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SEC

SERVICE DATE - OCTOBER 20, 2000

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Finance Docket No. 33881

PORT OF BENTON--CHANGE IN OPERATOR EXEMPTION--TRI-CITY RAILROAD
COMPANY, L.L.C.

Decided: October 17, 2000

On May 31, 2000, Port of Benton (POB) filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.31 for a change of operator on approximately 17 miles of its rail line, known as the Hanford Site Rail System, Southern Connection, extending from milepost 46.6 at the junction with the Union Pacific Railroad Company rail line in Richland, WA, to milepost 28.3 at the border of the U.S. Department of Energy's Hanford Site, connecting with the Hanford Site Rail System, Northern Connection (north of the City of Richland).

On June 13, 2000, Tri-City Railroad Company, L.L.C. filed a verified notice of exemption to lease and operate the above-described rail line from POB.¹ Because the June 13 filing is essentially a substitute for the May 31 filing, POB, by letter filed October 4, 2000, requests that the notice of exemption it filed on May 31 be withdrawn. The request will be granted and the proceeding will be dismissed.

It is ordered:

1. The request to withdraw the notice of exemption filed on May 31, 2000, is granted and the proceeding in STB Finance Docket No. 33881 is dismissed.

¹ See Tri-City Railroad Company, L.L.C.--Lease and Operation Exemption--Rail Line of the Port of Benton in Richland, WA, STB Finance Docket No. 33888 (STB served June 23, 2000).

2. This decision is effective on its date of service.

By the Board, Vernon A. Williams, Secretary.

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary