

Surface Transportation Board¹

[Finance Docket No. 31989]

**The Elk River Railroad, Inc.—
Construction and Operation—in Clay
and Kanawha Counties, WV**

The Elk River Railroad, Inc. (TERRI) applied to the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC), now the Surface Transportation Board (Board), for authority to construct and operate a 29.8-mile rail line from Hartland to Falling Rock, West Virginia. The ICC's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) began the environmental analysis of this proposal, considering the potential environmental impacts associated with TERRI's preferred route, and a "no build" alternative. SEA completed a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (served June 30, 1995).

The Board's SEA has now completed the environmental review process, and its conclusions are discussed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). SEA concludes that the proposed action would have adverse noise and safety impacts due to the close proximity of a substantial number of residences to the rail line. The proposed mitigation measures would reduce, but not totally eliminate, these impacts. There are, however, no feasible alternative rail routes by which this traffic could move. Furthermore, overall environmental impacts of the proposal may not be unduly severe if the recommended mitigation is implemented, particularly when balanced against the potential environmental benefits of reducing the increase in coal truck traffic. Therefore, the Section of Environmental Analysis recommends that the Board impose on any final decision approving the proposed construction and operation the mitigation measures contained in the FEIS.

Copies of the FEIS have been served on representative individuals and agencies. For additional information about the FEIS, please contact: Elaine K. Kaiser, Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis, or Michael Dalton at (202) 927-6197.

Copies of the FEIS are available to all persons for a fee through DC News and

¹ The ICC Termination Act of 1995, Pub. L. 104-88, 109 Stat. 803 (the Act), enacted December 29, 1995, and effective January 1, 1996 abolished the Interstate Commerce Commission and transferred certain rail proceedings to the Surface Transportation Board (Board) if they involve functions retained by the Act. This proceeding concerns a function, authorization of rail construction under 49 U.S.C. 10901, that has been transferred to the Board.

Data Inc. at (202) 289-4357 (assistance for the hearing impaired is available through TDD services (202) 927-5721) or by pickup from Room 2229, 1201 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20423. Because of limited resources, we are no longer able to make additional copies available at no cost.

Date made available to the public: August 9, 1996.

By the Surface Transportation Board, Elaine K. Kaiser, Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis, Office of Economic and Environmental Analysis.
Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-20914 Filed 8-15-96; 8:45 am]

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Surface Transportation Board¹

[Docket No. AB-389 (Sub-No. 1X)]

**Georgia Great Southern Division,
South Carolina Central Railroad Co.,
Inc.—Abandonment and
Discontinuance Exemption—Between
Albany and Dawson, in Terrell, Lee and
Dougherty Counties, GA**

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board.

ACTION: Notice of exemption.

SUMMARY: The Board exempts the Georgia Great Southern Division, South Carolina Central Railroad, Co., Inc., from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 10903-04, to abandon its 13.62-mile line of railroad between Albany (milepost 86.5) and Sasser (milepost 72.88) and to discontinue service over its 5.38-mile rail line between Sasser and Dawson (milepost 67.5), in Terrell, Lee, and Dougherty Counties, GA, subject to public use, trail use/rail banking, historic preservation, other environmental, and standard labor protective conditions.

DATES: Provided no formal expression of intent to file an offer of financial assistance (OFA) has been received, this exemption will be effective on September 15, 1996. Formal expressions

¹ The ICC Termination Act of 1995, Pub. L. No. 104-88, 109 Stat. 803 (the ICCTA), 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 ICCTA 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 ICCTA. 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. 10903. Therefore, this notice applies the law in effect prior to the ICCTA, and citations are to the former sections of the statute, unless otherwise indicated.

of intent to file an OFA under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2)² and requests for interim trail use/rail banking under 49 CFR 1152.29 must be filed by August 26, 1996; and petitions to reopen must be filed by September 10, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Send pleadings referring to Docket No. AB-389 (Sub-No. 1X) to: (1) Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Branch, 1201 Constitution Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20423; and (2) Petitioner's representative, Michael W. Blaszak, 211 South Leitch Avenue, LaGrange, IL 60525-2162.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Beryl Gordon, (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 & Data, Inc., Room 2229, 1201 Constitution Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20423. Telephone: (202) 289-4357/4359. [Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through TDD services (202) 927-5721.]

Decided: August 9, 1996.

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

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-20917 Filed 8-15-96; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY**Office of Thrift Supervision**

[AC-42; OTS No. 6804]

**First Federal Savings and Loan
Association of Allen Parish, Oakdale,
LA; Approval of Conversion
Application**

Notice is hereby given that on August 8, 1996, the Director, Corporate Activities, Office of Thrift Supervision, or her designee, acting pursuant to delegated authority, approved the application of First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Allen Parish, Oakdale, Louisiana, to convert to the stock form of organization. Copies of the application are available for inspection at the Dissemination Branch, Office of Thrift Supervision, 1700 G Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20552, and the Midwest Regional Office, Office of Thrift Supervision, 122 W. John

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