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MEDIA RELEASE

Date: Jan. 31, 2012
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Birmingham Terminal Railway set to begin operations tonight

Birmingham, Alabama – The Birmingham Terminal Railway (BHRR) is set to begin operations at 12:01 a.m. Central time, Wednesday, Feb. 1. The Railway was created by acquiring the assets of the Birmingham Southern Railway (BS).

“We welcome the men and women who are coming to work starting tonight on the Birmingham Terminal Railway,” said Rick Webb, the CEO of Watco Transportation Services, (WTS) the parent company of BHRR. “The BHRR will be the 26th short line railroad in the Watco family, and I am very proud to gain the Customers we will begin serving tonight.”

“I also want to thank the team that has been assembled under the leadership of Rodney Gordon, who is our COO for the East Region. We are counting on Rodney and his team to deliver outstanding service to meet our Customers’ needs. “

The BHRR consists of 75.9 miles of track and provides service to more than 30 Customers, primarily those in the industrial and energy sectors. The BHRR interchanges with the BNSF, CSX and the NS as well as US Steel-owned switching carrier Fairfield Southern. The BHRR also gains access to barge traffic via Port Birmingham Terminal located on the Black Warrior River.

The leadership team and contact information key contacts are:

David Tarwater, BHRR General Manager, phone: (205) 572-5266, dtarwater@watcocompanies.com

Jason Ford, Port Birmingham Terminal, phone: (205) 436-3601, jford@watcocompanies.com

Amy Parady, Vice President of Marketing, phone: (409) 383-4165, aparady@watcocompanies.com.

Jonathan Tavernaro, Customer Service Representative, phone: (866) 889-2826, jtavernaro@watcocompanies.com

Ron Spencer, Customer Service Manager, phone: (866) 889-2826, rspencer@watcocompanies.com

“During the past month we have been hiring a great team to go to work and serve our new Customers,” Gordon said. “We have met with our Customers, found new business opportunities that will add value to the local economy, and we are ready to go to work tonight.”



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Watco Companies, LLC (Watco) is a Pittsburg, Kan., based transportation company serving transportation, mechanical, and transload needs of Customers throughout the nation. Watco is the owner of Watco Transportation Services, LLC (WTS), the largest privately-held short line railroad company in the U.S. operating 26 short line railroads on more than 4,400 miles of track as well as 25 industrial contract switching locations. Watco's Mechanical Services division operates 16 railcar repair shops, 4 locomotive shops and 19 mobile mechanical shops. The Transload Services division currently manages 17 transload facilities, 7 warehouses and 2 port locations. Watco also owns Greens Port Industrial Park in the Houston Ship Channel. More information about Watco and its subsidiaries can be found at www.watcocompanies.com.