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ENTERED
Office of Chief Counsel
July 22, 2026
Part of
Public Record

BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

FD 36947

TOWN OF GLOSTER, MISSISSIPPI
—ACQUISITION EXEMPTION—
LINE OF GLOSTER SOUTHERN RAILROAD COMPANY, LLC

**VERIFIED NOTICE OF EXEMPTION OF
THE TOWN OF GLOSTER, MISSISSIPPI
PURSUANT TO 49 C.F.R. PART 1150, SUBPART D**

Stephen J. Foland
Robert A. Wimbish
Fletcher & Sippel LLC
29 North Wacker Drive, Suite 800
Chicago, Illinois 60606-3208
Telephone: (312) 252-1500
sfoland@fletcher-sippel.com

**ATTORNEYS FOR THE TOWN OF
GLOSTER, MISSISSIPPI**

Dated: July 22, 2026.

FILED
July 22, 2026
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

FEE RECEIVED
July 22, 2026
SURFACE
TRANSPORTATION BOARD

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—ACQUISITION EXEMPTION—
LINE OF GLOSTER SOUTHERN RAILROAD COMPANY, LLC

**VERIFIED NOTICE OF EXEMPTION OF
THE TOWN OF GLOSTER, MISSISSIPPI
PURSUANT TO 49 C.F.R. PART 1150, SUBPART D**

Pursuant to 49 C.F.R. part 1150, subpart D, the Town of Gloster, Mississippi (the “Gloster”), a non-carrier municipal corporation,¹ hereby files this verified notice of exemption (the “Notice”) to acquire approximately 32.7 route miles of railroad line (the “Line”) owned by Gloster Southern Railroad Company, LLC (“GLSR”), running between milepost 0.0 at Slaughter, Louisiana, and milepost 32.7 at Gloster, Mississippi.

In 2008, Kern W. Schumacher (“Schumacher”) acquired control of GLSR from its previous owners, Georgia-Pacific Wood Products LLC.² Common carrier service on the Line has been suspended since January, 2010, when GLSR

¹ Gloster does not own any other railroad lines, nor does it control (directly or indirectly) any railroad common carriers.

² See *Kern W. Schumacher, V&S Ry., Inc., and La. & Miss. Ry., LLC—Control Exemption—Gloster S. R.R. Co. LLC*, FD 35162 (STB served Jul. 16, 2008).

received authority from the Surface Transportation Board (the “Board”) to discontinue service on the entire Line.³ Although service on the Line has been discontinued, neither Schumacher nor his associated businesses ever received the Board’s authority to abandon it, and accordingly, it remains a line of railroad subject to the Board’s jurisdiction. The Town of Gloster now seeks to acquire the Line, with a view toward restoring service on it.

Pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 1150.33, Gloster submits the following information to the Board:

Name and Address of Applicant: 49 C.F.R. § 1150.33(a)

The full name and address of the applicant is as follows:

Town of Gloster, Mississippi
P.O. Box 1019
251 South 1st Street
Gloster, Mississippi 39638

Applicant’s Representative: 49 C.F.R. § 1150.33(b)

The Town of Gloster’s representative to whom correspondence regarding this transaction should be sent is as follows:

Stephen J. Foland
Fletcher & Sippel LLC
29 North Wacker Drive, Suite 800
Chicago, Illinois 60606-3208
(312) 252-1500
sfoland@fletcher-sippel.com

³ See *Gloster S. R.R. Co. LLC—Discontinuance of Service Exemption—In Amite and Wilkinson Counties, Miss., and E. Feliciana Parish, La.*, AB 1051-X (STB served Dec. 8, 2009).

Statement Concerning Agreement: 49 C.F.R. § 1150.33(c)

The Town of Gloster is finalizing terms of an agreement to purchase the Line from GLSR.

Operator of the Property: 49 C.F.R. § 1150.33(d)

Upon consummation of the subject transaction, Gloster will acquire direct ownership of the Line in place of GLSR. Gloster expects to undertake the proposed transaction on or after the expected August 21, 2026, effective date of the subject class exemption.

