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SERVICE DATE - JUNE 7, 1999

DO

FR-4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33753]

South Plains Switching, Ltd. Co.—Acquisition Exemption—The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company

South Plains Switching, Ltd. Co. (South Plains), a Class III rail common carrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.41 to acquire approximately 67,784 feet of rail lines from The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF)¹ in Lubbock, TX, as follows: (1) former ATSF side tracks 0310-0313, 032, 0330-0332, 0340-0341, 0370, 0372-0373, 0380-0382, 0385, 0387, and 0390; and (2) former BN side tracks 9201-9204, 9208, 9220, 9298, 9310, 9320, 9322, 9330, Orchard Lead, 9304, 9311-9312, 9321, 9323-9326, 9331, 9333, 9401-9406, 9409-9412, 9415, and 9420-9424. In conjunction with the acquisition of these rail lines, South Plains will acquire approximately 18 miles of incidental trackage rights over BNSF's tracks 0340, 9200, 9205 and 9208 and BNSF's mainline between track 9298 and BNSF's Lower Yard at Lubbock.

The transaction is expected to be consummated on or shortly after June 4, 1999.

¹ On December 31, 1996, The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company (ATSF) merged with and into Burlington Northern Railroad Company (BN). The name of the surviving corporation of the merger is The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company.

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 does not automatically stay the transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 33753, 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 William R. Power, Esq., 260 Cordovan Park, 5840 West Interstate Twenty, Arlington, TX 76017.

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

Decided: May 28, 1999.

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

Vernon A. Williams

Secretary