

218121

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Finance Docket No. 34963



CAPTION SUMMARY

JAMES RIFFIN, DBA THE RARITAN VALLEY CONNECTING RAILROAD—ACQUISITION AND OPERATION EXEMPTION – ON RARITAN VALLEY CONNECTING TRACK (Line Code 0326, Sub. No. 1038), BETWEEN THE NORTHERLY SIDELINE OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY LINE (AT FORMER DELAWARE & BOUND BROOK MP 57.25), MANVILLE BOROUGH, AND THE INTERSECTION OF THE LINE WITH THE SOUTHERLY SIDELINE OF THE FORMER RARITAN VALLEY LINE, NOW NEW JERSEY TRANSIT'S RARITAN VALLEY COMMUTER LINE, IN BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP (AT FORMER DELAWARE & BOUND BROOK MP 58.50), ALL IN SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, A DISTANCE OF APPROXIMATELY 1.25 MILES

James Riffin, dba The Raritan Valley Connecting Railroad, a Carrier, has filed a Notice of Exemption under 49 U.S.C. §10901 to operate 1.25 miles of line in Somerset County. This action comes within the class of transactions which are exempt from regulations under 49 U.S.C. §10901.

Comments must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board and served on James Riffin, dba The Raritan Valley Connecting Railroad, 1941 Greenspring Drive, Timonium, MD 21093.

This Notice conforms to the format in 49 CFR §1150.34. If the notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*. Petitions to revoke the exemptions under 49 U.S.C. §10505 (d) may be filed at any time. Filing petitions to revoke will not automatically stay the transaction.

Dated:

By the Board: Vernon A. Williams

Secretary

FILE RECEIVED

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BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Finance Docket No. 34963

JAMES RIFFIN, DBA THE RARITAN VALLEY CONNECTING RAILROAD—
ACQUISITION AND OPERATION EXEMPTION – ON RARITAN VALLEY CONNECTING
TRACK (Line Code 0326, Sub. No. 1038), BETWEEN THE NORTHERLY SIDELINE OF
THE LEHIGH VALLEY LINE (AT FORMER DELAWARE & BOUND BROOK MP 57.25),
MANVILLE BOROUGH, AND THE INTERSECTION OF THE LINE WITH THE
SOUTHERLY SIDELINE OF THE FORMER RARITAN VALLEY LINE, NOW NEW
JERSEY TRANSIT'S RARITAN VALLEY COMMUTER LINE, IN BRIDGEWATER
TOWNSHIP (AT FORMER DELAWARE & BOUND BROOK MP 58.50), ALL IN
SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, A DISTANCE OF APPROXIMATELY 1.25 MILES

VERIFIED NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

James Riffin, dba The Raritan Valley Connecting Railroad, (Applicant), a Carrier,
provides the following as his verified exemption notice to acquire and operate exemption of
approximately 1.25 miles of line within Somerset County, NJ, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. §10901.
This action comes within the class of transactions which are exempt from regulations under 49
U.S.C. §10901.

1. The following 49 CFR §1150.33 details are provided:

(a) and (b): APPLICANT and representative to whom correspondences should be sent:

James Riffin, dba The Raritan Valley Connecting Railroad
1941 Greenspring Drive
Timonium, MD 21093
(443) 414-6210

(c): No agreement has been reached. Agreements are being negotiated. Agreements are
expected to be executed within 90 days after the date this Notice of Exemption has been
filed.

(d): James Riffin, dba The Raritan Valley Connecting Railroad, or his designee, will be the operator of the property.

