



310941

ENTERED
Office of Chief Counsel
March 5, 2026
Part of
Public Record

Justin J. Marks
T (202) 772-0916
F +12027720919
Email:jjmarks@ClarkHill.com

Clark Hill
1001 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Suite 1300 South
Washington, DC 20004
T (202) 772-0909
F (202) 772-0919

March 5, 2026

VIA E-FILING

Chief of Case Administration
Office of Chief Counsel
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

Re: STB Docket No. FD 36906
Connecticut Southern Railroad, Inc.
-Change of Operators Exemption-
Central New England Railroad, Inc.

Dear Chief of Case Administration:

Enclosed for filing in the above referenced docket is a Change of Operators Exemption being filed under 49 U.S.C. § 10902 for Connecticut Southern Railroad, Inc. ("CSO") to operate a line of railroad owned by the Connecticut Department of Transportation.

The filing fee has been paid via pay.gov. If you have any questions related to this filing, please let me know.

Respectfully,

Justin J. Marks
Counsel for Connecticut Southern Railroad, Inc.

Enclosure

FILED
March 5, 2026
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

FEE RECEIVED
March 5, 2026
SURFACE
TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Before the
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

STB Docket No. FD 36906

CONNECTICUT SOUTHERN RAILROAD, INC.
– CHANGE OF OPERATORS EXEMPTION –
CENTRAL NEW ENGLAND RAILROAD, INC.

VERIFIED NOTICE OF EXEMPTION
UNDER 49 C.F.R. §1150.41

(includes color images)

Justin J. Marks
Clark Hill PLC
1001 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.
Suite 1300 South
Washington, DC 20004
(202) 772-0916
jmarks@clarkhill.com

Eric M. Hocky
Clark Hill PLC
Two Commerce Square
2001 Market St.
Suite 2620
Philadelphia, PA 19103
(215) 640-8523
ehocky@clarkhill.com

*Attorneys for Connecticut Southern
Railroad, Inc.*

Dated: March 5, 2026

Before the
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

STB Docket No. FD 36906

CONNECTICUT SOUTHERN RAILROAD, INC.
– CHANGE OF OPERATORS EXEMPTION –
CENTRAL NEW ENGLAND RAILROAD, INC.

VERIFIED NOTICE OF EXEMPTION
UNDER 49 C.F.R. §1150.41

Connecticut Southern Railroad, Inc. (“CSO”), a Class III rail carrier, files this Notice of Exemption pursuant to 49 C.F.R. §1150.41(c) to exempt from regulation under 49 U.S.C. §10902, its operation of approximately 8.64 miles of rail line (the “Subject Line”) owned by the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation (“CT DOT”) from milepost 0.0, at Hartford, CT, to milepost 8.64, at Griffins, CT (known as the Griffins Industrial Track). CSO will be entering into a lease with CT DOT (the “Lease”) to operate the Subject Line. Currently, no customers exist on the Subject Line. The current operator of the Subject Line is Central New England Railroad, Inc. (“CNZR”).¹ However, the agreement between CNZR and CT DOT is ending and CSO will become the new operator of the Subject Line.

CSO is filing this Change of Operators Exemption pursuant to 49 C.F.R. §1150.41(c). CNZR has authorized CSO to represent that CNZR does not object to this filing which will result in CSO obtaining authority to operate the Subject Line as a common carrier and releasing CNZR from its common carrier obligation to operate the Subject Line from milepost 0.0 to milepost 8.64.

¹ *Central New England Railroad, Inc. – Operation Exemption – Line Owned by State of Connecticut Department of Transportation*, STB Finance Docket No. 33680 (served January 28, 1999).

Notice

In accordance with 49 C.F.R. §1150.43, CSO hereby provides the following information:

- (a) The full name and address of Applicant:

Connecticut Southern Railroad, Inc.
440 Windsor Street
Hartford, CT 06142

- (b) Applicant's Representatives:

Justin J. Marks
Clark Hill PLC
1001 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.
Suite 1300 South
Washington, DC 20004
(202) 772-0916
jmarks@clarkhill.com

Eric M. Hocky
Clark Hill PLC
Two Commerce Square
2001 Market St.
Suite 2620
Philadelphia, PA 19103
(215) 640-8523
ehocky@clarkhill.com

- (c) CT DOT and CSO will be entering into the Lease for CSO to operate the Subject Line.

- (d) CSO will be the operator of the Subject Line.

