

Issued on: November 18, 2011.

Lori Summers,

Director, Office of Crashworthiness Standards.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[Docket No. FD 35095]

Alaska Railroad Corporation— Construction and Operation Exemption—A Rail Line Extension to Port MacKenzie, AK

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of construction and operation exemption.

SUMMARY: The Board is granting an exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502 from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 10901 for Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC) to construct and operate an approximately 35-mile rail line connecting the Port MacKenzie District in south-central Alaska to a point on ARRC's existing main line near Houston, Alaska. The rail line would provide freight services between Port MacKenzie and the interior of Alaska and would support Port MacKenzie's continuing development as an intermodal and bulk material resources export and import facility. This exemption is subject to environmental mitigation conditions and the condition that ARRC build the route designated as environmentally preferable.

DATES: The exemption will be effective on December 21, 2011; petitions for reconsideration must be filed by December 12, 2011.

ADDRESSES: An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to Docket No. FD 35095, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street SW., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, 1 copy of each filing in this proceeding must be served on petitioner's representative: Kathryn Kusske Floyd, Dorsey & Whitney LLP, 1801 K Street NW., Suite 750, Washington, DC 20006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Julia Farr, (202) 245-0359.

Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at: 1-(800) 877-8339.

Copies of written comments will be available for viewing and self-copying at the Board's Public Docket Room, Room 131, and will be posted to the Board's Web site.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

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

By the Board, Chairman Elliott, Vice Chairman Begeman, and Commissioner Mulvey. Commissioner Mulvey dissented with a separate expression.

Decided: November 17, 2011.

Jeffrey Herzig,
Clearance Clerk.

[FR Doc. 2011-30346 Filed 11-23-11; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. EP 670 (Sub-No. 2)]

Notice of Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee Vacancy

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of vacancy on Federal advisory committee and solicitation of nominations.

SUMMARY: The Surface Transportation Board (Board), hereby gives notice of a vacancy on the Board's Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee for a representative of a state- or municipally-owned electric utility. The Board is soliciting suggestions for candidates to fill that vacancy.

DATES: Suggestions of candidates for membership on RETAC are due December 21, 2011.

ADDRESSES: Suggestions may be submitted either via the Board's e-filing format or in the traditional paper format. Any person using e-filing should attach a document and otherwise comply with the instructions at the E-FILING link on the Board's Web site, at <http://www.stb.dot.gov>. Any person submitting a filing in the traditional paper format should send an original and 10 copies to: Surface Transportation Board, Attn: STB Docket No. EP 670 (Sub-No. 2), 395 E Street SW., Washington, DC 20423-0001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Scott M. Zimmerman at (202) 245-0386. [Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-(800) 877-8339.]

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Board, created by Congress in 1996 to take over many of the functions previously performed by the Interstate Commerce Commission, exercises broad authority over transportation by rail carriers, including regulation of railroad

rates and service (49 U.S.C. 10701-10747, 11101-11124), as well as the construction, acquisition, operation, and abandonment of rail lines (49 U.S.C. 10901-10907) and railroad line sales, consolidations, mergers, and common control arrangements (49 U.S.C. 10902, 11323-11327).

In 2007, the Board established RETAC as a Federal advisory committee consisting of a balanced cross-section of energy and rail industry stakeholders to provide independent, candid policy advice to the Board and to foster open, effective communication among the affected interests on issues such as rail performance, capacity constraints, infrastructure planning and development, and effective coordination among suppliers, carriers, and users of energy resources. RETAC operates subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

RETAC's membership is balanced and representative of interested and affected parties, consisting of not less than: 5 representatives from the Class I railroads, 3 representatives from Class II and III railroads, 3 representatives from coal producers, 5 representatives from electric utilities (including at least 1 rural electric cooperative and 1 state- or municipally-owned utility), 4 representatives from biofuel refiners, processors, or distributors, or biofuel feedstock growers or providers, and 2 representatives from private car owners, car lessors, or car manufacturers. RETAC may also include up to 3 members with relevant experience but not necessarily affiliated with one of the aforementioned industries or sectors. Members are selected by the Chairman of the Board with the concurrence of a majority of the Board. The Chairman of the Board may invite representatives from the U.S. Departments of Agriculture, Energy and Transportation and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to serve on RETAC in advisory capacities as *ex officio* (non-voting) members, and the 3 members of the Board serve as *ex officio* members of the Committee as well.

RETAC meets at least twice per year. Meetings are generally held at the Board's headquarters in Washington, DC, but may be held in other locations. Members of RETAC serve without compensation and without reimbursement of travel expenses unless reimbursement of such expenses is authorized in advance by the Board's Managing Director. RETAC members appointed or reappointed after June 18, 2010, are prohibited from serving as federally registered lobbyists during their RETAC term.