

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. Section 11326(c), however, does not provide for labor protection for transactions under sections 11324 and 11325 that involve only Class III rail carriers. Because this transaction involves Class III rail carriers only, the Board, under the statute, may not impose labor protective conditions for this transaction.

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*. Petitions to reopen the proceeding to revoke the exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) may be filed at any time. The filing of a petition to reopen will not automatically stay the transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 34142, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on Eric M. Hockey, Esq., Gollatz, Griffin & Ewing, P.C., 213 West Miner Street, P.O. Box 796, West Chester, PA 19381-0796.

Board decisions and notices are available on our Web site at www.stb.dot.gov.

Decided: January 2, 2002.

By the Board, David M. Konschnik,
Director, Office of Proceedings.

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 02-537 Filed 1-9-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 34154]

Brandywine Valley Railroad Company LLC—Acquisition and Operation Exemption—Brandywine Valley Railroad Company

Brandywine Valley Railroad Company LLC (Applicant), a noncarrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.31 to acquire from its corporate affiliate Brandywine Valley Railroad Company (Brandywine)¹ and operate the following rail lines: (1) Between milepost 12.7, at the Delaware/Pennsylvania state line and milepost 30.29, at Modena, PA, a distance of

17.59 miles;² (2) Between milepost 18.0, at Wawa, PA, and milepost 54.50, at the Pennsylvania/Maryland state line near Sylmar, MD, a distance of 36.50 miles;³ and (3) between milepost 12.7, at the Delaware/Pennsylvania border and milepost 2.9, at Elsmere Jct., DE, a distance of 9.8 miles.⁴

The transaction was expected to be consummated as of January 1, 2002. The earliest the transaction could have been consummated was December 26, 2001, the effective date of the exemption (7 days after the notice of exemption was filed).

This transaction is related to *Bethlehem Steel Corporation—Corporate Family Transaction Exemption*, STB Finance Docket No. 34142 (STB served Jan. 10, 2002), through which Brandywine is to be merged into Applicant. The separate existence of Brandywine will cease and Applicant will be the surviving entity and continue the operations formerly provided by Brandywine.

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*. Petitions to reopen the proceeding 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 transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 34154, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on Eric M. Hockey, Esq., Gollatz, Griffin & Ewing, P.C., 213 West Miner Street, PO Box 796, West Chester, PA 19381-0796.

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Decided: January 2, 2002.

By the Board, David M. Konschnik,
Director, Office of Proceedings.

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

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² See *Brandywine Valley Railroad Company—Acquisition Exemption—Pennsylvania Department of Transportation*, STB Finance Docket No. 34141 (STB served Jan. 8, 2002).

³ See *Brandywine Valley Railroad Company—Modified Rail Certificate*, STB Finance Docket No. 33722 (STB served Apr. 16, 1999).

⁴ See *Certificate of Designated Operator, Brandywine Valley Railroad Company*, STB D-OP No. 100 (STB served June 10, 1999).

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 34156]

Conemaugh & Black Lick Railroad Company LLC—Acquisition and Operation Exemption—Conemaugh & Black Lick Railroad Company

Conemaugh & Black Lick Railroad Company LLC (Applicant), a noncarrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.31 to acquire from its corporate affiliate Conemaugh & Black Lick Railroad Company (CBL)¹ and operate a 32-mile rail line in Cambria County, PA.²

The transaction was expected to be consummated as of January 1, 2002. The earliest the transaction could have been consummated was December 26, 2001, the effective date of the exemption (7 days after the notice of exemption was filed).

This transaction is related to *Bethlehem Steel Corporation—Corporate Family Transaction Exemption*, STB Finance Docket No. 34142 (STB served Jan. 10, 2002), through which CBL is to be merged into Applicant. The separate existence of CBL will cease and Applicant will be the surviving entity and continue the operations formerly provided by CBL.

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*. Petitions to reopen the proceeding 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 transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 34156, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on Eric M. Hockey, Esq., Gollatz, Griffin & Ewing, P.C., 213 West Miner Street, P.O. Box 796, West Chester, PA 19381-0796.

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Decided: January 2, 2002.

¹ Both Applicant and CBL are wholly owned subsidiaries of Bethlehem Steel Corporation.

² Applicant states that the rail line is composed of yard and switching tracks and does not have assigned mileposts.

¹ Both Applicant and Brandywine are wholly owned subsidiaries of Bethlehem Steel Corporation.