

primary application as well as notice of any merger-related abandonment proposal. Thereafter, with respect to each merger-related abandonment proposal: (3) interested parties must file notifications of intent to participate in the specific abandonment proceedings by day F + 45; (4) interested parties must file opposition submissions, requests for public use conditions, and/or Trails Act requests by day F + 120; (5) applicants may file rebuttal in support of their abandonment proposals, and/or responses to any requests for public use conditions and

Trails Act requests, by day F + 180; (6) as with the primary application and all related matters, briefs shall be due by day F + 260, oral argument will be held on day F + 300, and a voting conference will be held, at the Board's discretion, on day F + 305; and (7) if, in the final decision served on day F + 365, we approve the primary application, we also will address, in that final decision, each of the abandonment proposals, and all matters (including requests for public use conditions and Trails Act requests) relative thereto; and if we either approve or exempt any of the

abandonment proposals, we shall require interested parties to file, no later than 10 days after the date of service of the final decision, offers of financial assistance with respect to any approved or exempted abandonments.

This action will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

Decided: January 30, 1997.

By the Board, Chairman Morgan and Vice Chairman Owen.

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

FINAL PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

F-30	Preliminary Environmental Report, including supporting documents, due.
F	Primary application & related applications filed. [Environmental Report, including all supporting documents, due.]
F+30	Federal Register publication of: notice of acceptance of primary application and related applications, petitions and notices; and notice of any merger-related abandonment applications, petitions, and notices of exemption.
F+45	Notification of intent to participate in proceeding due.
F+60	Description of anticipated inconsistent and responsive applications due; petitions for waiver or clarification due with respect to such applications.
F+120	Inconsistent and responsive applications due. All comments, protests, requests for conditions, and any other opposition evidence and argument due. Comments by U.S. Department of Justice and U.S. Department of Transportation due. With respect to all merger-related abandonments: opposition submissions, requests for public use conditions, and Trails Act requests due.
F+150	Notice of acceptance (if required) of inconsistent and responsive applications published in the Federal Register .
F+180	Response to inconsistent and responsive applications due. Response to comments, protests, requested conditions, and other opposition arguments and evidence due. Rebuttal in support of primary application and related applications due. With respect to all merger-related abandonments: rebuttal due; and responses to requests for public use and Trails Act conditions due.
F+220	Rebuttal in support of inconsistent and responsive applications due.
F+260	Briefs due, all parties (not to exceed 50 pages).
F+300	Oral argument (close of record).
F+305	Voting conference (at Board's discretion).
F+365	Date of service of final decision. With respect to any approved or exempted abandonments: offers of financial assistance must be filed no later than 10 days after the date of service of the final decision.

Notes: Immediately upon each evidentiary filing, the filing party will place all documents relevant to the filing (other than documents that are privileged or otherwise protected from discovery) in a depository open to all parties, and will make its witnesses available for discovery depositions. Access to documents subject to protective order will be appropriately restricted. Parties seeking discovery depositions may proceed by agreement. Discovery on responsive and inconsistent applications will begin immediately upon their filing. The Administrative Law Judge assigned to this proceeding will have the authority initially to resolve any discovery disputes.

[FR Doc. 97-2858 Filed 2-4-97; 8:45 am]

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[STB Finance Docket No. 33348]

Sault Ste. Marie Bridge Company— Trackage Rights Exemption— Wisconsin Central Ltd.

Wisconsin Central Ltd. (WCL) has agreed to grant non-exclusive overhead trackage rights to Sault Ste. Marie Bridge Company (SSMB) over WCL's line of railroad between milepost 310.7 at Hermansville, MI, and milepost 342.7 at Gladstone, MI, a distance of approximately 32.0.

The transaction is scheduled to be consummated on January 29, 1997, or upon SSMB's consummation of the transaction in STB Finance Docket No. 33290, *Sault St. Marie Bridge Company—Acquisition and Operation*

Exemption—Lines of Union Pacific Railroad Company, whichever is later.¹

WCL has concurrently filed a Notice of Exemption in STB Finance Docket No. 33349, *Wisconsin Central Ltd.—Trackage Rights Exemption—Sault Ste. Marie Bridge Company*. In conjunction with that filing, the proposed trackage rights will allow SSMB and WCL to jointly utilize their parallel lines between Hermansville, MI, and Larch/Gladstone, MI, for the purpose of improving the flexibility and efficiency of operations in that corridor.

