

GWISS is assigning to CMC RR the operating agreement that would permit CMC RR to operate the Yard. CMC RR will access the Yard at connections with the Baytown Branch of Union Pacific Railroad Company (which the verified notice describes as a former Southern Pacific Transportation Company (SP) line) in the vicinity of Dayton, TX, at SP mileposts 2.0 and 3.3. Under the assignment by GWISS, CMC RR will also operate 10 miles of incidental trackage rights (a) from Baytown Branch SP milepost 5.0 to SP milepost 0.0 (also known as Lafayette Main Line SP milepost 327.8), a distance of 5.0 miles; and (b) from Lafayette Main Line SP milepost 325.0 to SP milepost 330.0, a distance of 5.0 miles.

The transaction was expected to be consummated after November 27, 1997.

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*. Petitions to reopen the proceeding 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. 33513, 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 Eric M. Hocky, Esq., Gollatz, Griffin & Ewing, P.C., 213 West Miner Street, P.O. Box 796, West Chester, PA 19381-0796.

Decided: December 5, 1997.

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

**Vernon A. Williams,**

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-32564 Filed 12-11-97; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33521]

#### Norfolk Southern Railway Company— Trackage Rights Exemption—Pickens Railway Company

Pickens Railway Company (Pickens) has agreed to grant local access trackage rights to Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSR) over approximately 1.2 miles of Pickens' tracks between former NSR milepost Z-9.0 and former NSR

decide to revoke GWISS's exemption to operate the Yard and trackage rights, this exemption of the assignment of GWISS's operating agreement to CMC RR may also be revoked.

milepost Z-10.2, the division of ownership between Pickens and NSR at Murray Street, in Anderson, SC.

The transaction is scheduled to be consummated after the closing date of the transaction in *Pickens Railway Company—Acquisition and Operation Exemption—Norfolk Southern Railway Company*, STB Finance Docket No. 33423 (STB served July 17, 1997), which is anticipated to be on or after December 11, 1997.

The purpose of the trackage rights is to permit NSR to provide service on a joint basis with Pickens to present and future rail patrons and to park occupied circus train cars in Anderson.

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. 33521, 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 James R. Paschall, Esq., Norfolk Southern Railway Company, Three Commercial Place, Norfolk, VA 23510-9241.

Decided: December 4, 1997.

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

**Vernon A. Williams,**

Secretary.

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-303 (Sub-No. 18X)]

#### Wisconsin Central Ltd.—Abandonment Exemption—in Polk County, WI

On November 24, 1997, Wisconsin Central Ltd. (WCL), 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 its line of railroad known as the Dresser-Amery

Line, extending between milepost 47.83 in Dresser and milepost 63.08 (the end of the line) in Amery, a distance of 15.25 miles, in Polk County, WI. The line traverses U.S. Postal Service Zip Codes 54001 and 54009, and includes the stations of Wanderoos at milepost 56.3 and Amery at milepost 62.9.

The line does not contain federally granted rights-of-way. Any documentation in WCL'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 March 13, 1998.

Any offer of financial assistance (OFA) 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 OFA 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 January 2, 1998. 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-303 (Sub-No. 18X) 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) Michael J. Barron, Jr., General Attorney, Wisconsin Central Ltd., 6250 N. River Road, Suite 9000, Rosemont, IL 60018.

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