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SERVICE DATE – MARCH 30, 2026

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

Docket No. FD 36912

L. NEILL CARTAGE CO., INC.—CONTINUANCE IN CONTROL EXEMPTION—
PROVISO RAILROAD, INC. AND MASON RAILROAD, INC.

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: March 30, 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 exemptions because it appeared that if the exemptions became effective, Cartage would require authority from the Board under 49 U.S.C. § 11323 to continue in control of PRR and MRR upon their becoming carriers. 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 information

required by 49 C.F.R. § 1180.6(a)(1)(iii), which requires continuance-in-control applicants to explain “[t]he purpose sought to be accomplished by the proposed transaction, e.g., operating economies, eliminating excess facilities, improving service, or improving the financial viability of the applicants.” Accordingly, the effective date of Cartage’s exemption in Docket No. 36912 will be postponed until further order of the Board. Cartage will be directed to file the information required under 49 C.F.R. § 1180.6(a)(1)(iii) by April 9, 2026. If Cartage does not do so by April 9, 2026, the notices in Docket Nos. FD 36874, FD 36875, and FD 36912 will be rejected without further order of the Board, effective April 10, 2026.

It is ordered:

1. The effective date of the exemption in Docket No. FD 36912 is postponed until further order of the Board.
2. Cartage is directed to file the information required under 49 C.F.R. § 1180.6(a)(1)(iii) by April 9, 2026.
3. If Cartage does not file, as described above, by April 9, 2026, the notices in Docket Nos. FD 36874, FD 36875, and FD 36912 will be rejected without further order of the Board, effective April 10, 2026.
4. This decision is effective on its date of service.

By the Board, Scott M. Zimmerman, Acting Chief Counsel, Office of Chief Counsel.