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Service Date- December 13, 1996

DO

FR-4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[S.B. Finance Docket No. 331401

Columbia Basin Railroad Company, Inc.--Exemption to Lease and Operate--Burlington Northern Railroad Co. and BNSF Acquisition, Inc.

Columbia Basin Railroad Company, Inc. (CBRC), a noncarrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.31 to lease and operate the following rail lines: (1) Connell (MP 186.9) to Wheeler, WA (MP 147.3); (2) Bassett Junction (MP 0.0) to Schrag, WA (MP 12.50); (3) Moses Lake (MP 18.3) to Sieler, WA (MP 5.0); and (4) Sieler (MP 5.0) to Wheeler, WA

(MP 0.0). According to CBRC, it will lease a total of 65.4 miles of the lines which were to be acquired by Burlington Northern Railroad Company (BNRR) and BNSF Acquisition Inc. when they consummated the transaction authorized in Burlington Northern Santa Fe

Corporation , BNSF Accruiasion Corp., and Burlington Northern Corporation, BNSF Accruiasion Corp., anc.

Burlington Northern Railroad Company--Control--Washington Central Railroad Company, Inc.,S.B. Finance

Docket No. 32974 (S.B. served Oct. 25, 1996). In addition, CBRC will acquire trackage rights to provide local and overhead freight service over BNRR's 13-mile line between Warden (MP 1976.0) and Othello, WA (MP 1989.0).

S.B. Finance Docket No. 33140 The transaction was expected to be consummated on or after December 4, 1996 contemporaneously with the transaction in S.B. Finance Docket No. 32974.

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void ab initio. Petitions to 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 S.B. Finance Docket No. 33140, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, office of the Secretary, Case Control Branch, 1201 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20423. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on Mark H. Sidman, 1350 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 800, Washington, DC 20005-4797.

Decided: December 6, 1996.

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

Vernon A. Williams

Secretary

