

SERVICE DATE – FEBRUARY 27, 2009

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Finance Docket No. 35095

ALASKA RAILROAD CORPORATION—CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION
EXEMPTION—A RAIL LINE EXTENSION TO PORT MACKENZIE, AK

Decided: February 26, 2009

By petition filed on December 5, 2008, Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC),¹ a Class II rail carrier, seeks an exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502 from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 10901 to construct and operate approximately 30 to 45 miles of new rail line (depending on the route used) connecting Port MacKenzie (Port) in south-central Alaska, to a point on ARRC's main line between Wasilla and an area north of Willow, AK.² ARRC states that the proposed extension would provide freight services between the Port and the interior of Alaska and would support the Port's continuing development as an intermodal and bulk material resources export and import facility.

The petition for exemption raises issues that require consideration by the Board. By this decision, the Board is instituting a proceeding under 49 U.S.C. 10502(b).

It is ordered:

1. Under 49 U.S.C. 10502(b), a proceeding is instituted.
2. This decision is effective on its date of service.

By the Board, Anne K. Quinlan, Acting Secretary.

Anne K. Quinlan
Acting Secretary

¹ ARRC is owned by the State of Alaska. ARRC currently provides freight and passenger services over a 470-mile main line to communities from the Gulf of Alaska to the greater Fairbanks area in the interior of the state.

² The Matanuska-Susitna Borough of Alaska owns the Port and, according to ARRC, is a co-sponsor of the construction project.