Background and Summary of the Transaction: 49 C.F.R. § 1150.33(e)

The Line originated as a timber-hauling concern affiliated with Georgia-Pacific, the historic pulp and paper products company. In 2008, Schumacher acquired an indirect controlling stake in GLSR. Shortly afterward, GLSR secured authority to discontinue service on the Line. GLSR did not obtain authority to abandon the Line. It appears that, at some time after GLSR was authorized to discontinue common carrier operations in 2010, the railroad proceeded to salvage the rails along the entirety of the Line, such that the Line will need extensive rehabilitation to return to a condition to once again support railroad traffic. It also appears that the Schumacher-controlled GLSR conveyed by quitclaim deed – or attempted to convey – interests in discrete segments of the Line’s right-of-way, which transfers appear to the Town either to be void or, alternatively, would be subject to the unextinguished and superior common carrier

rights and obligations of GLSR (currently) or Gloster (post-transaction). Although the Line has never been abandoned, Schumacher salvaged much of the track from the right-of-way.

Gloster seeks to acquire the Line – approximately 32.7 route miles running between milepost 0.0 at Slaughter, Louisiana, and milepost 32.7 at Gloster, Mississippi – from GLSR as part of a strategic regional economic development initiative. Gloster intends to restore rail service to provide an essential transportation link for local forest product industries, specifically to support the logistics requirements of a new sawmill facility that commenced operations in 2024. This initiative is supported by a \$52 million grant awarded to the Town through the Federal Railroad Administration’s Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) program, which is specifically earmarked for the engineering, design, and physical restoration of the Line’s infrastructure. Project documentation and funding objectives are available via the Federal Railroad Administration’s grant records (Award ID: 69A36526420930CRSMS) and official congressional announcements regarding the Gloster Southern Restoration Project.

The name and address of the entity transferring its interest is:

Gloster Southern Railroad Company, LLC
C/o Louisiana & Mississippi Railway, LLC
P.O. Box 26421
Salt Lake City, Utah 84126

Map: 49 C.F.R. § 1150.33(f)

See Exhibit A, attached.

Certificate of Compliance: 49 C.F.R. § 1150.33(g)

The proposed transaction will not cause GLSR's annual operating revenues to meet or exceed the thresholds of Class I or Class II carriers. *See* Certification and Verification, attached.

Interchange Commitments: 49 C.F.R. § 1150.33(h)

The agreement governing this transaction contains no provision limiting future interchange with a third-party connecting carrier. *See* Certification and Verification, attached.

Advance Notice: 49 C.F.R. § 1150.32(e)

GLSR's annual operating revenues are not expected to exceed \$5 million. Accordingly, the Board's advance labor notice requirements at Section 1150.32(e) are not applicable.

Environmental and Historic Preservation Data: 49 C.F.R. § 1105

Under 49 C.F.R. § 1105.6(c)(1)(i), this operation transaction is exempt from environmental reporting requirements. The transaction is not expected to result in significant changes in carrier operations, *i.e.*, changes that exceed the thresholds established at 49 C.F.R. §§ 1150.7(e)(4) or (5).

Under 49 C.F.R. § 1105.8(b)(1), the subject transaction is also exempt from historic preservation reporting requirements. Additionally, following consummation of the proposed transaction, Gloster would need separate authority

from the Board to abandon the Line or any part of it. Furthermore, there are no plans to dispose of or alter properties subject to the Board's jurisdiction which are fifty (50) years old or older.

Caption Summary: 49 C.F.R. § 1150.32(a)

See Exhibit B, attached.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ *R. A. Wimbish*

