

railroad between milepost 83.5 in Rockwood and milepost 97.5 in Denmark, in Manitowoc and Brown Counties, WI.

FVW 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; (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 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 use of 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 May 16, 1996, unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay that do not involve environmental issues,³ formal expressions of intent to file an OFA under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2),⁴ and trail use/rail banking requests under 49 CFR 1152.29⁵ must be filed by April 26, 1996. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by May 6, 1996, with: Office of the Secretary, Case Control Branch, Surface Transportation Board, 1201 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20423.

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to applicant's representative: Thomas J. Litwiler, Oppenheimer Wolff & Donnelly, Two

³The 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.

⁴See *Exempt. of Rail Abandonment—Offers of Finan. Assist.*, 4 I.C.C.2d 164 (1987).

⁵The Board will accept late-filed trail use requests so long as the abandonment has not been consummated and the abandoning railroad is willing to negotiate an agreement.

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

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*.

FVW 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 April 19, 1996. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA by writing to SEA (Room 3219, Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423) or by calling Elaine Kaiser, Chief of SEA, at (202) 927-6248. 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.

Decided: April 8, 1996.

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

Vernon A. Williams, Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-9130 Filed 4-15-96; 8:45 am]

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[Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 517X)]

**CSX Transportation, Inc.—
Abandonment Exemption—in Bell
County, KY**

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board.¹

ACTION: Notice of exemption.

SUMMARY: The Board, under 49 U.S.C. 10505, exempts from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 10903-04 the abandonment by CSX Transportation, Inc., of its 5.22-mile Yellow Creek Branch between milepost WE-208.39 at Ponza and milepost WE-213.61 at Amru in Bell County, KY, subject to standard labor protective conditions.

¹The ICC Termination Act of 1995, Pub. L. No. 104-88, 109 Stat. 803 (the Act), which was enacted on December 29, 1995, and took effect on January 1, 1996, abolished the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) and transferred certain functions and proceedings to the Surface Transportation Board (Board). Section 204(b)(1) of the Act provides, in general, that proceedings pending before the ICC on the effective date of that legislation shall be decided under the law in effect prior to January 1, 1996, insofar as they involve functions retained by the Act. This notice relates to a proceeding that was pending with the ICC prior to January 1, 1996, and to functions that are subject to Board jurisdiction pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10502 and 10903-04. Therefore, this notice applies the law in effect prior to the Act, and citations are to the former sections of the statute, unless otherwise indicated.

DATES: Provided no formal expression of intent to file an offer of financial assistance (OFA) has been received, this exemption will be effective May 16, 1996. Formal expressions of intent to file an OFA under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2) must be filed by April 26, 1996.² Petitions to stay must be filed by May 1, 1996. Requests for a public use condition conforming to 49 CFR 1152.28(a)(2) must be filed by May 6, 1996. Petitions to reopen must be filed by May 13, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Send pleadings referring to Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 517X) to: (1) Office of the Secretary, Case Control Branch, Surface Transportation Board, 1201 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20423, and (2) Petitioner's representative: Charles M. Rosenberger, 500 Water Street, Jacksonville, FL 32202.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joseph H. Dettmar, (202) 927-5660. [TDD for the hearing impaired: (202) 927-5721.]

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Additional information is contained in the Board's decision. To purchase a copy of the full decision, write to, call or pick up in person from: DC News and Data, Inc., Room 2229, 1201 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20423. Telephone: (202) 289-4357/4359. [Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through TDD services (202) 927-5721.]

Decided: April 5, 1996.

By the Board, Chairman Morgan, Vice Chairman Simmons, and Commissioner Owen.

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-9228 Filed 4-15-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

Federal Railroad Administration

Petition for a Waiver of Compliance

In accordance with 49 CFR Sections 211.9 and 211.41, notice is hereby given that the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has received a request for a waiver of compliance with certain requirements of Federal railroad safety regulations. The individual petitions are described below, including the party seeking relief, the regulatory provisions involved, the nature of the relief being requested and the petitioner's arguments in favor of relief.

Interested parties are invited to participate in these proceedings by submitting written views, data, or

²See *Exempt. of Rail Line Abandonment—Offers of Finan. Assist.*, 4 I.C.C.2d 164 (1987).