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June 30, 2026

311695

VIA E-FILING

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

ENTERED
Office of Chief Counsel
June 30, 2026
Part of
Public Record

Re: STB Docket No. FD 36943
Harrison County Railroad Authority
- Change of Operators Exemption-
Gulf & Ship Island Railroad LLC

Dear Chief of Case Administration:

Enclosed for filing in the above referenced docket is a change of operator exemption being filed under 49 U.S.C. § 10901 for Harrison County Railroad Authority ("HCRA") to operate a line of railroad in Harrison County, Mississippi.

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

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Justin J. Marks'.

Justin J. Marks
Counsel for Harrison County Railroad Authority

Enclosure

FEE RECEIVED
June 30, 2026
SURFACE
TRANSPORTATION BOARD

FILED
June 30, 2026
SURFACE
TRANSPORTATION BOARD

clarkhill.com

Before the
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

STB Docket No. FD 36943

HARRISON COUNTY RAILROAD AUTHORITY
–CHANGE OF OPERATORS EXEMPTION –
GULF & SHIP ISLAND RAILROAD LLC

VERIFIED NOTICE OF EXEMPTION
UNDER 49 U.S.C. § 10901 AND 49 C.F.R. § 1150.31

(includes color images)

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*Attorneys for Harrison County Railroad
Authority*

Dated: June 30, 2026

Before the
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

STB Docket No. FD 36943

HARRISON COUNTY RAILROAD AUTHORITY
–CHANGE OF OPERATORS EXEMPTION –
GULF & SHIP ISLAND RAILROAD LLC

VERIFIED NOTICE OF EXEMPTION
UNDER 49 U.S.C. § 10901 AND 49 C.F.R. § 1150.31

Harrison County Railroad Authority (“HCRA”), a non-carrier, files this Notice of Exemption to exempt from regulation its operation of approximately 5 miles of rail line (the “Subject Line”) controlled (via ownership and a lease) by the Harrison County Development Commission (“HCDC”), a non-carrier, over a line of railroad commonly known as the Seaway Lead that extends between a point approximately 800 feet east of US Highway 49 on the Seaway Lead, and the end of the Seaway Lead at Bernard Bayou Industrial Park at or near Gulfport in Harrison County, Mississippi. The current operator of the Subject Line is Gulf & Ship Island Railroad LLC (“GSIR”).¹ GSIR and HCDC have terminated their agreement and HCRA will become the new operator of the Subject Line. A map of the Subject Line is enclosed as Exhibit A.

HCRA is filing this Change of Operators Exemption pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 10901 and 49 C.F.R. § 1150.31(a)(3). GSIR has told HCRA that it will not oppose the change of operating authority. As a result, HCRA will obtain authority to operate the Subject Line as a common carrier and GSIR will be released from its common carrier obligation to operate the Subject Line.

¹ *Gulf & Ship Island Railroad LLC – Lease and Operation Exception – Rail Line of Harrison County Development Commission at or Near Gulfport, Harrison County, Miss*, STB Finance Docket No. 36519 (served June 2, 2021).

Notice

In accordance with 49 C.F.R. §1150.33, HCRA hereby provides the following information:

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

Harrison County Railroad Authority

Physical Address

12281 Intraplex Parkway
Gulfport, MS 39503

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 6278
Gulfport, MS 39506

- (b) Applicant's Representatives:

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Suite 1300 South
Washington, DC 20004
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2001 Market St.
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- (c) HCDC owns and leases the Subject Line. HCRA is a subsidiary of HCDC and will assume responsibility for the Subject Line. HCDC voted to authorize HCRA to file this notice of exemption on June 30, 2026.
- (d) HCRA will be the operator of the Subject Line.
- (e) Brief Summary of the Proposed Transaction: Historically, the Subject Line was

non-carrier industrial lead track. HCDC acquired the line around 2020.

Subsequently, GSIR obtained Board authority to operate the Subject Line as a common carrier. HCRA will now be assuming the common carrier obligation from GSIR.

