

not involve environmental issues,¹ formal expressions of intent to file an OFA under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2),² and trail use/rail banking requests under 49 CFR 1152.29 must be filed by September 29, 1997. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by October 7, 1997, with: Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20423.

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to applicant's representative: Robert A. Wimbish, Esq., Rea, Cross & Auchincloss, Suite 420, 1920 N Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20036.

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

B&M 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 September 22, 1997. 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), B&M 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 B&M's filing of a notice of consummation by September 17, 1998, and there are no legal or regulatory barriers to consummation, the authority to abandon will automatically expire.

Decided: September 10, 1997.

¹ The 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.

² Each offer of financial assistance must be accompanied by the filing fee, which currently is set at \$900. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-24706 Filed 9-16-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33453]

Paducah & Louisville Railway— Trackage Rights Exemption—CSX Transportation, Inc.

CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT) has agreed to extend existing overhead trackage rights to Paducah & Louisville Railway (P&L)¹ from the Providence 1 Mine located on CSXT's Morganfield Branch, at or near milepost MB 288.8, to the Diamond J Mine located at or near milepost MB 291.93, on the Morganfield Branch, an additional distance of 3.1 miles in Hopkins County, KY.

The transaction was scheduled to be consummated on September 9, 1997.

The purpose of the trackage rights is to allow P&L to handle movements of coal from the Diamond J Mine to the generating facilities of Louisville Gas and Electric Company at Kosmosdale and Louisville, KY, and to handle empties via the reverse route.

As a condition to this exemption, any employees affected by the trackage rights will be protected by the conditions imposed in *Norfolk and Western Ry. Co.—Trackage Rights—BN*, 354 I.C.C. 605 (1978), as modified in *Mendocino Coast Ry., Inc.—Lease and Operate*, 360 I.C.C. 653 (1980).

This notice is filed under 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(7). If it contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*. Petitions to revoke the exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) may be filed at any time. The filing of a petition to revoke will not automatically stay the transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 33453, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on (1) J. Thomas Garrett, Esq., Paducah & Louisville Railway, 1500 Kentucky Avenue, Paducah, KY 42003, and (2) Fred R. Birkholz, Esq., CSX Transportation, Inc., 500 Water Street, J-150, Jacksonville, FL 32202.

¹ See *Paducah & Louisville Railway—Trackage Rights—CSX Transportation, Inc.*, STB Finance Docket No. 33405 (STB served June 11, 1997).

Decided: September 9, 1997.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-24704 Filed 9-16-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33454]

Union Pacific Railroad Company— Trackage Rights Exemption—Illinois & Midland Railroad, Inc.

Illinois & Midland Railroad, Inc. has agreed to grant overhead trackage rights to Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) from milepost 75.4, near Barr, IL, to milepost 85.1, near Springfield, IL, a distance of 9.7 miles in Menard and Sangamon Counties, IL.

The transaction is scheduled to be consummated on or after September 11, 1997.

The purpose of the trackage rights is to facilitate efficient train operations in a continuous route to and from Peoria, IL, after UP has abandoned its rail line between Barr and Girard, IL.¹

As a condition to this exemption, any employees affected by the trackage rights will be protected by the conditions imposed in *Norfolk and Western Ry. Co.—Trackage Rights—BN*, 354 I.C.C. 605 (1978), as modified in *Mendocino Coast Ry., Inc.—Lease and Operate*, 360 I.C.C. 653 (1980).

This notice is filed under 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(7). If it contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*. Petitions to revoke the exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) may be filed at any time. The filing of a petition to revoke will not automatically stay the transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 33454, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of each

¹ UP has filed an abandonment application in *Union Pacific Railroad Company—Abandonment—Barr-Girard Line in Menard, Sangamon, and Macoupin Counties, IL*, Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 96) (STB served Aug. 12, 1996) which was related to, and contingent upon the merger approved in *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*, Finance Docket No. 32760 (Decision No. 44) (STB served Aug. 12, 1996).