

In its petition, BNSF asks the Board to partially revoke the exemption as necessary to permit the trackage rights to expire at midnight on December 31, 2024, pursuant to the parties' agreement. (See BNSF Pet. 1–2); see also BNSF Verified Notice of Exemption, Ex. B at 2, *BNSF Ry.—Trackage Rts. Exemption—Union Pac. R.R.*, FD 36377 (Sub-No. 8). BNSF argues that granting this petition will promote the rail transportation policy at 49 U.S.C. 10101 and that the partial revocation would be consistent with the limited scope of the transaction and would not have an adverse effect on shippers. (BNSF Pet. 3.) In addition, BNSF asserts that the Board has granted similar petitions for partial revocation to permit temporary trackage rights to expire, including petitions involving prior iterations of the trackage rights agreement at issue here. (*Id.* at 3–4.)

Discussion and Conclusions

Although BNSF and UP have expressly agreed on the duration of the proposed trackage rights agreement, trackage rights approved under the class exemption at 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(7) typically remain effective indefinitely, regardless of any contract provisions. At times, however, the Board has partially revoked a trackage rights exemption to allow those rights to expire after a limited time rather than lasting in perpetuity. See, e.g., *BNSF Ry.—Trackage Rts. Exemption—Union Pac. R.R.*, FD 6377 (Sub-No. 7) (STB served February 24, 2023) (granting a petition to partially revoke a trackage rights exemption involving the Lines at issue in this case); *New Orleans Pub. Belt R.R.—Trackage Rts. Exemption—III. Cent. R.R.*, FD 36198 (Sub-No. 1) (STB served June 20, 2018).

Granting partial revocation in these circumstances to permit the trackage rights to expire at the end of 2024 would eliminate the need for BNSF to file a second pleading seeking discontinuance authority when the agreement expires, thereby promoting the aspects of the rail transportation policy at 49 U.S.C. 10101(2), (7), and (15). Moreover, partially revoking the exemption to limit the term of the trackage rights would not result in an abuse of market power because the trackage rights at issue are solely to allow BNSF to move empty and loaded unit ballast trains to and from the ballast pit in Elsey for use in BNSF's maintenance-of-way projects. (See BNSF Pet. 2.) Therefore, the Board will grant the petition and permit the trackage rights exempted in Docket No. FD 36377 (Sub-No. 8) to expire at midnight on December 31, 2024.

To provide the statutorily mandated protection to any employee adversely affected by the discontinuance of trackage rights, the Board will impose the employee protective conditions set forth in *Oregon Short Line Railroad—Abandonment Portion Goshen Branch Between Firth & Ammon, in Bingham & Bonneville Counties, Idaho*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979).

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

It is ordered:

1. The petition for partial revocation of the trackage rights class exemption is granted.
2. As discussed above, the trackage rights in Docket No. FD 36377 (Sub-No. 8) are permitted to expire at midnight on December 31, 2024, subject to the employee protective conditions set forth in *Oregon Short Line*.
3. Notice of this decision will be published in the **Federal Register**.
4. This decision is effective on November 7, 2024. Petitions for stay must be filed by October 18, 2024. Petitions for reconsideration must be filed by October 28, 2024.

Decided: October 3, 2024.

By the Board, Board Members Fuchs, Hedlund, Primus, and Schultz.

Eden Besera,

Clearance Clerk.

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DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

Appointment of Members of the Legal Division to the Performance Review Board, Internal Revenue Service

Under the authority granted to me as Chief Counsel of the Internal Revenue Service by the General Counsel of the Department of the Treasury by General Counsel Directive 15, pursuant to the Civil Service Reform Act, I have appointed the following persons to the Legal Division Performance Review Board, Internal Revenue Service Panel:

1. Drita Tonuzi, Deputy Chief Counsel (Operations)
2. Paul T. Butler, Associate Chief Counsel (Procedures and Administration)
3. Robin Greenhouse, Division Counsel (Large Business and International)
4. Edith M. Shine, Associate Chief Counsel (Finance and Management)
5. Holly A. Porter, Associate Chief Counsel (Passthroughs and Special Industries)

Alternate: Mark L. Hulse, Division Counsel (Tax Exempt and Government Entities)

This publication is required by 5 U.S.C. 4314(c)(4).

Marjorie A. Rollinson,

Chief Counsel, Internal Revenue Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

Appointment of Members of the Legal Division to the Performance Review Board, Internal Revenue Service

Under the authority granted to me as Chief Counsel of the Internal Revenue Service by the General Counsel of the Department of the Treasury by General Counsel Directive 15, pursuant to the Civil Service Reform Act, I have appointed the following persons to the Legal Division Performance Review Board, Internal Revenue Service Panel:

1. Eric S. Nguyen, Deputy General Counsel, Department of the Treasury—Chair
2. Elizabeth P. Askey, Deputy Chief Appeals, Independent Office of Appeals (IRS)
3. Melanie R. Krause, Chief Operating Officer, (IRS)

Alternate: Douglas W. O'Donnell, Deputy Commissioner (IRS)

This publication is required by 5 U.S.C. 4314(c)(4).

