

Decided: June 17, 1999.

By the Board, Chairman Morgan, Vice Chairman Clyburn, and Commissioner Burkes.

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-16004 Filed 6-22-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33763]

Paducah & Louisville Railway, Inc.— Trackage Rights Exemption—CSX Transportation, Inc.

CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT) has agreed to grant overhead trackage rights to Paducah & Louisville Railway, Inc. (P&L) over CSXT's rail line between the P&L/CSXT connection at Madisonville, KY, at or near milepost OOH 275, and the Dotiki mines located on CSXT's Morganfield Branch, at or near milepost MF-298.3, a total distance of approximately 23 miles.

The transaction is scheduled to be consummated on June 18, 1999.

The purpose of the trackage rights is to allow P&L to handle movements of coal from the Dotiki mines to the Louisville Gas & Electric Cave Run plant in Louisville, KY, and the Louisville Gas & Electric Mill Creek plant in Kosmosdale, KY, and to handle empties via the reverse route.

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. 33763, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, one copy of each pleading must be served on (1) J. Thomas Garrett, Esq., Paducah & Louisville Railway, Inc., 1500 Kentucky Avenue, Paducah, KY 42003, and (2) Fred R. Birkholz, Esq., CSX Transportation, Inc., 500 Water Street, J-150, Jacksonville, FL 32202.

Board decisions and notices are available on our website at "WWW.STB.DOT.GOV."

Decided: June 16, 1999.

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

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-16002 Filed 6-22-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33765]

The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company—Trackage Rights Exemption—Illinois Central Railroad Company

Illinois Central Railroad Company (IC) has agreed to grant limited overhead trackage rights to The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF) over IC's rail line between a point at the east end of the St. Charles Airline near IC's milepost 1.7 at Chicago, IL, and a point near IC's milepost 19.5 at Harvey, IL, a distance of approximately 17.6 miles.

The transaction is scheduled to be consummated on or shortly after June 18, 1999.

The purpose of the trackage rights is to permit BNSF, using its own trains with its own crews, to interchange unit coal trains with Canadian National Railway (CN) at CN's connection with IC at Harvey.

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. 33765, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on Michael E. Roper, The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company, 3017 Lou Menk Drive, P.O. Box 961039, Fort Worth, TX 76161-0039.

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Decided: June 16, 1999.

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

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-16001 Filed 6-22-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 382X)]

The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company—Abandonment of Chicago Area Trackage in Cook County, IL

On June 3, 1999, The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF) filed with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) a petition under 49 U.S.C. 10502 for exemption from the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 10903 to abandon its switching/industrial lead track beginning north of Corwith Yard at station 24 + 43 and ending at station 149 + 87 near the east end of the Western Avenue Bridge, a total distance of 2.38 miles within the city limits of Chicago, in Cook County, IL.¹ The line traverses U.S. Postal Service Zip Codes 60608, 60623, and 60632 and includes no stations.

The line does not contain federally granted rights-of-way. Any documentation in BNSF's possession will be made available promptly to those requesting it.

The interest of railroad employees will be protected by the conditions set forth in *Oregon Short Line R. Co.—Abandonment—Goshen*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979).

By issuance of this notice, the Board is instituting an exemption proceeding pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10502(b). A final decision will be issued by September 21, 1999.

Any offer of financial assistance (OFA) under 49 CFR 1152.27(b)(2) will be due no later than 10 days after service of a decision granting the petition for exemption. Each offer must be accompanied by a \$1,000 filing fee. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

All interested persons should be aware that, following abandonment of

¹ BNSF states that the line is arguably not subject to regulation by the Board pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10906. However, to avoid any doubt over the status of the line and to avoid delays from possible litigation over the line's status, BNSF has elected to file this petition for exemption.

rail service and salvage of the line, the line may be suitable for other public use, including interim trail use. Any request for a public use condition under 49 CFR 1152.28 or for trail use/rail banking under 49 CFR 1152.29 will be due no later than July 13, 1999. Each trail use request must be accompanied by a \$150 filing fee. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(27).

All filings in response to this notice must refer to STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 382X) and must be sent to: (1) Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001, and (2) Sarah Whitley Bailiff, BNSF, 3017 Lou Menk Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76161-0039. Replies to the BNSF petition are due on or before July 13, 1999.

Persons seeking further information concerning abandonment procedures may contact the Board's Office of Public Services at (202) 565-1592 or refer to the full abandonment or discontinuance regulations at 49 CFR part 1152. Questions concerning environmental issues may be directed to the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) at (202) 565-1545. [TDD for the hearing impaired is available at (202) 565-1695.]

An environmental assessment (EA) (or environmental impact statement (EIS), if necessary) prepared by SEA will be served upon all parties of record and upon any agencies or other persons who commented during its preparation. Other interested persons may contact SEA to obtain a copy of the EA (or EIS). EAs in these abandonment proceedings normally will be made available within 60 days of the filing of the petition. The deadline for submission of comments on the EA will generally be within 30 days of its service.²

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Decided: June 16, 1999.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-16003 Filed 6-22-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 136X)]

Union Pacific Railroad Company— Abandonment Exemption—in Hidalgo County, TX

Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR part 1152 subpart F—*Exempt Abandonments* to abandon its Santa Rosa Industrial Lead from milepost 145.0, near Edinburg, to milepost 161.0, near Rogerslacy, a distance of 16.0 miles in Hidalgo County, TX (line). The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Codes 78539-40 (Edinburg), 78539 (San Carlos), 78543 (Elsa), 78538 (Edcouch), and 78593 (Rogerslacy).

UP has certified that: (1) No local traffic has moved over the line for at least 2 years; (2) any overhead traffic on the line can be rerouted over other lines; (3) no formal complaint filed by a user of rail service on the line (or by a state or local government entity acting on behalf of such user) regarding cessation of service over the line either is pending with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) or with any U.S. District Court or has been decided in favor of complainant within the 2-year period; and (4) the requirements at 49 CFR 1105.7 (environmental reports), 49 CFR 1105.8 (historic reports), 49 CFR 1105.11 (transmittal letter), 49 CFR 1105.12 (newspaper publication), and 49 CFR 1152.50(d)(1) (notice to governmental agencies) have been met.

As a condition to this exemption, any employee adversely affected by the abandonment shall be protected under *Oregon Short Line R. Co.—*

Abandonment—Goshen, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979). To address whether this condition adequately protects affected employees, a petition for partial revocation under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) must be filed. Provided no formal expression of intent to file an offer of financial assistance (OFA) has been received, this exemption will be effective on July 23, 1999, unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay that do not involve environmental issues,¹ formal expressions of intent to

¹ The Board will grant a stay if an informed decision on environmental issues (whether raised by a party or by the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis in its independent investigation) cannot be made before the exemption's effective date. See *Exemption of Out-of-Service Rail Lines*, 5 I.C.C.2d 377 (1989). Any request for a stay should be filed as soon as possible so that the Board may take appropriate action before the exemption's effective date.

file an OFA under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2),² and trail use/rail banking requests under 49 CFR 1152.29 must be filed by July 6, 1999. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by July 13, 1999, with the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20423-0001.

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to applicant's representative: Joseph D. Anthofer, Esq., Union Pacific Railroad Company, 1416 Dodge Street, Room 830, Omaha, NE 68179. If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*.

UP has filed an environmental report which addresses the abandonment's effects, if any, on the environment and historic resources. The Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) will issue an environmental assessment (EA) by June 28, 1999. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA by writing to SEA (Room 500, Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423-0001) or by calling SEA, at (202) 565-1545. Comments on environmental and historic preservation matters must be filed within 15 days after the EA becomes available to the public.

Environmental, historic preservation, public use, or trail use/rail banking conditions will be imposed, where appropriate, in a subsequent decision.

Pursuant to the provisions of 49 CFR 1152.29(e)(2), UP shall file a notice of consummation with the Board to signify that it has exercised the authority granted and fully abandoned the line. If consummation has not been effected by UP's filing of a notice of consummation by June 23, 2000, and there are no legal or regulatory barriers to consummation, the authority to abandon will automatically expire.

Board decisions and notices are available on our website at "WWW.STB.DOT.GOV."

Decided: June 10, 1999.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-15452 Filed 6-22-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

² Each offer of financial assistance must be accompanied by the filing fee, which currently is set at \$1000. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

² BNSF requests a waiver of the 20 days' advance service requirement for the environmental and historic reports (49 CFR 1105.7 and 1105.8), due to an urgent need to discontinue service because of safety concerns. Both reports were filed simultaneously with the petition for exemption. Given the circumstances, waiver of the advanced service requirement is granted.