

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 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. The notice is subject to environmental conditions as set forth in Appendix G in Decision No. 44, served on August 12, 1996, in Finance Docket No. 32760.

Provided no formal expression of intent to file an offer of financial assistance (OFA) has been received, this exemption will be effective on September 11, 1996, unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay, 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 August 22, 1996. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by September 3, 1996, with: Office of the Secretary, Case Control Branch, Surface Transportation Board, 1201 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20423.

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to applicant's representative: Robert T. Opal, General Attorney, 1416 Dodge Street, Room 830, Omaha, NE 68179.

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

Public use or trail use/rail banking conditions will be imposed, where appropriate, in a subsequent decision.

Decided: August 6, 1996.

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

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

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

⁵ The 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.

Surface Transportation Board ¹

[Docket No. AB-12 (Sub-No. 184X)]²

Southern Pacific Transportation Company—Abandonment Exemption—Wendel-Alturas Line in Modoc and Lassen Counties, CA

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board.

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 Southern Pacific Transportation Company of its 85.5-mile rail line between milepost 360.1 near Wendel and milepost 445.6, near Alturas, in Modoc and Lassen Counties, CA, subject to standard labor protective conditions, environmental and historic preservation conditions, a 180-day trail use condition, and a 180-day public use condition, all of which are set forth in Decision No. 44, served on August 12, 1996, in Finance Docket No. 32760.

DATES: Provided no formal expression of intent to file an offer of financial assistance has been received, this exemption will be effective on September 11, 1996. Formal expressions of intent to file an offer of financial assistance under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2)³ and additional requests for trail use/rail banking under 49 U.S.C. 1152.29 must be filed by August 22, 1996; petitions to stay must be filed by August 22, 1996; and petitions to reopen must be filed by September 3, 1996. Because the Board is imposing a 180-day public use condition in this proceeding, it is unnecessary to request this condition.

ADDRESSES: Send pleadings referring to Docket No. AB-12 (Sub-No. 184X) to: (1) Surface Transportation Board, Office

¹ The ICC Termination Act of 1995, Pub. L. 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 section 10903. 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.

² This exemption is related to Finance Docket No. 32760, *Union Pacific Corporation, Union Pacific Railroad Company, and Missouri Pacific Railroad Company—Control and Merger—Southern Pacific Rail Corporation, Southern Pacific Transportation Company, St. Louis Southwestern Railway Company, SPCSL Corp., and The Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad Company*.

³ See *Exempt. of Rail Abandonment—Offers of Finan. Assist.*, 4 I.C.C.2d 164 (1987).

of the Secretary, Case Control Branch, 1201 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20423; and (2) Gary A. Laakso, General Attorney, Southern Pacific Building, One Market Plaza, Room 846, San Francisco, CA 94105.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Julia M. Farr, (202) 927-5352. [TDD for the hearing impaired: (202) 927-5721.]

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Additional information is contained in the Board's Decision No. 44 in Finance Docket No. 32760. To purchase a copy of the full decision, write to, call, or pick up in person from: DC News & Data, Inc., 1201 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Room 2229, Washington, DC 20423. Telephone: (202) 289-4357/4359. [Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through TDD services (202) 927-5721.]

Decided: August 6, 1996.

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

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

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Surface Transportation Board ¹

[Docket No. AB-12 (Sub-No. 185X)]

Southern Pacific Transportation Company—Abandonment Exemption—Suman-Bryan Line in Brazos and Robertson Counties, TX ²

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board.

ACTION: Notice of exemption.

SUMMARY: The Board, under 49 U.S.C. 10505, exempts from the prior approval

¹ The 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 section 10903. 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.

² Southern Pacific Transportation Company (SPT) originally petitioned to abandon the entire 16.2-mile Suman-Bryan Line in Brazos and Robertson Counties, TX. SPT later modified the petition by excluding the rail segment between milepost 105.7 and milepost 101.4 near Bryan, TX. Now, the line sought to be abandoned lies solely in Robertson County, TX. We are, however, for administrative convenience retaining the original title of this proceeding.