

order to notify law enforcement agencies of new vehicle lines exempted from the parts marking requirements of the Theft Prevention Standard. Therefore, although VW has been granted confidential treatment for most aspects of its petition, the agency notes certain information that may be published in the **Federal Register**. If VW decides not to use the exemption for this line, it must formally notify the agency, and, thereafter, the line must be fully marked as required by 49 CFR parts 541.5 and 541.6 (marking of major component parts and replacement parts).

NHTSA notes that if VW wishes in the future to modify the device on which this exemption is based, the company may have to submit a petition to modify the exemption. Part 543.7(d) states that a Part 543 exemption applies only to vehicles that belong to a line exempted under this part and equipped with the anti-theft device on which the line's exemption is based. Further, § 543.9(c)(2) provides for the submission of petitions "to modify an exemption to permit the use of an antitheft device similar to but differing from the one specified in that exemption."

The agency wishes to minimize the administrative burden that Part 543.9(c)(2) could place on exempted vehicle manufacturers and itself. The agency did not intend Part 543 to require the submission of a modification petition for every change to the components or design of an antitheft device. The significance of many such changes could be *de minimis*. Therefore, NHTSA suggests that if the manufacturer contemplates making any changes the effects of which might be characterized as *de minimis*, it should consult the agency before preparing and submitting a petition to modify.

We note that VW requested confidential treatment for the information and attachments it

submitted in support of its petition. While the agency granted the petitioner's request for confidential treatment of most aspects of its petition, we have released the model year for which the exemption is granted. This information is necessary for the law enforcement efforts to combat motor vehicle theft. That is, law enforcement officials need to know whether a given motor vehicle line was subject or exempted from the parts-marking requirements for a given model year.

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 33106; delegation of authority at 49 CFR 1.50.

Issued on: January 23, 2006.

Stephen R. Kratzke,

Associate Administrator for Rulemaking.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 34820]

Union Pacific Railroad Company— Temporary Trackage Rights Exemption—BNSF Railway Company

BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) pursuant to a written trackage rights agreement entered into between BNSF and Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) has agreed to grant temporary overhead trackage rights to UP over BNSF's line of railroad between Hobart Tower, CA (milepost 146.0), and Riverside, CA (milepost 9.8), a distance of approximately 57.7 miles.¹

The transaction was scheduled to be consummated on January 16, 2006, but consummation could lawfully occur no earlier than January 17, 2006, the

¹ Total mileage does not correspond to the milepost designations of the endpoints because the trackage rights involve BNSF subdivisions with non-contiguous mileposts.

effective date of the exemption (7 days after the exemption was filed). The temporary trackage rights will expire on or about March 22, 2006. The purpose of the temporary trackage rights is to facilitate maintenance work on UP lines.

As a condition to this exemption, any employee affected by the acquisition of the temporary trackage rights will be protected by the conditions imposed in *Norfolk and Western Ry. Co.—Trackage Rights—BN*, 354 I.C.C. 605 (1978), as modified in *Mendocino Coast Ry., Inc.—Lease and Operate*, 360 I.C.C. 653 (1980), and any employee affected by the discontinuance of those trackage rights will be protected by the conditions set out in *Oregon Short Line R. Co.—Abandonment—Goshen*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979).

This notice is filed under 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(8). If it 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 transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 34820, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on Gabriel S. Meyer, Assistant General Attorney, 1400 Douglas Street, STOP 1580, Omaha, NE 68179.

Board decisions and notices are available on our Web site at <http://www.stb.dot.gov>.

Decided: January 23, 2006.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

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