- (e) Brief Summary of the Proposed Transaction: CSO will be entering into the Lease for CSO to operate as a common carrier on the Subject Line. At present, no customers exist on the line.

- i. The name and address of the company transferring operation of the Subject Line:

Central New England Railroad, Inc.
P.O. Box 311196
Newington, CT 06131

The name and address of the owner of the Subject Line:

Connecticut Department of Transportation
2800 Berlin Turnpike
Newington, CT 06111

- ii. The proposed schedule for consummation of the transaction is after, the effective date of this notice, and after CSO and CNZR mutually agree on a transition date.
- iii. The mileposts of the Subject Line are between milepost 0.0 and milepost 8.64.
- iv. The total mileage to be leased and operated is approximately 8.64 miles.
- (f) Attached as Exhibit A to this Notice of Exemption is a map of the Subject Line.
- (g) CSO certifies that its projected revenues as a result of the transaction will not result in the creation of a Class II or Class I rail carrier.
- (h) Interchange Commitment: CSO certifies that the Lease does not impose or include an interchange commitment.
- (i) No shippers exist on the Subject Line.

Labor Protection

Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. §10902(c), approval of this transaction may not be subjected to labor protection.

Labor Notice Certification

CSO further certifies that its projected annual revenue following the transaction will exceed \$5 million. By letter to the Board dated February 20, 2026, CSO certified that it provided notice to CNZR employees in accordance with 49 C.F.R. § 1150.42(e).

Environmental and Historic Reports

Pursuant to 49 C.F.R. §1105.6(c)(2), no environmental documentation should be required because this proceeding involves only a change of operators on the Subject Line that will not result in significant changes to carrier operations, and as a result the changes will not exceed the thresholds established in 49 C.F.R. §1105.7(e)(4) or (e)(5). Further Board approval is required for CSO to discontinue service, and there are no plans to dispose of or alter properties subject to the Board's jurisdiction that are 50 years old or older. Accordingly, no environmental or historic documentation is required. *See* 49 C.F.R. §1105.6(c)(1); 49 C.F.R. §1105.8(b)(1).

Caption Summary

Attached hereto as Exhibit B is the caption summary required by 49 C.F.R. §1150.44.

[REMAINDER OF PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK]

Conclusion

Accordingly, CSO requests that the Board issue a notice allowing CSO to assume operations of the Subject Line.

Respectfully submitted,



Justin J. Marks
Clark Hill PLC
1001 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.
Suite 1300 South
Washington, DC 20004
(202) 772-0916
jmarks@clarkhill.com

Eric M. Hocky
Clark Hill PLC
Two Commerce Square
2001 Market St.
Suite 2620
Philadelphia, PA 19103
(215) 640-8523
ehocky@clarkhill.com

*Attorneys for Connecticut Southern
Railroad, Inc.*

Dated: March 5, 2026

VERIFICATION

I, Brian McClain, President of Connecticut Southern Railroad, Inc., verify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Further, I certify that I am qualified and authorized to file the foregoing document.

Executed on March 2, 2026.



Brian McClain
President

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this date, a copy of the foregoing was served by email or US first-class mail on the following:

Kristine Little
Holland & Knight
800 17th Street N.W., Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20006
kristine.little@hklaw.com
Counsel for Central New England Railroad, Inc.



