

# Watco Transportation Services, Inc.

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## Watco's Boise Valley Railroad begins operations

PITTSBURG, KANSAS – November 23, 2009 – Watco Transportation Services, Inc., (Watco) announced the successful start-up of a new railroad, the Boise Valley Railroad (BVRR), on Monday, November 23. Additional manpower and locomotive resources were on hand to provide effective first day service on both the 11-mile Wilder Branch and the 25-mile Boise Cut-off. Each job left the yard with more than 40 railcars.

“Safe and effective service to our rail Customers is paramount to our business model,” said John Brown, chief operating officer for Watco’s West Region. “Providing initial start up rail services that add value to our customers day one was our goal.”

There are 84 customers who will be served by the BVRR, several of which are currently customers of Watco’s Eastern Idaho Railroad, Great Northwest Railroad and Yellowstone Valley Railroad. Commodities shipped on the branches include potatoes, lumber, fertilizer and fuels.

The BVRR’s Wilder Branch runs from Wilder to Caldwell, Idaho and the Boise Cut Off runs from Nampa to just southeast of Boise, Idaho. The BVRR has also obtained trackage rights from Nampa to Caldwell, Idaho from the Union Pacific Railroad.

“Our positive relationship with the Union Pacific Railroad, a solid strategic operating plan and our desire to immediately grow the overall business will allow the BVRR to continually add quality transportation value to the area,” said Brown.

“This fits in well with our existing infrastructure in Idaho,” said Ed McKechnie, chief commercial officer for Watco Companies. “We look forward to serving the Customers and expanding opportunities to help to grow their businesses. This will be our fourth railroad in the State of Idaho. We love doing business in Idaho and believe this railroad can grow and continue to be a strong part of the Boise economy.”

Watco Companies, Inc. (WCI) is a Pittsburg, KS., based transportation company serving transportation, mechanical, and transload/intermodal needs of Customers throughout the nation. WCI is the owner of Watco Transportation Services, Inc. (WTS), the largest privately-held short line railroad company in the U.S. operating 22 short line railroads on more than 3,500 miles of track as well as 21 industrial contract switching locations. Watco’s Mechanical Services division operates 14 railcar repair shops, 4 locomotive shops and 19 mobile mechanical shops. The Transload/Intermodal Services division currently manages 12 transload facilities, 7 warehouses and 1 intermodal location. More information about Watco and its subsidiaries can be found at [www.watcocompanies.com](http://www.watcocompanies.com).