

Finally, the applicant argues that the route restrictions contained in the Morrisville ordinance are violative of 49 U.S.C. § 31114, prohibiting interference with access to the interstate highway system. I can say, with all assuredness, that no interstate highways traverse the Borough of Morrisville. However, the availability of U.S. Route 1 to the applicant has not been restricted. 49 U.S.C. § 5112, cited by the applicant, appears to give the states the right to designate specific highway routes over which hazardous material may and may not be transported by motor vehicle. In Pennsylvania, this right is further delegated to counties and municipalities by section 304 of the Municipal Waste, Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act, 53 Pa. C.S.A. § 4000.304.

The Morrisville ordinance provides standards for the transportation of hazardous waste within the borough which are different, though no less stringent than federal regulations. 49 U.S.C.S. § 5101 states that the purpose of the chapter is "to provide adequate protection against the risks to life and property inherent in the transportation of hazardous material in commerce by improving the regulation and enforcement authority of the Secretary of Transportation." Morrisville Ordinance No. 902 espouses the same concern for the "health, safety and general welfare of its residents." The ordinance in question breaks no new legislative ground regarding the transportation of hazardous waste but only serve to clarify and specify areas already addressed by federal law. Therefore, the two-part preemption test is not satisfied.

49 U.S.C.S. § 5125 clearly states the criteria by which a local hazardous waste ordinance will be evaluated for the purpose of determining whether it is preempted. Section 5125(a) states that a "requirement of a [local government] is preempted if complying with the requirement of the * * * political subdivision * * * and a requirement of this chapter * * * is not possible." Nothing in the Morrisville ordinance prevents any hauler of dangerous waste to comply with any of the provisions of the federal statutes or any of the rules that have been promulgated in furtherance of environmental legislation. Section 5125(b) states that no local ordinance may be substantively different from federal regulations. The definitions espoused by the Morrisville ordinance and the federal statutes address essentially the same types of materials.

Sincerely,
Stephen L. Needles,
Stuckert and Yates.

cc: Ross M. Johnston,
Gary P. Lightman,
George Mount, Manager
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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 145X)]

Union Pacific Railroad Company— Abandonment Exemption—in Stanislaus 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 a 5.62-mile line of railroad over the Tidewater Subdivision from milepost 26.43 near McHenry to milepost 32.05 in Modesto, in Stanislaus County, CA.¹ The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Codes 95350 through 95356.

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;² (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 and discontinuance 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

¹ UP states that it had authority to abandon the line between mileposts 27 and 30 pursuant to a joint relocation project with the Southern Pacific Transportation Company that was the subject of a notice of exemption in *Union Pacific Railroad Company and Southern Pacific Transportation Company—Joint Relocation Project Exemption*, Finance Docket No. 32086 (ICC served June 30, 1992), but that the abandonment authority was never exercised.

The City of Modesto (City) filed a request for issuance of a notice of interim trail use (NITU) for a portion of the right-of-way between milepost +26.43 and milepost +30.63 pursuant to section 8(d) of the National Trails System Act, 16 U.S.C. 1247(d). The Board will address the City's trail use request and any others that may be filed in a subsequent decision.

² UP states that in connection with track construction in downtown Modesto, it plans to temporarily detour some overhead traffic over the line for approximately one week beginning on or about April 14, 2000. UP states that the detour is necessary to maintain access to the Modesto & Empire Traction line between Modesto and Empire, CA.

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 May 16, 2000, unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay that do not involve environmental issues,³ formal expressions of intent to file an OFA under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2),⁴ and trail use/rail banking requests under 49 CFR 1152.29 must be filed by April 24, 2000. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by May 4, 2000, with: Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423.

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to applicant's representative: James P. Gatlin, 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 effects, if any, of the abandonment and discontinuance on the environment and historic resources. The Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) will issue an environmental assessment (EA) by April 19, 2000. 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 its line. If consummation has not been effected by UP's filing of a notice of consummation

³ 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.

⁴ Each offer of financial assistance must be accompanied by the filing fee, which currently is set at \$1000. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

by April 14, 2001, and there are no legal or regulatory barriers to consummation, the authority to abandon will automatically expire.