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

Gulf & Ship Island Railroad
c/o Rock Island Rail
Post Office Box 601
Hernando, Mississippi 38632
 - ii. The proposed schedule for consummation of the transaction is after the effective date of this Notice.
 - iii. The Subject Line is not measured utilizing mileposts. However, it extends between a point approximately 800 feet east of US Highway 49 on the Seaway Lead, and the end of the Seaway Lead at Bernard Bayou Industrial Park at or near Gulfport in Harrison County, Mississippi.
 - iv. The total mileage to be leased is approximately 5 miles.
- (f) Attached as Exhibit A to this Notice of Exemption is a map of the Subject Line.
 - (g) HCRA 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: HCRA certifies that the Agreement does not impose or include an interchange commitment.
 - (i) Enclosed as Exhibit C is a list of known shippers that use or could potentially utilize on the Subject Line.

Labor Protection

Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. §10901(c), approval of this transaction may not be subjected to

labor protection.

Labor Notice Certification

HCRA certifies that its projected annual revenue following the transaction will not exceed \$5 million per year, and therefore no advanced notice to labor is required.

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 HCRA to discontinue or abandon 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. §1150.34.

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Conclusion

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

Respectfully submitted,



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ehocky@clarkhill.com

*Attorneys for Harrison County
Railroad Authority*

Dated: June 30, 2026

VERIFICATION

I, Bill Lavers, CEO of Harrison County Railroad Authority, 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 June 30, 2026.



Bill Lavers
CEO

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:

Robert Riley
Gulf & Ship Island Railroad
c/o Rock Island Rail
Post Office Box 601
Hernando, Mississippi 38632

robert.riley@rockislandrail.com

and the shippers listed on Exhibit C.



Justin J. Marks

Dated: June 30, 2026

EXHIBIT A

MAP



Grey = Subject Line and 49 USC 10906 Side Track
Purple = CPKC Rail Line

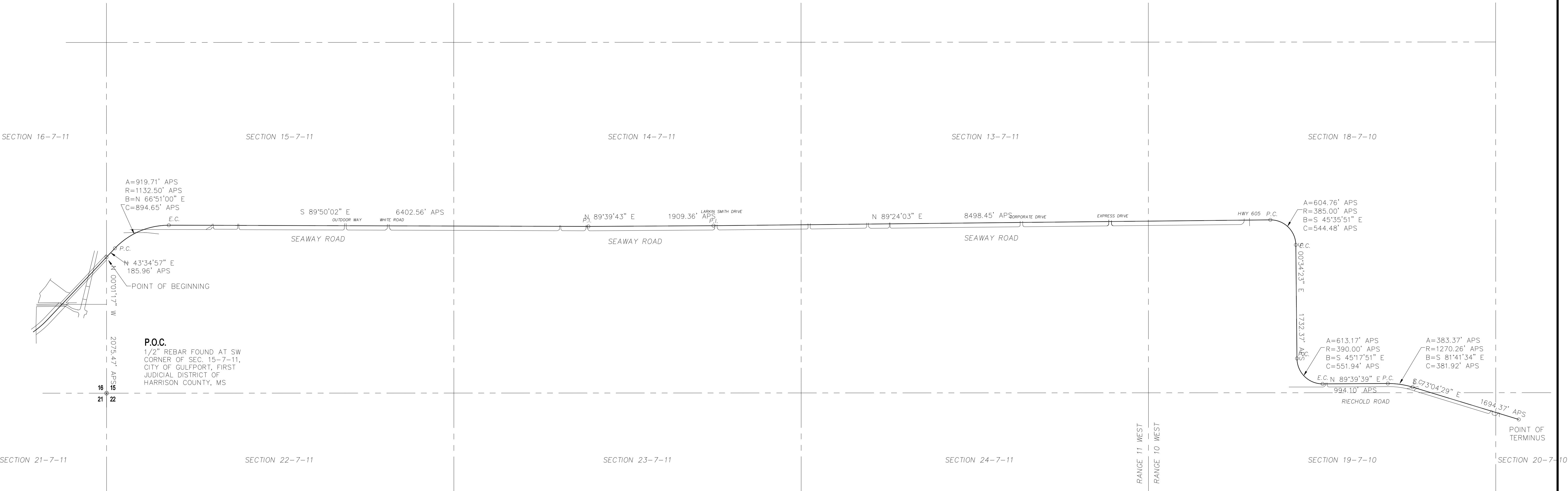


SCALE: 1"=700'
IRF 1/2" IRON ROD FOUND
IPF 3/4" IRON PIPE FOUND
IRS 1/2" IRON ROD SET

P=PLAT OF RECORD
APS=MEASURED
D=DEED
PC= BEGINNING OF CURVE
EC= END OF CURVE
PI= POINT OF INTERSECTION



KANSAS CITY SOUTHERN RAILROAD
SECTIONS 13, 14 & 15, T.7S., R.11W.
&
SECTIONS 18, 19 & 20, T.7.S., R.10W.
GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI



Survey of the centerline of a railroad spur situated and being located in a part of Sections 13, 14 and 15, Township 7 South, Range 11 West, and also in a part of Sections 18, 19 and 20, Township 7 South, Range 10 West, all in the City of Gulfport, First Judicial District of Harrison County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as follows, to-wit:

Commencing at a 1/2" rebar found at the southwest corner of said Section 15; thence N 00°01'17" W 2075.47 feet along the west line of said Section 15 to a point in the center of a railroad spur and being the Point of Beginning; thence along said centerline of a railroad spur the following 12 courses: N 43°34'57" E 185.96 feet to a point of curvature; thence 919.71 feet along a curve to the right having a radius of 1132.50 feet and also having a chord bearing and distance of N 66°51'00" E 894.65 feet to the end of said curve; thence S 89°50'02" E 6402.56 feet to a point of intersection; thence N 89°39'43" E 1909.36 feet to a point of intersection; thence N 89°24'03" E 8498.45 feet to a point of curvature; thence 604.76 feet along a curve to the right having a radius of 385.00 feet and also having a chord bearing and distance of S 45°35'51" E 544.48 feet to the end of said curve; thence S 00°34'23" E 1732.37 feet to a point of curvature; thence 613.17 feet along a curve to the left having a radius of 390.00 feet and also having a chord bearing and distance of S 45°17'51" E 551.94 feet to the end of said curve; thence N 89°39'39" E 994.10 feet to a point of curvature; thence 383.37 feet along a curve to the right having a radius of 1270.26 feet and also having a chord bearing and distance of S 81°41'34" E 381.92 feet to the end of said curve; thence S 73°04'29" E 1694.37 feet to the Point of Terminus of a said railroad spur.

This survey does not reflect a title search by Gary A. Durbin, P.L.S., nor should it be considered as such.

This is a Class "B" survey per "The Standards of Practice for Land Surveying in the State of Mississippi".

Bearings based on GPS Observation of the east margin of Rich Avenue, NAD 83, MS East Zone, convergence angle -0.130449, scale factor 0.999960.

This property is situated in Zone "X" per FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map, City of Gulfport, Harrison County, Mississippi, Community Panel Number 28047C-0357-G, Revised: 6/16/09.

This is to CERTIFY that this plat or map and the survey on which it is based were made in accordance with "The Standards of Practice for Land Surveying in the State of Mississippi".

Gary A. Durbin, P.L.S. 2401
August 6, 2021

Boundary surveys are based upon the recorded subdivision plat in cases of regular subdivision lots. Boundary surveys of properties not a part of a regular subdivision are based upon title information provided by the party requesting the survey. Boundary survey plats reflect information discovered by the surveyor in the normal course of work and does not necessarily show every possible condition affecting the property. Easements, servitudes, building ordinances, zoning and other legal encumbrances may exist. Consult a title attorney if you wish to discover all legal encumbrances attached to property.

Building setbacks, required elevations, wetlands determination, et cetera, to be prescribed by appropriate governing bodies.

GARY A. DURBIN, P.L.S.
PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR
2081 TRAILWOOD DRIVE, BILOXI, MS. 39532
PH. (228) 365-3632 Teelokgd@aol.com

EXHIBIT B

CAPTION SUMMARY

Before the
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

STB Docket No. FD 36943

HARRISON COUNTY RAILROAD AUTHORITY
–CHANGE OF OPERATORS EXEMPTION –
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Comments must be filed with the Board and served on HCRA’s representative:

Justin J. Marks
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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. §1150.31. 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

EXHIBIT C

LIST OF SHIPPERS

Interior Exterior
12111 Intraplex Pkwy
Gulfport, MS 39503

Blacklidge Emulsions
10480 Reichold Road
Gulfport, MS 39503

Brit@blacklidge.com