Stephen J. Foland

Robert A. Wimbish

Fletcher & Sippel LLC

29 North Wacker Drive, Suite 800

Chicago, Illinois 60606-3208

Telephone: (312) 252-1500

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**ATTORNEYS FOR THE TOWN OF
GLOSTER, MISSISSIPPI**

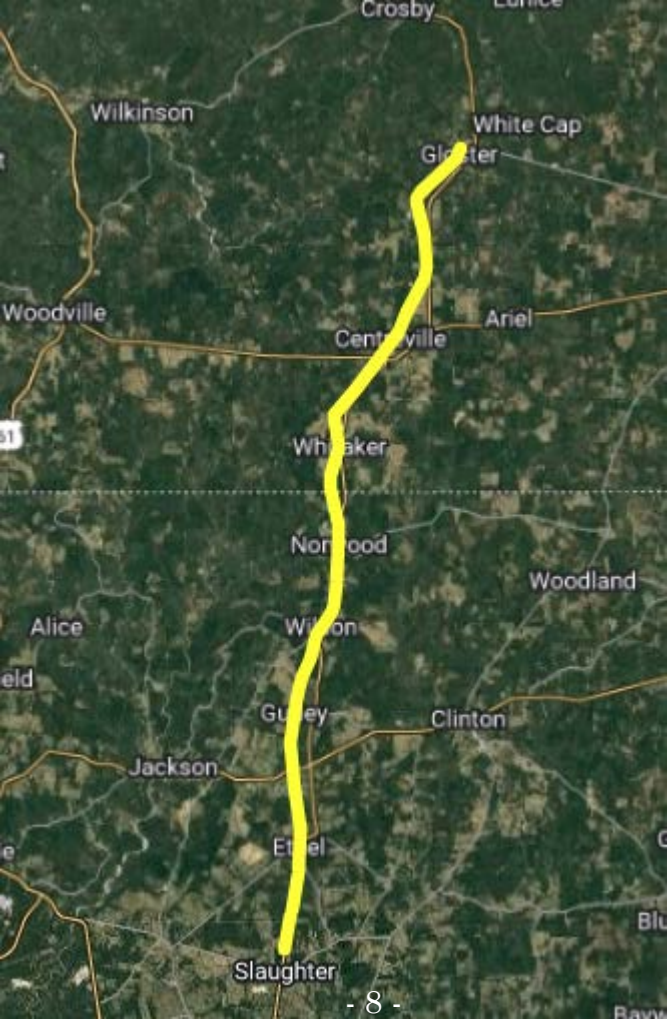
Dated: July 22, 2026

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LINE OF GLOSTER SOUTHERN RAILROAD COMPANY, LLC

EXHIBIT A
MAP



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LINE OF GLOSTER SOUTHERN RAILROAD COMPANY, LLC

EXHIBIT B
CAPTION SUMMARY

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

FD 36947

TOWN OF GLOSTER, MISSISSIPPI
—ACQUISITION EXEMPTION—
GLOSTER SOUTHERN RAILROAD COMPANY, LLC

The Town of Gloster, Mississippi, a non-carrier municipal corporation, has filed a verified notice of exemption (the “Notice”) to acquire approximately 32.7 miles of railroad line (the “Line”) of the Gloster Southern Railroad Company, LLC (“GLSR”) between milepost 0.0, at Slaughter, Louisiana, and milepost 32.7, at Gloster, Mississippi. Comments must be filed with the Board and served on:

Stephen J. Foland
Fletcher & Sippel LLC
29 North Wacker Drive, Suite 800
Chicago, Illinois 60606-3208
(312) 252-1500
sfoland@fletcher-sippel.com

The Notice is filed under 49 C.F.R. § 1150.31. If the Notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*. Petitions 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.

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CERTIFICATION AND VERIFICATION

CERTIFICATION AND VERIFICATION

I, Jerry Norwood, being duly sworn, hereby certify the following under penalty of perjury:

1. I am the Mayor of the Town of Gloster, Mississippi ("Gloster");
2. I certify that Gloster is not currently a common carrier; that the anticipated post-transaction revenues to be realized from this exemption will not exceed the thresholds of a Class I or Class II railroad carrier set forth at 49 C.F.R. § 1201 (1-1); and that the annual operating revenues to be realized from this transaction are not expected to exceed \$5 million;
3. I certify that the proposed transaction does not contain any interchange commitment;
4. That I am qualified and authorized to tender this Certification and Verification; and
5. I have read the foregoing Notice of Exemption and know the facts stated therein to be true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signed: _____



Dated: _____

7-21-26