Marjorie A. Rollinson,

Chief Counsel, Internal Revenue Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Advisory Committee on the Readjustment of Veterans, Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. ch. 10., that the Advisory Committee on the Readjustment of Veterans will meet in person on November 5, 2024–November 6, 2024 at the Lafayette Building, 811 Vermont Avenue NW, Conference Room 3166, Washington, DC 20009. The sessions will begin and end as follows:

| Dates | Times |
|------------------------------|---|
| Tuesday, November 5, 2024. | 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. eastern standard time (EST). |
| Wednesday, November 6, 2024. | 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST. |

The meeting sessions are open to the public.

The purpose of the Committee is to advise the VA regarding the provision by VA of benefits and services to assist Veterans in the readjustment to civilian life. The Committee, comprised of 14 subject matter experts, advises the Secretary through the VA Readjustment Counseling Service. In carrying out this duty, the Committee shall take into account the needs of Veterans who served in combat theaters of operation.

On November 5, 2024, and November 6, 2024, the Committee will meet to assemble, review, and assess information relating to the needs of Veterans readjusting to civilian life and the effectiveness of VA services in assisting Veterans in that readjustment. They will also receive updated briefings on various VA programs to further their ability to discuss and explore potential recommendations to be included in the next annual report.

Time will be allotted for the public to provide comments starting at 4 p.m. EST and ending no later than 4:30 p.m. EST. The comment period may end sooner, if there are no comments presented or they are exhausted before the end time. Individuals interested in providing comments during the public comment period are allowed no more than three minutes for their statements. Additionally, the Committee will accept written comments from interested parties on issues outlined in the meeting agenda or other issues regarding the readjustment of Veterans. Parties should contact Mr. Joshua Mathis, via email at Joshua.Mathis@va.gov or by mail at Department of Veterans Affairs, Readjustment Counseling Service (10RCS), 810 Vermont Avenue, Washington, DC 20420.

Any member of the public seeking additional information should contact Mr. Mathis at the email address noted above.

Dated: October 2, 2024.

Jelessa M. Burney,

Federal Advisory Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 2024-23169 Filed 10-7-24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Privacy Act of 1974; Matching Program

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

ACTION: Notice of a new matching program.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, VA is providing notice of a new matching program between VA and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) entitled “Disclosure of Information to Support the Veterans Affairs’ “Seek to Prevent Fraud, Waste, and Abuse Initiative.”

DATES: Comments on this matching program must be received no later than November 7, 2024. If no public comment is received during the period allowed for comment or unless otherwise published in the **Federal Register** by VA, the new agreement will become effective a minimum of 30 days after date of publication in the **Federal Register**. If VA receives public comments, VA shall review the comments to determine whether any changes to the notice are necessary. This matching program will be valid for 18 months from the effective date of this notice.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted through www.Regulations.gov or mailed to VA Privacy Service, 810 Vermont Avenue NW, (005X6F), Washington, DC 20420. Comments should indicate that they are submitted in response to “Disclosure of Information to Support the Veteran Affairs’ Seek to Prevent Fraud, Waste, and Abuse Initiative.” Comments received will be available at regulations.gov for public viewing, inspection, or copies.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Elizabeth Morales, Director, VA Office of Business Oversight Program Integrity Office, 1615 Woodward Street, Austin, TX 78772, (512) 673-8960.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This Agreement establishes the terms, conditions, and procedures under which CMS will provide certain data to VA that supports the VA’s Seek to Prevent Fraud, Waste, and Abuse initiative. The data will be provided from CMS’ database of enrolled Medicare providers and suppliers (System of Records Notice [SORN] No. 09-70-0532, *Provider Enrollment, Chain, and Ownership System [PECOS]*). Using PECOS data in a matching program for this purpose will

provide VA prompt access to extant information, using an efficient process that both eliminates the need to manually compare substantial numbers of data-intensive files and enables VA to leverage, instead of duplicating, the costly Advance Provider Screening process that CMS uses to check suitability of Medicare providers and generate the data in PECOS.

Participating Agencies: VA and CMS.

Authority for Conducting the Matching Program: This Agreement is executed pursuant to the Privacy Act (5 United States Code [U.S.C.] 552a) and the regulations and guidance promulgated thereunder; Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-108, Federal Agency Responsibilities for Review, Reporting, and Publication under the Privacy Act, published at 81 **Federal Register** (FR) 94424 (December 23, 2016); and OMB guidelines pertaining to computer matching published at 54 FR 25818 (June 19, 1989). Title 38 U.S.C. 7301(b) states that the primary function of VA is to provide a complete medical and hospital service for the care of eligible Veterans. In carrying out this function, including through contracts with external entities and providers, VA has an obligation to (1) ensure providers furnish care that is appropriate and safe and meets or exceeds professional standards for quality and (2), in the case of external providers, maintain billing integrity and compliance with contractual terms.

Purpose(s): Under this matching program, VA internal and external providers will be matched against the database of Medicare providers and suppliers who have been revoked by CMS pursuant to 42 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) section 424.535. VA intends to review the information provided, perform additional validation, and if deemed appropriate, conduct further investigation, or refer the matter to the VA Office of the Inspector General (OIG) for further investigation. Based on additional validation or investigation, should VA determine VA program requirements have been violated, VA intends to take action (or refer to the OIG for action) against the VA internal and external providers. Such action may be based on activities that endanger VA patients and/or reflect improper or erroneous billing practices related to claims for health care provided to VA beneficiaries. Actions VA may take include (1) terminating or modifying existing contractual or provider agreements; (2) stopping referral of VA patients to the VA external providers; (3) referring the VA internal and external providers to the