

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Surface Transportation Board**

[Finance Docket No. 32760]

**Union Pacific Railroad Company—
Control and Merger—Southern Pacific
Transportation Company: Wichita
Mitigation Study, Preliminary
Mitigation Plan****AGENCY:** Surface Transportation Board, Transportation.**ACTION:** Issuance of Preliminary Mitigation Plan (PMP), request for public comment, and notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Surface Transportation Board's (Board) Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) will issue the Preliminary Mitigation Plan (PMP) for the Wichita, KS Mitigation Study on September 15, 1997, for public review and comment. On August 12, 1996, in Decision No. 44, the Board approved the Union Pacific/Southern Pacific merger. As part of its approval, the Board directed SEA to conduct a mitigation study to develop additional tailored environmental mitigation measures (beyond those already imposed in Decision No. 44) to address unique local conditions in Wichita and Sedgwick County regarding the potential environmental impacts of increased rail traffic. The preliminary results of this study and SEA's preliminary recommendations for additional environmental mitigation measures are reflected in the PMP. SEA encourages public comments on the PMP during the 30-day review period, which will end on October 15, 1997. SEA will distribute copies of the PMP to interested parties. In addition, copies of the report will be available at the Wichita and Sedgwick County Library and Wichita State University Library, or by request by calling (202) 565-1530.

SEA will hold a public information meeting on September 30, 1997, to provide the public with an opportunity to comment on the PMP and receive additional information. SEA will consider all public comments and issue a Final Mitigation Plan (FMP) for public review and comment. Based on the PMP, FMP, and public comments, SEA will then make its final recommendations to the Board. The meeting will be held in the Mary Jane Teall Theater at the Century II Convention Center in Wichita. The meeting will include an informal open house from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and a formal public meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Public comments should be submitted in writing (one original plus 10 copies), no later than October 15, 1997, to: Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, *Finance Docket No. 32760*, Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001. Mark the lower left hand corner of the envelope: Attention: Elaine K. Kaiser, Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis, Environmental Filing—Wichita.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Dalton, Section of Environmental Analysis, Room 500, Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423, (202) 565-1530, TDD for the hearing impaired: (202) 565-1695.

By the Board, Elaine K. Kaiser, Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis.

Vernon A. Williams,*Secretary.*

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Surface Transportation Board**

[STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 549X)]

**CSX Transportation, Inc.—
Abandonment Exemption—in
Mecklenburg County, NC**

On August 4, 1997, CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT) filed with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) a petition under 49 U.S.C. 10502 for exemption from the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 10903 to abandon a portion of its Florence Service Lane, Charlotte Subdivision, extending from milepost SFC-1.52 near State Street to milepost SFC-0.82 at the end of track at Cedar Street Yard, which traverses U.S. Postal Service Zip Code 28202, a distance of 0.70 miles, in Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, NC.

The line does not contain federally granted rights-of-way. Any documentation in CSXT's possession will be made available promptly to those requesting it. The interest of railroad employees will be protected by the conditions set forth in *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 November 21, 1997.

Any offer of financial assistance 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 offer of financial assistance must be accompanied by a \$900 filing fee. 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 October 6, 1997. 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-55 (Sub-No. 549X) and must be sent to: (1) Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001; and (2) Charles M. Rosenberger, 500 Water Street—J150, Jacksonville, FL 32202.

Persons seeking further information concerning abandonment 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) 565-1545. [TDD for the hearing impaired is available at (202) 565-1695.]

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.

Decided: September 9, 1997.

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

Vernon A. Williams,*Secretary.*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY**Submission for OMB Review;
Comment Request**

September 5, 1997.

The Department of Treasury has submitted the following public