In 2005, the MNBR (Meridian and Bigbee Railroad) became part of (GWRR) Genesee & Wyoming Inc. G&W owns and operates short line and regional freight railroads in the United States, Australia, Canada, the Netherlands, and Belgium. In addition, G&W operates the 1,400-mile Tarcoola to Darwin rail line, which links the Port of Darwin with the Australian interstate rail network in South Australia. Operations currently include 111 railroads organized in 11 regions, with nearly 15,000 miles of owned and leased track, 4,600 employees and over 2,000 customers. They provide rail service at 35 ports in North America, Australia, and Europe and perform contract coal loading and railcar switching for industrial customers. In August of 2005, Hurricane Katrina caused the CSX to lose its Gulf Coast line. This gave the MNBR the opportunity to handle traffic between the CSX in Montgomery, AL and KCS in Meridian, MS. Even after the CSX re-opened the Gulf Coast line in 2006, the MNBR traffic grew.