

the inclusion of metric equivalents in the pipeline safety regulations (49 CFR Part 190-199). The meeting was held on January 10, 1997, in Dallas, Texas. RSPA specifically requested public comment on seven questions. Among the comments received was a detailed example of how to present metric equivalents in the pipeline safety regulations. RSPA is providing an additional 30 days to receive comments on this comment.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by April 10, 1997 to be considered.

ADDRESSES: Send all comments on this notice to Marvin Fell, DOT, RSPA, Office of Pipeline Safety, 400 Seventh Street SW, Room 2335, Washington, DC 20590, or via the Internet at fellm@rspa.dot.gov. A copy of the transcript of the public meeting and the comments received from the public are available for review at the RSPA Docket Office, Room 8119, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marvin Fell, (202) 366-6205, U.S. Department of Transportation, RSPA, Room 2335, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, D.C. 20590, or fellm@rspa.dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On October 23, 1996, RSPA published a notice of a public meeting on Metricating Pipeline Safety Regulations that also requested public comment on seven questions. One of the comments received was from Mr. Lawrence J. Stempnik, who prepared a complete set of metric equivalents of measurements in the pipeline safety regulations. Although RSPA is not taking a position on the accuracy or validity of his approach, RSPA does recognize the effort that Mr. Stempnik put forth to provide his comment to RSPA.

In particular, RSPA is interested in additional comments on how precise the metric equivalents should be. Should the number of decimal places be considered, should the number of significant figures be considered, or both? For example, is a conversion from 15 feet to 4.6 meters sufficiently accurate, or is a conversion to 4.57 meters necessary? Comments on this issue were requested in question #6 of the October 23, 1996 notice. Further comments on the other questions in that notice are also encouraged.

Issued in Washington, DC March 5, 1997.
Richard B. Felder,
Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.
[FR Doc. 97-5896 Filed 3-10-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-60-P

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 108X)]

Union Pacific Railroad Company— Abandonment Exemption—in Contra Costa County, CA

Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F—*Exempt Abandonments and Discontinuances of Service and Trackage Rights* to abandon and discontinue service over a 1.845-mile portion of its line of railroad known as the Port Chicago Industrial Lead from the end of the line at milepost 37.06 near Clyde, to milepost 38.905 near Port Chicago, in Contra Costa County, CA.

UP has certified that: (1) No local traffic has moved over the line for at least 2 years; (2) there is no overhead traffic moving over the line; (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 April 10, 1997, unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay that do not involve environmental issues,¹ formal expressions of intent to file an OFA under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2), and trail use/rail banking requests under 49

¹The 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.

CFR 1152.29² must be filed by March 21, 1997. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by March 31, 1997, with: Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423.³

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to applicant's representative: Joseph D. Anthofer, General Attorney, 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 March 19, 1997.⁴ Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA by writing to SEA (Room 500, Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423) 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 March 11, 1998, and there are no legal or regulatory barriers to consummation, the authority to abandon will automatically expire.

Decided: March 4, 1997.

By the Board, David M. Konschnik,
Director, Office of Proceedings.
Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-6031 Filed 3-10-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

²The Board will accept late-filed trail use requests as long as the abandonment has not been consummated and the abandoning railroad is willing to negotiate an agreement.

³The Board is scheduled to relocate to the K Street address on March 16, 1997.

⁴SEA would normally issue its EA 5 days after publication of the notice in the Federal Register. However, due to the Board's scheduled relocation on March 16, 1997, the EA in this proceeding will be issued on March 19, 1997.