

*Aiken Railway Company, LLC*  
Post Office Box 1729, Taylors, South Carolina 29687 - 0036

Press Release

**October 31, 2012**

Taylors, South Carolina

Aiken Railway Company, LLC (“AIKR”), a wholly owned subsidiary of Western Carolina Railway Service Corporation (“WCRS”), announced today that it has entered into a lease agreement with Norfolk Southern Railway (“NS”) to lease and operate 18.9 miles of rail lines in Aiken County, SC.

Pending Surface Transportation Board (“STB”) approval under STB Finance Docket No. 35665, AIKR will assume operations from NS on two line segments effective December 1, 2012; 12.45 miles between Warrenton, SC and Oakwood, SC, and 6.45 miles between Aiken, SC and Seclay (North Aiken), SC.

AIKR anticipates offering 5-day per week service on both line segments and looks forward to working with the Economic Development Partnership of South Carolina as well as the South Carolina Department of Commerce to grow existing and develop new rail-served businesses along both segments. AIKR plans to make a significant initial infrastructure investment to insure a seamless transition with uninterrupted safe service and plans to reinvest in the property as business grows.

“We have a proven track record of successful growth and infrastructure investment at corporate affiliate Greenville & Western Railway (in Anderson County, SC) and plan to apply those successful business principals to the new operation in Aiken County,” AIKR President Steven C. Hawkins stated enthusiastically. “In addition to developing opportunities with adjoining businesses,” elaborated Hawkins, “AIKR is eager to explore transloading and distribution opportunities for those businesses that could clearly benefit from rail access but are not located immediately proximate to the line.”

Businesses interested in receiving dependable local rail service in Aiken County may contact AIKR’s business office at 864-236-7051 for more information.

For continuing updates on the further growth and development of Aiken Railway Company, LLC, pay a routine visit to: <http://www.wcrscorp.com/railroads.html>.

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Western Carolina Railway Service Corporation is a privately held South Carolina corporation organized in 2003 for the purpose of preserving, restoring, and revitalizing rail service in both South and North Carolina. The Corporation is committed to providing freight and transit rail services to the Carolinas through the next century and beyond. To learn more about the services offered by the Corporation through its subsidiaries, please visit <http://www.wcrscorp.com>.