

WEEKLY RAIL REVIEW

FOR THE WEEK ENDING SAT, SEPTEMBER 3, 2005

BY DAVE MEARS

(NOTE: Rail news related to Hurricane Katrina is summarized in a special extra edition being sent along with this customary edition.)

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

(MON) The Department of Energy announced that it would file to remove a mile-wide, 319-mile-long right-of-way from public use in Nevada. USDOE wants to reserve the right-of-way for the rail line it is planning to build to carry the nation's most hazardous nuclear waste in special trains to the Yucca Mountain repository. The line will branch off the Union Pacific at Caliente, NV, approximately 150 miles northeast of Las Vegas, NV. A USDOE spokesman said that it would now ask for any public comment on its filing. (ffd: wire services)

(MON) Union Pacific opened its new \$100 million intermodal terminal just south of Dallas, TX. The terminal totals 364 acres in size, with facilities that include 10 lanes for registering inbound and outbound traffic and 4,000 parking spots for containers and trailers. At opening ceremonies, UP VP-Intermodal Marketing Brian McDonald commented that, with the new terminal, "Dallas becomes a really tremendously competitive island point for Asian imports." (ffd: Dallas Morning News)

(TUE) Union Pacific suffered an on-duty employee fatality. John Schaer, Age 58, was fatally injured while operating a UP-owned semi-truck with flatbed trailer. He was killed when his truck was struck by an ore train while crossing the UP line in Clyman, WI. (ffd: Watertown Daily Times)

(TUE) An arbiter ruled that the New York City Transit Authority's elimination of conductors on its L subway line violated a 1994 contract between the New York City Transit Authority and the Transport Workers Union. A new traffic control system has been installed on the line, remotely controlling train operations and permitting the motormen to absorb conductor responsibilities. Although the arbiter ordered that the practice "cease and desist", a NYCTA spokesman said it still had no plans to restore conductor positions on the line and that it was instead considering an appeal on the ruling to the New York State Supreme Court. (ffd: New York Daily News, New York Times)

(WED) A special train operated in conjunction with the Operation Lifesaver crossing safety and trespasser prevention campaign was struck by a tractor-trailer at a crossing in Cove City, NC. The train's engineer reported that the truck's driver was trying to beat the train to the crossing. The truck's driver received minor injuries in the crash, as did 3 of the 100 passengers aboard the OL train. After the crash, the passengers left the train and continued their trip on a school bus. (ffd: wire services)

(WED) Canadian Pacific Railway announced that it had started a three-year scholarship program for women entering

conductor training sessions at four Canadian colleges. A CPR spokesman commented, "At present, we have about 1,200 women employees in Canada with about 200 working in field operations...We want to increase this number, particularly for the conductor position, which can lead to other career opportunities, including locomotive engineer." The spokesman added that CPR plans to provide 10 such scholarships annually for at least the next 3 years. (ffd: Diversity Magazine)

(THU) Cincinnati, OH Mayor Charlie Luken order police to shut down a meeting between the Indiana & Ohio Railroad and persons who evacuated their homes related to a recent hazardous release from a tank car on the I&O. The mayor said that the meeting was shut down because it was being held to write checks to evacuees in exchange for their signing waivers not to sue, which he said the I&O told him it would not ask evacuees to do at this time. The mayor has claimed that the tank car, which contained a time-sensitive hazardous material, had been sitting idle and forgotten about for an extended period of time. (ffd: Cincinnati Enquirer)

(THU) Canadian Transport Minister Jean Lapierre ordered a federal safety review of Canadian National's operations. The review follows a series of derailments on CN, including 2 in August that caused notable environmental damages. A spokesman for the minister said that, in the past 10 years, CN has been prosecuted 7 times for offenses under the Canadian Railway Safety Act; CN pleaded guilty to 3, was acquitted of 1, and has 3 are still pending. (ffd: Vancouver Sun)

(THU) Philadelphia, PA's SEPTA transit system held a dedication ceremony to reopen its No. 15 streetcar line. The line had been operated with buses since 1992. SEPTA will operate the line with 18 PCC-type streetcars that have been completely rebuilt. The line totals 18.2 miles in length, operating between 63rd Street and Girard Avenues in West Philadelphia and Richmond and Westmoreland Streets in Philadelphia's Port Richmond neighborhood. Although dedicated this Thursday, a SEPTA spokesman said that regular service on the line would not begin until Sunday, September 4. (ffd: SEPTA)

