

WEEKLY RAIL RECAP

For the week ending SAT, January 4, 2003

By Dave Mears

(NOTE: As expected, another light week news-wise, here at the very beginning of 2003. And a happy, safe and prosperous New Year to you all!)

THE WEEK'S TOP NEWS (in chronological order):

(TUE) The U.S. Railroad Retirement Board reported that it expects 11,810 U.S. rail workers to reach Age 60 with at least 30 years' railroad service in 2003, making them eligible for full railroad retirement at that age. The RRB also reported that 6,165 rail workers retired in 2002. (ffd: Florida Times-Union)

(TUE) The British government signed an agreement with 3 private companies to maintain and upgrade London's Underground subway network. Under the partial privatization arrangement, which has been opposed by concerns including trade unions and London Mayor Ken Livingstone, the three companies, known as the "Tube Lines Consortium," will be responsible for maintenance, renewal and upgrade of tracks, trains, signals and stations. Publicly-owned London Underground will continue to manage the network, with continued responsibility for train operations and ticketing. (ffd: wire services)

(WED) Metrolink put into effect an agreement with shortline and regional rail conglomerate RailAmerica whereby RailAmerica would provide backup train operations in case of an Amtrak shutdown. Amtrak currently provides contractual train and engine personnel for Metrolink trains. A Metrolink spokesman said that the insuring arrangement, which will cost Metrolink \$1,000 monthly, was believed to be the first of its kind by a commuter rail authority utilizing Amtrak operating services. (ffd: Orange County Register)

(THU) A Union Pacific freight train derailed 43 cars near Bridgeport, NE. There were no injuries to train personnel or bystanders. The cause of the accident was still under investigation at press time. (ffd: BofLE)

(FRI) A passenger train rear-ended a freight train near Hyderabad, in the nation of India's western regions. The resulting crash killed 11 passengers and injured at least 40 others; it was the fourth train crash with multiple passenger fatalities in India in the last 4 months. Officials blamed the crash on human error. (ffd: wire services)

STATS:

(THU) For the week ending December 28, U.S. carload rail traffic was up 7.9 percent from the comparable week last year, up 12.6 percent in the East and up 5.1 percent in the West. Also for the week ending December 28, U.S. intermodal rail traffic was up 15.8 percent, Canadian carload rail traffic was down 5.4 percent and Canadian intermodal rail traffic was up 32.5 percent, all when ranked with the comparable week last year.

For the month of December, 2002, U.S. carload rail traffic was up 2.2 percent, U.S. intermodal rail traffic was up 9.7 percent, Canadian carload rail traffic was down 3.0 percent, Canadian intermodal rail traffic was up 25.2 percent, Mexico's Transportacion Ferroviaria Mexicana's carload rail traffic was up 26.0 percent and TFM's intermodal rail traffic was up 96.1 percent, all when ranked with December last year.

For the 4th Qtr., 2002, U.S. carload rail traffic was up 0.2 percent, U.S. intermodal rail traffic was up 2.5 percent, Canadian carload rail traffic was down 2.3 percent and Canadian intermodal rail traffic was up 18.8 percent, all when ranked with the fourth quarter last year.

For all of 2002 and comparing with all of 2001, U.S. carload rail traffic was down 0.7 percent. Notable traffic increases included metallic ores up 12.3 percent and motor vehicles and equipment up 3.5 percent; notable traffic decreases included coal down 3.4 percent and grain down 3.3 percent. Also for 2002, U.S. intermodal rail traffic was up 4.6 percent, Canadian carload rail traffic was down 2.7 percent, Canadian intermodal rail traffic was up 12.0 percent, TFM's carload rail traffic was up 15.7 percent and TFM's intermodal rail traffic was up 36.3 percent, all when ranked with all of 2001. (ffd: AAR)

ACQUISITIONS, ABANDONMENTS AND ALIKE:

(MON) Canadian National-Illinois Central filed to abandon approximately 3 miles of its Central District Track in Forrest County, MS. (ffd: STB)

(TUE) The Fort Worth & Western Railroad filed to lease, from Union Pacific, and operate approximately 7 miles of UP's Everman Industrial Lead in Fort Worth, TX. (ffd: STB)

(TUE) The Chicago, Peoria & Western Railway filed to acquire, from Corn Products International, Inc., and operate approximately 17 miles of line between Bedford Park, IL. and Summit, IL. (ffd: STB)

(FRI) The Portland & Western Railroad filed to acquire, from Burlington Northern Santa Fe, and operate approximately 77 miles of line between Quinaby, OR., Salem, OR. and Eugene, OR. (ffd: STB)

**CHANGING PEOPLE AND PLACES:**

(MON) CSX appointed Ray Griffith AVP-Coal Operations, effective immediately. Mr. Griffith was previously CSX's AVP-Southern Region. (ffd: CSX Corp.)

(WED) Canadian National announced that, effective January 1, its Midwest Division would now be composed of the lines of the former Duluth, Winnipeg & Pacific, Wisconsin Central and Grand Trunk Western Railroads, and the northern end of the former Illinois Central. CN further announced that its Gulf Division would now be composed of the other lines of the former Illinois Central and the Chicago, Central & Pacific. CN also appointed Gordon Trafton VP-Midwest Division and Peter Marshall VP-Gulf Division. (ffd: CN Corp.)

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Weekly Rail Recap is edited from public news sources and published weekly, usually on Sunday or Monday, to the rail and transit industries and those interested in them. Send an e-mail to [djmservices@aol.com](mailto:djmservices@aol.com) to receive it, with my compliments.

HAVE A SAFE AND PROSPEROUS WEEK,  
Dave Mears  
Cherry Hill, New Jersey, USA