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SERVICE DATE - DECEMBER 17, 1999

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FR-4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33832]

Arizona & California Railroad Company Limited Partnership d/b/a Puget Sound & Pacific Railroad--Trackage Rights Exemption--The City of Tacoma d/b/a Tacoma Rail

The City of Tacoma d/b/a Tacoma Rail (TR) has agreed to grant overhead trackage rights to Arizona & California Railroad Company Limited Partnership (ARZC) d/b/a Puget Sound & Pacific Railroad Company (PS&P) (collectively, ARZC d/b/a PS&P):¹ (1) from the Lakeside Siding near Blakeslee Junction, milepost 60.0, southwest six miles to the interchange with The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF) at Chehalis, milepost 66.0 (the TR/BNSF Interchange); and (2) from the TR/BNSF Interchange one mile to milepost 67.0, where TR's rail lines connect with rail line owned by the Port of Chehalis, for a total distance of approximately 7.0 miles.²

The transaction is scheduled to be consummated on or shortly after the December 13, 1999, effective date of the exemption.

¹ ARZC is an existing Class III rail carrier, and PS&P is an operating division of ARZC. See Arizona & California Railroad Company Limited Partnership--Acquisition and Operation Exemption--The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company, STB Finance Docket No. 33448 (STB served Sept. 11, 1999).

² ARZC d/b/a PS&P previously filed a modified rail certificate to operate over a 10-mile rail line owned by the Port of Chehalis. See Arizona & California Railroad Company Limited Partnership d/b/a/a Puget Sound & Pacific Railroad--Modified Rail Certificate, STB Finance Docket No. 33812 (STB served Oct. 27, 1999).

The trackage rights will promote operating efficiencies, such as enabling ARCZ d/b/a PS&P to interchange traffic with BNSF and TR at certain locations.

As a condition to this exemption, any employees affected by the 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).

This notice is filed under 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(7). 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. 33832, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, one copy of each pleading must be served on Rose-Michele Weinryb, Esq., Weiner, Brodsky, Sidman & Kider, P.C., Suite 800, 1350 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20005-4797.

Board decisions and notices are available on our website at “WWW.STB.DOT.GOV.”

Decided: December 10, 1999.

STB Finance Docket No. 33832

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

Vernon A. Williams

Secretary