Justin J. Marks

Dated: March 5, 2026

EXHIBIT A

MAP

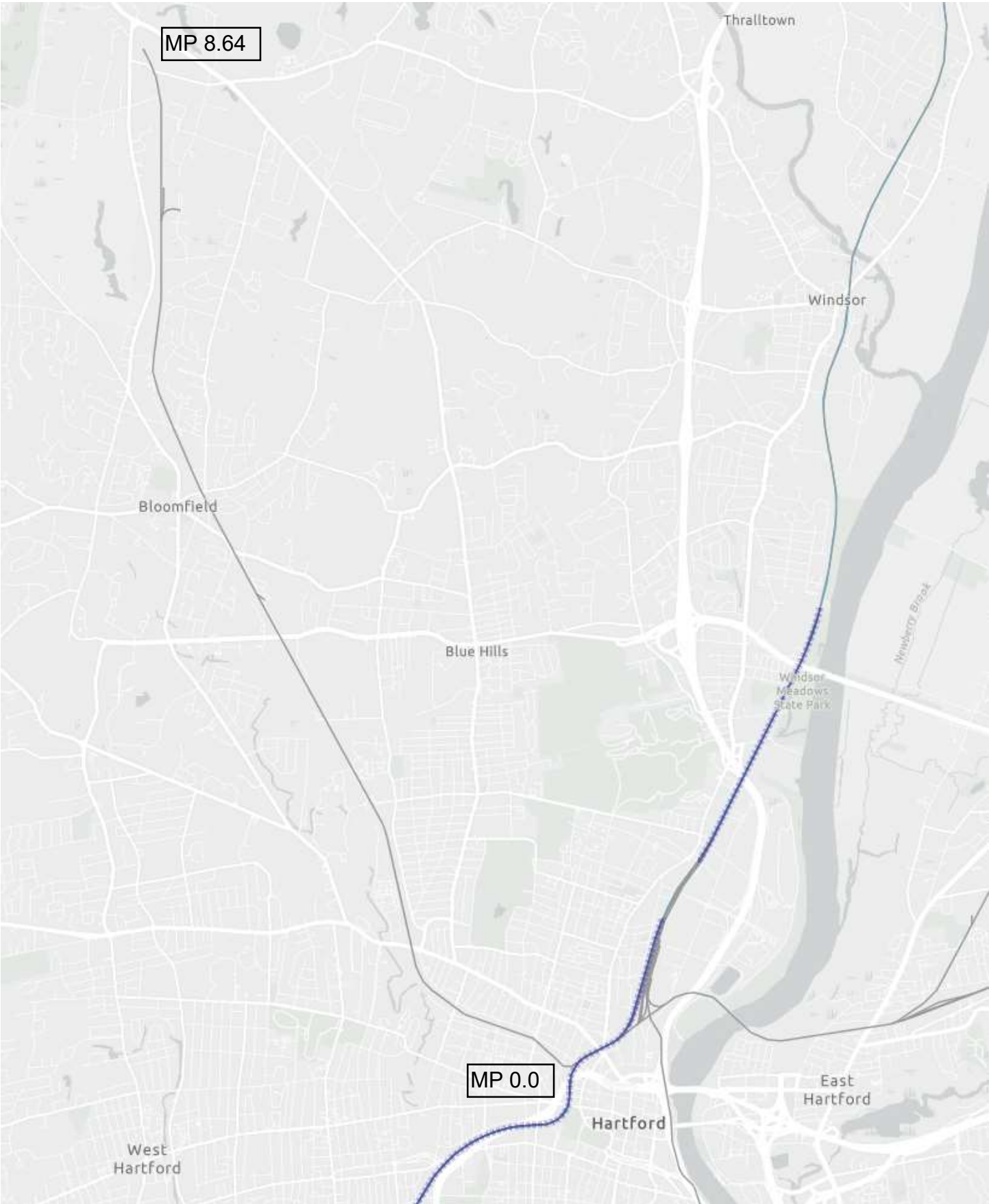


EXHIBIT B

CAPTION SUMMARY

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Notice of Exemption

STB Docket No. FD 36906

**CONNECTICUT SOUTHERN RAILROAD, INC.
– CHANGE OF OPERATORS EXEMPTION –
CENTRAL NEW ENGLAND RAILROAD, INC.**

VERIFIED NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Connecticut Southern Railroad, Inc. (“CSO”), a Class III rail carrier, files this Notice of Exemption pursuant to 49 C.F.R. §1150.41(c) to exempt from regulation under 49 U.S.C. §10902, its operation of approximately 8.64 miles of rail line (the “Subject Line”) owned by the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation (“CT DOT”) from milepost 0.0, at Hartford, CT, to milepost 8.64, at Griffins, CT (known as the Griffins Industrial Track). CSO will be entering into a lease with CT DOT (the “Lease”) to operate the Subject Line. Currently, no customers exist on the Subject Line. The current operator of the Subject Line is Central New England Railroad, Inc. (“CNZR”). However, the agreement between CNZR and CT DOT is ending and CSO will become the new operator of the Subject Line.

Comments must be filed with the Board and served on CSO’s representative:

Justin J. Marks
Clark Hill PLC
1001 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.
Suite 1300 South
Washington, DC 20004
(202) 772-0916
jmarks@clarkhill.com

The Notice is filed under 49 C.F.R. §1150.41. 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.

Board decisions and notices are available at www.stb.gov.

Decided: _____, 2026.

By the Board, Anika S. Cooper, Chief Counsel, Office of Chief Counsel