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SERVICE DATE – APRIL 24, 2026

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

Docket No. FD 36874

PROVISO RAILROAD, INC.—ACQUISITION EXEMPTION—L. NEILL
CARTAGE CO., INC.

Docket No. FD 36875

MASON RAILROAD, INC.—ACQUISITION EXEMPTION—L. NEILL
CARTAGE CO., INC.

Decided: April 24, 2026

On December 3, 2025, in Docket No. 36874, Proviso Railroad, Inc. (PRR), filed a notice of exemption under 49 C.F.R. § 1150.31 to acquire and operate approximately 712.5 feet of track owned by L. Neill Cartage Co., Inc. (Cartage), a noncarrier, in Berkeley, Ill. On December 4, 2025, in Docket No. 36875, Mason Railroad, Inc. (MRR), filed a notice of exemption under 49 C.F.R. § 1150.31 to acquire and operate approximately 665 feet of track owned by Cartage in Bedford Park, Ill. PRR and MRR filed supplements in their respective dockets on both December 29 and December 30, 2025. By decision served December 31, 2025, the effective dates of PRR's and MRR's notices of exemptions were postponed, pending review of the supplements. Notice of the exemption in each docket was subsequently served and published in the Federal Register on January 15, 2026 (91 Fed. Reg. 1854), and both exemptions were scheduled to become effective on January 29, 2026. However, in a decision served on January 28, 2026, the Board postponed the effective dates of those notices because it appeared that if the notices became effective, Cartage would control two rail carriers (PRR and MRR) without the necessary Board authority.¹ Proviso R.R., Inc.—Acquis. Exemption—L. Neill Cartage Co., Inc., FD 36875 et al., slip op. at 4 (STB served Jan. 28, 2026). Cartage was directed to either seek Board authorization to continue in control of PRR and MRR upon their becoming carriers, or alternatively, explain why such control authority is not required. Id.

On February 27, 2026, in Docket No. FD 36912, Cartage filed a notice of exemption under 49 C.F.R. § 1180.2(d)(2), seeking authority to continue in control of PRR and MRR upon their becoming Class III rail carriers. However, that notice failed to provide the information required by 49 C.F.R. § 1180.6(a)(1)(iii). In a decision served on March 30, 2026, the Board postponed the effective date of the exemption sought by Cartage until further order of the Board and directed Cartage to file the missing information. On April 9, 2026, Cartage filed the

¹ Under 49 U.S.C. § 11323(a)(5), Board authority is required for a noncarrier to control more than one rail carrier.

requested information, and notice of the exemption in Docket No. FD 36912 was subsequently served and published in the Federal Register on April 24, 2026 (91 Fed. Reg. 22213). That exemption is scheduled to take effect on May 9, 2026. Accordingly, the effective date for both the exemption in Docket No. 36874 (the PRR acquisition and operation exemption) and the exemption in Docket No. 36875 (the MRR acquisition and operation exemption) will be May 9, 2026.

It is ordered:

1. The effective date of the exemptions in Docket Nos. FD 36874 and FD 36875 is May 9, 2026.
2. This decision is effective on its date of service.

By the Board, Anika S. Cooper, Chief Counsel, Office of Chief Counsel.