(FRI) Amtrak announced that it would relocate its passenger station in Greensboro, NC. An Amtrak spokesman said that its trains would move back to the historic train station in downtown Greensboro built by Southern Railway in 1927. The spokesman added that the location should prove more convenient to passengers and would also offer connections to the Greensboro Transit Authority and to intercity bus services. (ffd: NARP)

#### STATS – TRAFFIC:

(THU) For the week ending August 27, 2005, U.S. carload rail volume grand totaled 33.6 billion ton-miles, up 0.3 percent from the comparable week last year. U.S. carload rail traffic was down 1.6 percent, up 0.2 percent in the East, but down 3.0 percent in the West. Notable traffic increases included non-grain farm products up 25.5 percent, grain mill products up 15.1 percent, nonmetallic minerals up 12.3 percent, and grain up 8.7 percent; notable traffic decreases included metallic ores down 21.6 percent and waste and scrap materials down 9.7 percent. Also for the week, U.S. intermodal rail traffic was up 4.9 percent – and at 237,135 units, the highest weekly total of this type traffic this year. Also for week, Canadian carload rail traffic was up 1.9 percent, Canadian intermodal rail traffic was up 7.3 percent, Mexico's Transportacion Ferroviaria Mexicana's carload rail traffic was down 7.4 percent, and TFM's intermodal rail traffic was down 2.8 percent.

For the period January 1 through August 27, 2005, U.S. rail volume grand totaled 1.08 trillion ton-miles, up 2.2 percent from the comparable period last year. Also for this period, U.S. carload rail traffic was up 1.4 percent, U.S. intermodal rail traffic was up 6.2 percent, Canadian carload rail traffic was down 0.4 percent, Canadian intermodal rail traffic was up 2.6 percent, TFM's carload rail traffic was down 0.8 percent, and TFM's intermodal rail traffic was up 5.4 percent. (ffd: AAR)

#### MORE STATS – "BIG 7" OPERATING PERFORMANCE:

(Note: These will not be published this week, but both this week's and next week's operating stats will be published next week.)

#### EXPANSIONS, CONTRACTIONS AND ALIKE:

(TUE) Arkansas Midland filed to lease, from Union Pacific, and operate approximately 12 miles of line, consisting of UP's former Cypress Bend Industrial Lead between McGehee, AR and Cypress Bend, AR, and UP's former Potlatch Spur between the Cypress Bend Industrial Lead and Arkansas City, AR. (ffd: STB)

(TUE) Norfolk Southern filed to discontinue service over approximately 10 miles of line between Foxville, SC and Hasskamp, SC. (ffd: STB)

(WED) Los Angeles Junction Railway filed to abandon approximately one-half mile of line in Maywood, CA. (ffd: STB)

(FRI) Watco's Kansas & Oklahoma Railroad announced that it would acquire from Union Pacific approximately 27 miles of line between Newton, KS and McPherson, KS. K&O has leased and operated this line since September, 2002. (ffd: Progressive Railroading)

(FRI) Kansas City Southern filed to abandon approximately 4 miles of line in and near Winnfield, LA. (ffd: STB)

(FRI) Norfolk Southern filed to abandon approximately 1 mile of former Cincinnati, New Orleans, and Texas Pacific line in and near Rockwood, TN. (ffd: STB)

#### APPOINTMENTS, ACHIEVEMENTS AND ALIKE:

(THU) Norfolk Southern appointed Bruno Maestri SVP-Public Affairs. Mr. Maestri, who was most recently NS's VP-Public Affairs, replaces John Corcoran, who recently retired from NS after 43 years service. (ffd: Progressive

Railroading)

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Weekly Rail Review is edited from public news sources and published weekly to those working in, or interested in, rail and transit. Send an e-mail toto receive it, with my compliments.

HAVE A SAFE AND PROSPEROUS WEEK,

Dave Mears

Cherry Hill, New Jersey, USA