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SERVICE DATE - MAY 13, 1999

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FR-4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33716]

Georgia & Florida RailNet, Inc.--Acquisition and Operation Exemption--Lines of Gulf & Ohio Railways, Inc.

Georgia & Florida RailNet, Inc. (GFRN), a noncarrier, has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.31 to acquire (by purchase or acquisition of a lease interest) and operate approximately 256.37 miles of rail lines operated by and either owned by, or under the control of, Gulf & Ohio Railways, Inc. (GOR).¹ The lines to be acquired through purchase by GFRN are as follows: (1) the Albany Bridge, a line of railroad approximately 3,470 feet in length, extending across a bridge in Albany, GA, from track chaining station 5473+20 to track chaining station 5438+50; (2) the Adel-Foley Line, from milepost GB-1.0 at Adel, GA, to milepost GB-77.3 at Perry, FL, and from milepost GB-77.3/LO-45.75 at Perry, FL, to milepost LO-39.0 at Foley, FL; (3) the Valdosta-Nashville Line, from milepost 30.65 at Valdosta, GA, to milepost 57.2 at Nashville, GA; (4) the Moultrie-Schley Junction Line, from milepost 27.1 at Moultrie, GA, to milepost 33.6 at Schley Junction, GA; (5) the Norman Junction Line, from milepost 29.52 at Norman Junction, GA, to milepost 33.52 at

¹ GFRN indicates that some rail lines are owned and operated by GOR, while GOR operates and possesses a leasehold interest in other rail lines.

Moultrie, GA; and (6) the Thomasville-Camilla Line, from milepost ANC-692.08 at Thomasville, GA, to milepost ANC-728.0 at Camilla, GA.²

In addition, GFRN will also acquire GOR's lease interest in, and operate, the following rail lines: (1) the Albany-Sparks Line, (owned by and leased from the Norfolk Southern Railway (NSR)) from milepost GN-0.7 at Albany, GA, to milepost GN-58.9 at Sparks, GA; (2) the Camilla-Albany Line (owned by and leased from CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSX)) from milepost ANC-728.0 at Camilla, GA, to milepost ANC-748.03 at Albany, GA; and (3) the Albany-Sylvester Line (owned by and leased from CSX) from milepost AP-699.12 at Albany, GA, to milepost AP-677.67 at Sylvester, GA.

GFRN will also acquire incidental overhead trackage rights over approximately 29.8 miles of rail line owned by the Georgia Southern and Florida Railway Company (a subsidiary of NSR) from milepost 125.2-G at Sparks, GA, to milepost 155.0-G (at a connection into NS' Valdosta yard facilities) at Valdosta, GA.

The transaction was scheduled to be consummated on or shortly after April 30, 1999.

² GFRN states that its projected revenues will not exceed those that would qualify it as a Class III rail carrier.

Because its projected revenues will exceed \$5 million, however, GFRN certified to the Board, on February 12, 1999, that it had served a copy of the notice on the national offices of the labor unions with employees on the affected lines, and that the required notice of its acquisition has been posted at the workplace of the employees on the affected lines. See 49 CFR 1150.32(e).

This transaction is related to STB Finance Docket No. 33717, North American RailNet, Inc.--Continuance in Control Exemption--Georgia & Florida RailNet, Inc., wherein North American RailNet, Inc., is seeking and exemption to continue in control of GFRN upon its becoming a Class III rail carrier.

If the notice 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. 33717, 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, a copy of each pleading must be served on Robert A. Wimbish, Esq., Rea, Cross, & Auchincloss, 1707 L Street, N.W., Suite 570, Washington, DC 20036.

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

Decided: May 5, 1999.

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

Vernon A. Williams

Secretary