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SERVICE DATE - APRIL 16, 1999

DO

FR-4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33728]

State of New Hampshire Department of Transportation--Acquisition Exemption--New
Hampshire and Vermont Railroad Company

The State of New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT), a noncarrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.31 to acquire (by purchase) approximately 36.0 miles of rail line owned by the New Hampshire and Vermont Railroad Company (NHVT). The lines being acquired by NHDOT are known as the Berlin Branch and the Groveton Branch and extend: (a) from milepost 113.0 at Littleton, NH (Valuation Station 995+66), to milepost 125.0 at Whitefield, NH (Valuation Station 1629+30); (b) from milepost 125.0 at Whitefield, NH (Valuation Station 1629+30), to milepost 130.9 at Jefferson (Waumbec Junction), NH (Valuation Station 325+03.2); and (c) from milepost 130.9 at Jefferson (Waumbec Junction), NH (Valuation Station 325+03.2), to a point in Groveton (Northumberland), NH, where said line intersects with a line of railroad owned by the St. Lawrence & Atlantic Railroad Company (Valuation Station 2715+83). NHVT will operate the property.

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

This transaction is related to STB Finance Docket No. 33727, New Hampshire and Vermont Railroad Company--Operation Exemption--Certain Lines of the State of New Hampshire, wherein NHVT has filed a notice of exemption to operate over the lines once

they are owned by NHDOT. Thus, NHVT will continue as the primary common carrier freight operator of the subject lines.

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. 33728, 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 Robert A. Wimbish, REA, CROSS & AUCHINLOSS, Suite 570, 1707 L Street, N. W., Washington, DC 20036.

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

Decided: April 8, 1999.

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

Vernon A. Williams

Secretary