B.C.D. 00-62

DEC 21 2000

EMPLOYER STATUS
SOUTHERN SAN LUIS VALLEY RAILROAD COMPANY

This is the determination of the Railroad Retirement Board concerning the continuing status of the Southern San Luis Valley Railroad Company (SSLV) as an employer under the Railroad Retirement Act (45 U.S.C. § 231 et seq.) (RRA) and the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act (45 U.S.C. § 351 et seq.) (RUIA). SSLV (B.A. No. 3751) was determined to be an employer under the RRA and RUIA effective January 1, 1955.

According to Mr. Allan J. Lang, Director of Taxes and Financial Planning, Hecla Mining Company (owner of SSLV), most of the 25 mile railroad track upon which SSLV operated was removed in the 1980's and SSLV employees were last compensated in 1996. Mr. Lang further stated that SSLV has not operated for at least ten years; and that, although SSLV has not dissolved its corporate structure, it is a shell company only, inactive, with no employees. Ms. Pauline Ellis, Colorado Aggregate Division, Mountain West-Colorado Aggregate, stated that SSLV is in the process of being sold.

Based on the information summarized above, it is determined that the Southern San Luis Valley Railroad ceased to be an employer under the RRA and RUIA as of the close of business on December 31, 1996, the last date of the last year in which employees were compensated.

Cherryl T. Thomas

V. M. Speakman, Jr.

Jerome F. Kever