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SERVICE DATE - SEPTEMBER 24, 1997

DO

FR-4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33461]

Southern Pacific Transportation Company—Trackage Rights Exemption—The Houston Belt & Terminal Railway Company

The Houston Belt & Terminal Railway Company (HB&T) has agreed to grant overhead and local trackage rights to Southern Pacific Transportation Company (SP) over HB&T's tracks in Houston, Harris County, TX. The overhead trackage rights are described as follows: (1) the West Belt Subdivision between milepost 0.0 and milepost 11.1; (2) the East Belt Subdivision between milepost 0.0 and milepost 14.3; and (3) the Columbia Tap from SP milepost 9.2 to the end of the line. The local trackage rights are described as follows: (1) the West Belt Subdivision between 0.00 and connection at milepost 7.2; (2) the East Belt Subdivision between Belt Junction, at milepost 3.4, and GH&H connection, at milepost 12.5; and (3) the Columbia Tap near Pierce Junction, at SP milepost 9.2, to the end of the line.

The transaction is scheduled to be consummated on or after October 6, 1997.

The purpose of the overhead trackage rights is to permit SP to operate over HB&T's trackage in Houston. The purpose of the local trackage rights is to permit SP to provide service directly to shippers on HB&T's tracks in the City of Houston.

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. 33461, 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 Joseph D. Anthofer, Esq., 1416 Dodge Street, #830, Omaha, NE 68179

Decided: September 15, 1997.

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

Vernon A. Williams

Secretary