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SERVICE DATE – FEBRUARY 27, 2007

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Finance Docket No. 34988

WILLIAMS RAIL SERVICE, LLC—ACQUISITION AND OPERATION EXEMPTION—
LINES OWNED BY DUCHESS INVESTMENTS V, LLC AND G&G/CHEROKEE WOOD
PRODUCTS, INC.

Decided: February 26, 2007

Williams Rail Service, LLC (WRS), a noncarrier, filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.31 to acquire (by purchase and lease) and to operate two separate track segments, totaling approximately 1,900 feet of track, in Cherokee County, SC, and Union County, NC.¹ Pursuant to an agreement that will be executed before consummation, WRS will acquire: (1) by lease from Duchess Investments V, LLC, approximately 600 feet of track near the intersection of Orr Road and Wesley Chapel Stouts Road, in Monroe, Union County, NC, which connects with a CSX Transportation, Inc. line; and (2) by purchase from G&G/Cherokee Wood Products, Inc., approximately 1,300 feet of track near the intersection of Tribal Road and I-85 in Blacksburg, Cherokee County, SC, which connects with a Norfolk Southern Railway Company line. Notice of the exemption was served and published in the Federal Register on February 13, 2007 (72 FR 6809). The exemption is schedule to be consummated no sooner than March 1, 2007, the effective date of the exemption.

By letter filed on February 14, 2007, WRS asks to withdraw that portion of its notice of exemption that pertains to its proposed operations in Union County, NC. WRS states that it no longer seeks to become a common carrier at the Union County location. WRS also states that this request will not affect the portion of the notice of exemption that pertains to the site in Cherokee County. WRS's notice of exemption will therefore be modified accordingly. As modified, the acquisition and operation exemption would apply only to the rail operations in Cherokee County.

This action will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

¹ After consummation of the transaction, WRS expects to become and remain a Class III rail carrier.

It is ordered:

1. WRS's request to modify the scope of its acquisition and operation exemption to withdraw the portion that pertains to operations in Union County, NC, is granted. The portion of the notice of exemption that pertains to its operation in Cherokee County will not be affected.
2. The scope of the notice of exemption served and published in the Federal Register on February 13, 2007, is modified to the extent discussed herein.
3. This decision is effective on its date of service.

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

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary