

221.87, and over approximately 150 feet of CSXT's track no. 68 and approximately 285 feet of CSXT's track no. 21 in CSXT's McDoel Yard in Bloomington, in Monroe County, IN.<sup>1</sup> The line traverses U.S. Postal Service Zip Codes 47403 and 47404 and includes no stations.

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

The interest of railroad employees will be protected by *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 October 31, 2003.

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 OFA must be accompanied by the filing fee, which currently is set at \$1,100. *See* 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

All interested persons should be aware that, following abandonment of 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 August 21, 2003. 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-295 (Sub-No. 5X) and must be sent to: (1) Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20423-0001; and (2) John H. Broadley, John H. Broadley & Associates, P.C., 1054 31st Street, NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20007. Replies to the INRD petition are due on or before August 21, 2003.

Persons seeking further information concerning abandonment and discontinuance 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) 565-1539. (Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.)

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.

Board decisions and notices are available on our Web site at: <http://www.stb.dot.gov>.

Decided: July 24, 2003.

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

**Vernon A. Williams,**  
*Secretary.*

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**BILLING CODE 4915-00-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 171X)]

#### Union Pacific Railroad Company— Abandonment Exemption—in Washington County, IL

Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 subpart F—*Exempt Abandonments* to abandon an 18.10-mile line of railroad, known as the Sparta Branch, extending from milepost 41.1 near Oakdale to the end of the track at milepost 23.0 near Hoyleton, in Washington County, IL. The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Codes 62263, 63368, and 62803.

UP has certified that: (1) No local traffic has moved over the line for at least 2 years; (2) no overhead traffic has moved over the line for at least 2 years; (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 September 2, 2003, unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay that do not involve environmental issues,<sup>1</sup> formal expressions of intent to file an OFA under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2),<sup>2</sup> and trail use/rail banking requests under 49 CFR 1152.29 must be filed by August 11, 2003. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by August 21, 2003, with: Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001.

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to UP's representative: Mack H. Shumate, Jr., Senior General Attorney, Union Pacific Railroad Company, 101 North Wacker Drive, Room 1920, Chicago, IL 60606.

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. SEA will issue an environmental assessment (EA) by August 8, 2003. 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) 565-1539. Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339. Comments on environmental and historic preservation

<sup>1</sup> 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 (SEA) 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.

<sup>2</sup> Each OFA must be accompanied by the filing fee, which currently is set at \$1,100. *See* 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

<sup>1</sup> In a proceeding filed on July 1, 2003, CSXT seeks an exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502 from the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 10903 to abandon a 2.95-mile line of railroad in CSXT's Western Region, Great Lakes Division, over which INRD's trackage rights run. In its petition, CSXT describes the line as extending from milepost 00Q-219.55 to milepost 00Q-222.50 in Bloomington, Monroe County, IN. *See CSX Transportation, Inc.—Abandonment Exemption—in Monroe County, IN*, STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 634X) (STB served and published on July 21, 2003) (68 FR 43255).