

EMPLOYER STATUS DETERMINATION  
Grand Rapids Eastern Railroad, Inc.

This is the determination of the Railroad Retirement Board concerning the status of Grand Rapids Eastern Railroad, Inc. (GRER) as an employer under the Railroad Retirement Act (45 U.S.C. S231 et seq.) (RRA) and the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act (45 U.S.C. S351 et seq.) (RUIA).

In Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) Finance Docket No. 32297, decided July 19, 1993, GRER filed a notice of exemption to purchase, lease, and operate approximately 39.0 miles of rail line owned by Central Michigan Railroad Company (CM) (BA No.3270). The ICC decision stated that GRER was acquiring approximately 37.5 miles of main rail line between milepost 159.5 in Grand Rapids, Michigan and milepost 122.0 in Ionia, Michigan. The ICC decision also stated that GRER would lease from CM approximately 1.5 miles of branch line in Grand Rapids, which branch connects the main line at milepost 158.2 to the facilities of Grand Rapids Press.

Information about GRER was furnished by its accountant, Susan Naylor. GRER first hired employees on July 12, 1993, and began operations on July 10, 1993. GRER provides for bridge traffic and switching for approximately eight customers, including Amway, Grand Rapids Press, and American Bumper. GRER interchanges with Conrail (BA No.1321), Tuscola and Saginaw Bay Railway, (BA No.3243), CSX (BA No.1524), and the Mid-Michigan Railroad (BA No.4268). The active length of trackage operated is approximately 43.5 miles, with terminal points at MP 165.5 at Grand Rapids running east to MP 122.0 at Ionia, Michigan.

Based upon the information summarized above, it is determined that Grand Rapids Eastern Railroad, Inc. became a rail carrier employer under the RRA and the RUIA effective July 10, 1993, the date on which it began operations.

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Glen L. Bower

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V. M. Speakman, Jr.

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Jerome F. Kever