As a condition to this exemption, any employees affected by the trackage rights will be protected by the

¹ The exemption in STB Finance Docket No. 33290 became effective on January 20, 1997. SSMB agreed to refrain from consummating the acquisition until January 24, 1997. A petition to stay the effective date, that had been filed on January 6, 1997, was denied by a decision served on January 24, 1997.

conditions imposed in *Norfolk and Western Ry. Co.—Trackage Rights—BN*, 354 I.C.C. 605 (1978), as modified in *Mendocino Coast Ry., Inc.—Lease and Operate*, 360 I.C.C. 653 (1980).

This notice is filed under 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(7). If it contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*. Petitions to revoke the exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) may be filed at any time. The filing of a petition to revoke will not automatically stay the transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 33348, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Branch, 1201 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20423. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on Thomas J. Litwiler, Esq., Oppenheimer Wolff & Donnell, Two Prudential

Plaza, 45th Floor, 180 North Stetson Avenue, Chicago, IL 60601.

Decided: January 29, 1997.

By the Board, David M. Konschnik,
Director, Office of Proceedings.
Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-2855 Filed 2-4-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

[STB Finance Docket No. 33349]

Wisconsin Central Ltd.—Trackage Rights Exemption—Sault Ste. Marie Bridge Company

Sault Ste. Marie Bridge Company (SSMB) has agreed to grant Wisconsin Central Ltd. (WCL) non-exclusive overhead trackage rights over SSMB's line of railroad between milepost 118.0 at Larch, MI, and milepost 176.9 at Negaunee, MI, a distance of approximately 58.9 miles, and non-exclusive overhead and local trackage rights between milepost 4.1 at Hermansville, MI, and milepost 118.0 at Larch, MI, a distance of approximately 25.0 miles. The total distance of trackage rights to be acquired is approximately 83.9 miles.

The transaction is scheduled to be consummated on January 29, 1997, or upon SSMB's consummation of the transaction in STB Finance Docket No. 33290, *Sault Ste. Marie Bridge Company—Acquisition and Operation Exemption—Lines of Union Pacific Railroad Company*, whichever is later.¹

¹ The exemption in STB Finance Docket No. 33290, which covers the transaction by which SSMB would acquire the lines over which it is granting trackage rights to WCL in the present transaction, became effective on January 20, 1997.

The purpose of the trackage rights is to connect WCL's existing lines at Hermansville, Larch, and Negaunee, MI. The trackage rights between Larch and Negaunee will improve transit times and the quality of WCL service for shippers in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. SSMB has concurrently filed a Notice of Exemption in STB Finance Docket No. 33348, *Sault Ste. Marie Bridge Company—Trackage Rights Exemption—Wisconsin Central Ltd.* In conjunction with that filing, the proposed trackage rights between Hermansville, MI, and Larch, MI, will allow WCL and SSMB to jointly utilize their parallel lines to improve the flexibility and efficiency of operations in that corridor.

As a condition to this exemption, any employees affected by the trackage rights will be protected by the conditions imposed in *Norfolk and Western Ry. Co.—Trackage Rights—BN*, 354 I.C.C. 605 (1978), as modified in *Mendocino Coast Ry., Inc.—Lease and Operate*, 360 I.C.C. 653 (1980).

This notice is filed under 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(7). If it contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*. Petitions to revoke the exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) may be filed at any time. The filing of a petition to revoke will not automatically stay the transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 33349, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, Office

SSMB agreed to refrain from consummating the acquisition until January 24, 1997. A petition to stay the effective date, that had been filed on January 6, 1997, was denied by decision served on January 24, 1997.

of the Secretary, Case Control Branch, 1201 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20423. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on Thomas J. Litwiler, Esq., Oppenheimer Wolff & Donnelly, Two Prudential Plaza, 45th Floor, 180 North Stetson Avenue, Chicago, IL 60601.

Decided: January 29, 1997.

By the Board, David M. Konschnik,
Director, Office of Proceedings.
Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-2856 Filed 2-4-97; 8:45 am]

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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

[STB Docket No. AB-290 (Sub-No. 188X)]

Norfolk Southern Railway Company—Abandonment Exemption—Between Edgefield and Escambia Junction, SC

Notice to the Parties

A notice in the above proceeding, served and published in the Federal Register (62 FR 3941) on January 27, 1997, inadvertently referred to the applicant as Norfolk and Western Railway Company (NW) in the title and in the text of the notice. Please correct your copies by substituting Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NS) as the applicant. Because this is a ministerial error, the procedural schedule dates set forth in the served notice will remain the same.

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-2859 Filed 2-4-97; 8:45 am]

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