(e): The following is a brief summary of the proposed activity:

The Applicant proposes to acquire and operate approximately 1.25 miles of line, known as the Raritan Valley Connecting Track (Line Code 0326, Sub. No. 1038), between the northerly sideline of the Lehigh Valley Line [at former Delaware & Bound Brook ("D&BB") (now Trenton Line) MP 57.25], Manville Borough, and the intersection of the line with the southerly sideline of the former Central Railroad Company of New Jersey Raritan Valley Line, now New Jersey Transit's Raritan Valley Commuter Line, [at former D&BB (now Trenton Line) MP 58.50], all in Somerset County, New Jersey. Applicant proposes to interchange with CSX Transportation and / or with Norfolk Southern Railway Corporation, and / or with Conrail. Applicant proposes to commence these activities within 90 days from the date this Verified Notice of Exemption is filed. The transferor of the Raritan Valley Connecting Track line, will be either Bridgewater Resources, Inc., a non-carrier, whose address is 15 Polhemus Lane, Bridgewater, NJ 08807, or Conrail. [In a deed dated August 24, 1995, recorded in the Land Records of Somerset County, New Jersey, at Liber BK 2031 folio 320 *et. al.*, Conrail transferred all of its title and interest in this portion of the former D&BB line, to Joseph C. Horner, an individual. Mr. Horner in turn has leased this line to Bridgewater Resources, Inc. ("BRI"). If Conrail received authority from the Interstate Commerce Commission to abandon this line segment, then BRI has title to the line. If the Commission did not approve abandonment of this line segment, then Conrail would still have title to this line segment.]

(f): A map is attached hereto.

(g): The Petitioner certifies that the projected annual revenues of the carrier to be created by this transaction, will not exceed the Class III carrier threshold, nor are they expected to exceed \$5,000,000.00.

2. Caption Summary required by 49 CFR §1150.34 is attached.

3. Environmental and Historical Impact:

Per 49 CFR §1105.6 (c) (2) no environmental documentation need be prepared. The proposed activities will not affect any historic structures.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: November 21, 2006

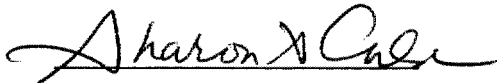
James Riffin, dba The Raritan Valley Connecting Railroad

VERIFICATION

I, James Riffin, dba The Raritan Valley Connecting Railroad, having been duly sworn, state that I am the majority owner of James Riffin, dba The Raritan Valley Connecting Railroad, that I have read the foregoing Notice of Exemption, and that its contents are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

James Riffin, dba The Raritan Valley Connecting Railroad

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 21st day of November, 2006.



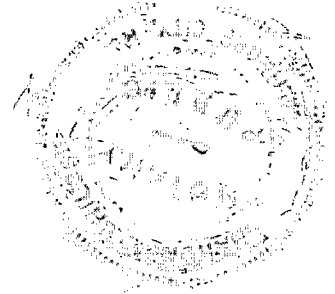
Notary Public

(SEAL)

Sharon A. Childs

my commission expires:

03/12/2007



Vicinity Map

This vicinity map illustrates the proposed subject line for the Millstone River Crossing. The map shows the following details:

- Geographic Features:** Washington Valley Reservoir, East Branch Reservoir, First Watchung Mountain (470'), Millstone River, Spooky Brook Pond, and various parks like Colonial Park Arboretum & Van Der Goot Garden.
- Infrastructure:** Major roads including I-95, I-295, US-202, and US-206. The subject line is shown crossing the Millstone River and connecting to the NS Raritan Valley (NJT) and NS Lehigh lines. Other lines shown include MPSB 5, NISAA 3, and CONRAIL.
- Key Locations:** Bridgewater, Raritan, Somerville, Flinders, Bound Brook, Millstone, and Hamilton.
- Other Landmarks:** Garden State Convention and Exhibition Center, Colonial Park Arboretum & Van Der Goot Garden, and various schools and parks.

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1 Miles
2 KM

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------|---|--------------------|
|  | Local Road |  | County Seat |
|  | US Highway |  | Small Town |
|  | Interstate/Limited Access |  | Summit |
|  | Major Connector |  | Geographic Feature |
|  | State Route |  | Hospital |
|  | Exit |  | Park/Reservation |
|  | Railroad |  | Locale |
|  | Point of Interest |  | Public Airport |