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SERVICE DATE - OCTOBER 6, 1998

DO

FR-4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33653]

Port of Benton--Acquisition and Operation Exemption--U.S. Department of Energy Rail
Line in Richland, WA

The Port of Benton, a noncarrier, of Richland, WA, has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.31 to acquire the rail line assets of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to operate a rail line approximately 17 miles long known as the Hanford Site Rail System, Southern Connection, extending from milepost 46, at the junction with Union Pacific rail line in Kennewick, WA, to milepost 29, at the DOE Hanford Site, connecting with the Hanford Site Rail System, Northern Connection (north of the City of Richland).

The transaction is expected to be consummated on October 1, 1998.

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void ab initio. Petitions to reopen the proceeding 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. 33653, 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 Thomas A. Cowan, Esq., COWAN WALKER, P.S., P. O. Box 927 Richland, WA 99352.

STB Finance Docket No. 33653

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“WWW.STB.DOT.GOV.”

Decided: September 29, 1998.

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

Vernon A. Williams

Secretary