

Request for Experimental Authority

BNSF Railway Company (“BNSF”) requests experimental authority for operation of three GPS passive antenna repeaters to retransmit GPS signals inside indoor facilities and tunnels in furtherance of the congressional mandate to deploy PTC on designated line segments pursuant to the Rail Safety Improvement Action of 2008 (“RSIA”).

The facilities are located at BNSF’s rail terminals in Kansas City, Kansas; Alliance, Nebraska; and Fort Worth, Texas. The GPS antennas subject to this request will retransmit the GPS signal into facilities and tunnels as described in the attached application. GPS equipment installed in the locomotives will provide specific location fix information for traveling trains. Use of the GPS antennas at these locations will allow BNSF to use the equipment installed in the locomotive and provide an immediate critical analysis of system status.

The retransmission of the GPS signal through use of the GPS antennas will allow the continued development of BNSF’s PTC system which will result in a quicker development timeline, but also facilitate the design and development of the PTC providing for safer movement of freight and passengers on the nations rail infrastructure. Absent the GPS repeaters, BNSF would not be able to effectively use GPS capability. Because deployment is mandated by the RSIA, grant of the requested license is in the public interest.

In connection with the FCC Form 442 submitted with this request, BNSF agrees to the following special conditions for the proposed operations:¹

1. Operation is limited to activity for the purpose of repeating GPS in tunnels and inside facilities.
2. BNSF Railway Company shall post signs on doors to the test area notifying that, “GPS re-radiator is in use and the GPS information you receive may be in error.”
3. Chris Scheffler (913-551-4015) will be the designated point-of-contact, in case of any harmful interference during use.
4. The equipment will only be used indoors or in tunnels and shall be under the control of BNSF Railway Company.

Should the Commission require additional information, please contact Greg Kunkle, Keller and Heckman LLP, 1001 G Street NW, Suite 500 West, Washington, DC 20001; kunkle@khlaw.com; 202.434.4178.

¹ In addition, BNSF requests that the station identification requirements of Section 5.115 of the Commission’s Rules be waived.