

**EMPLOYER STATUS DETERMINATION**

**Palouse River & Coulee City Railroad, Inc.**

This is the determination of the Railroad Retirement Board regarding the status of the Palouse River & Coulee City Railroad, Inc., (PRCC) as an employer under the Railroad Retirement Act (45 U.S.C. §231 et seq.) (RRA) and Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act (45 U.S.C. §351 et seq.) (RUIA). PRCC has not previously been determined to be an employer under the RRA and the RUIA.

Information about PRCC was furnished by Mr. Mike C. Marler, general manager of PRCC. According to information provided by Mr. Marler, PRCC began operations on September 6, 1996, and has twelve employees who were compensated from September 13, 1996. Mr. Marler stated that PRCC operates a short line railroad over approximately 277.3 miles. PRCC interchanges with the Blue Mountain Railroad and the Burlington Northern. PRCC estimates that it will handle approximately 9500 car loads per year. The acquisition of the rail line was approved by the Surface Transportation Board on August 28, 1996. See STB Finance Docket 33041.

Section 1(a)(1) of the RRA defines the term "employer" to include:

- (i) any carrier by railroad subject to the jurisdiction of the Surface Transportation Board under Part A of subtitle IV of title 49.

The evidence establishes that PRCC is carrier by railroad subject to the jurisdiction of the Surface Transportation Board. Accordingly, it is determined that the Palouse River & Coulee City Railroad, Inc. became a rail carrier employer under the Railroad Retirement and Railroad Unemployment Insurance Acts effective September 6, 1996, the date on which it commenced operations.

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Glen L. Bower

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V. M. Speakman, Jr.

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