DC 20522-0505.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The foregoing determinations were made pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Act of October 19, 1965 (79 Stat. 985; 22 U.S.C. 2459), E.O. 12047 of March 27, 1978, the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (112 Stat. 2681, *et seq.*; 22 U.S.C. 6501 note, *et seq.*), Delegation of Authority No. 234 of October 1, 1999, Delegation of Authority No. 236-3 of August 28, 2000, and Delegation of Authority No. 523 of December 22, 2021.

Stacy E. White,

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

[FR Doc. 2022-02336 Filed 2-3-22; 8:45 am]

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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

[Docket No. FD 36576]

Fortress Investment Group LLC—Exemption for Intra-Corporate Family Transaction—Ohio River Partners Shareholder LLC, Katahdin Railcar Services, LLC, Union Railroad Company, Gary Railway Company, Delray Connecting Railroad Company, Texas & Northern Railroad Company, and Lake Terminal Railroad Company

Fortress Investment Group LLC (Fortress), for the benefit of Fortress Transportation and Infrastructure Investors LLC (FTAI) and FTAI Infrastructure Inc. (FTAI Infrastructure),¹ (collectively, the Parties), has filed a verified notice of exemption for an intra-corporate family transaction under 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(3), which exempts from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 11323 “[t]ransactions within a corporate family that do not result in adverse changes in service levels, significant operational changes, or a change in the competitive balance with carriers outside the corporate family.” 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(3).

According to the verified notice, FTAI indirectly owns controlling interests in seven common carrier railroads: Ohio River Partners Shareholder LLC (ORPS); Katahdin Railcar Services LLC (KRS);

Union Railroad Company (URR); Gary Railway Company (GRW); Delray Connecting Railroad Company (DCR); Texas & Northern Railroad Company (TNR); and Lake Terminal Railroad Company (LTR).² The verified notice states that ORPS is a non-operating carrier,³ and that the remaining railroads are each Class III carriers.⁴ Under the proposed transaction, FTAI will engage in an intra-corporate reorganization that will result in FTAI Infrastructure’s control of ORPS, KRS, URR, GRW, DCR, TNR, and LTR. The verified notice states that the purpose of the transaction is to separate FTAI’s aviation-related assets and liabilities from its railroad and energy infrastructure businesses. According to the verified notice, an affiliate of Fortress will continue managing FTAI Infrastructure and, indirectly, the seven railroads. Fortress states that the proposed transaction does not impose or involve an interchange commitment by or affecting the railroads, and that it will have no impact on the day-to-day operations of the seven railroads.

Unless stayed, the exemption will be effective on February 20, 2022 (30 days after the verified notice was filed). Fortress states that the Parties intend to consummate the proposed transaction as soon as practicable after that date and final approval of the proposed transaction by FTAI’s board of directors.⁵

The verified notice states that the transaction will not result in adverse changes in service levels, operational changes, or a change in the competitive balance with carriers outside the corporate family. Therefore, the transaction is exempt from the prior

² The verified notice states that FTAI owns 100% of the equity interests of Transtar, LLC, which owns and controls URR, GRW, DCR, TNR, and LTR. *See Fortress Inv. Grp. LLC—Acquis. & Continuance in Control Exemption—Ohio River Partners S’holder LLC*, FD 36521 (STB served June 30, 2021).

³ The verified notice states that ORPS owns a 12.2-mile freight rail line between milepost 60.5 near Powhatan Point, Ohio, and milepost 72.2 near Hannibal, Ohio (the Omal Line). KRS has assumed the right and common carrier obligation to operate the Omal Line. *Katahdin Railcar Servs. LLC—Change in Operators Exemption—Ohio Terminal Ry.*, FD 36487 (STB served Mar. 30, 2021); *see also Fortress Inv. Grp. LLC—Exemption for Intra-Corp. Fam. Transaction—Ohio River Partners S’holder LLC*, FD 36402 (STB served May 15, 2020).

⁴ According to the verified notice, the operating revenues of URR and GRW exceed the dollar threshold for Class II carrier status, but URR and GRW are designated as Class III carriers because they are switching and terminal carriers. *See* 49 CFR 1201.1-1(d).

⁵ The verified notice states that the proposed transaction will be authorized by FTAI’s board of directors pursuant to a written resolution in substantially the form attached to the verified notice as Exhibit 2.

approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 11323. *See* 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(3).

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. However, 49 U.S.C. 11326(c) does not provide for labor protection for transactions under 49 U.S.C. 11324 and 11325 that involve only Class III rail carriers. Accordingly, the Board may not impose labor protective conditions here because all the carriers involved are Class III rail 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 effectiveness of the exemption. Petitions for stay must be filed no later than February 11, 2022 (at least seven days before the exemption becomes effective).

All pleadings, referring to Docket No. FD 36576, should be filed with the Surface Transportation Board via e-filing on the Board’s website. In addition, one copy of each pleading must be served on Fortress’s representative, Terence M. Hynes, Sidley Austin LLP, 1501 K Street NW, Washington, DC 20005.

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

Board decisions and notices are available at www.stb.gov.

Decided: January 31, 2022.

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

Stefan Rice,

Clearance Clerk.

[FR Doc. 2022-02360 Filed 2-3-22; 8:45 am]

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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

[Docket No. FD 36496]

Application of the National Railroad Passenger Corporation Under 49 U.S.C. 24308(e)—CSX Transportation, Inc., and Norfolk Southern Railway Company

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board.

ACTION: Notice of public hearing.

SUMMARY: The Surface Transportation Board (Board) will hold a public hearing in this docket, consisting of two phases. The first phase, which will involve comments from the public, will commence on February 15, 2022, and

¹ The verified notice states that FTAI Infrastructure is a newly created subsidiary of FTAI, which is a Delaware limited liability company managed by an affiliate of Fortress.