Board decisions and notices are available on our website at "WWW.STB.DOT.GOV."

Decided: April 7, 2000.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-9242 Filed 4-13-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 70)]

Union Pacific Railroad Company— Abandonment—Wallace Branch, ID

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board.

ACTION: Notice of availability of final supplemental environmental assessment.

SUMMARY: The Surface Transportation Board's (Board's) Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) has prepared a Final Supplemental Environmental Assessment (Final Supplemental EA) to complete the environmental review process under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for this rail abandonment proceeding.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dana White, (202) 565-1552 (TDD for the hearing impaired 1-800-877-8339). To obtain a copy of the Final Supplemental EA, contact Da-To-Da Office Solutions, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20006, phone (202) 466-5530 or visit the Board's website at "WWW.STB.DOT.GOV".

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This Final Supplemental EA addresses the Union Pacific Railroad Company's (UP's) filings with the Board on June 18, 1999 and October 19, 1999, of environmental information required to complete the environmental review process in this rail abandonment proceeding in accordance with the Court's decision in *State of Idaho v. ICC*, 35 F.3d 585 (D.C. Cir. 1994). UP now seeks final approval to salvage (*i.e.*, remove the tracks, ties, and roadbed) the rail lines known as the Wallace-Mullan Branches (Wallace Branch) in Benewah, Kootenai and Shoshone Counties, Idaho outside of the Bunker Hill Superfund Site (BHSS).¹

¹ The 71.5-mile line extends from milepost 16.5 near Plummer, to milepost 80.4, near Wallace, and

To meet its obligations under NEPA, SEA completed an independent review of the material submitted by UP and on January 7, 2000 issued a Draft Supplemental EA for public review and comment. The Draft Supplemental EA addressed environmental information and evaluated (1) Whether the six environmental conditions previously imposed by the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC)² were met and (2) whether the environmental concerns regarding salvage activity raised during the course of the environmental review process had now been appropriately addressed and resolved. The document also contained SEA's preliminary recommendations for mitigating the potential environmental impacts from salvage activity that have been identified.

SEA received nine comments on the Draft Supplemental EA, including generally favorable comments urging that the Board grant UP final salvage authority submitted by EPA, the State of Idaho, the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, through whose reservation the line passes, and UP. The Final Supplemental EA presents the agency and public comments that SEA received on the Draft Supplemental EA and SEA's response to those comments. It summarizes the environmental review that has taken place in this case and recommends final environmental mitigation measures for the Board to impose if it decides to approve salvage of the line. The Final Supplemental EA fully adopts and incorporates the analysis and conclusions in the Draft

then to milepost 7.6, near Mullan, in Benewah, Kootenai, and Shoshone Counties, Idaho. The line traverses the U.S. Postal Service zip codes 83851, 83861, 83833, 83810, 83839, 83837, 83846, and 83846. The Wallace Branch no longer has stations because rail service has already been discontinued. The 7.9-mile section of right-of-way within the BHSS was addressed in the BHSS Record of Decision (EPA 1992) and is not part of the salvage proposal before the Board. Section 121(e)(1), of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability (CERCLA), 42 U.S.C. 9261(e)(1), relieves UP of the requirement to obtain Board approval to remove track within the BHSS if it is done in connection with remediation actions carried out in compliance with CERCLA. Pursuant to Section 121(e) of CERCLA, UP removed track within the BHSS in connection with remediation actions carried out in compliance with CERCLA. UP has not, by undertaking such remediation, or by any other action, abandoned any portion of the Wallace Branch including the portion within the BHSS.

² The ICC Termination Act of 1995 (ICCTA), which was enacted on December 29, 1995, and took effect on January 1, 1996, abolished the ICC and established the Board to assume some regulatory functions involving rail transportation matters that the ICC had administered, including the functions involving the abandonment of rail service at issue here. The ICC's six environmental conditions required consultation and possible permitting and review by appropriate agencies with specialized expertise prior to any salvage activity on this line.

Supplemental EA, subject to certain factual and technical changes made as a result of the comments, and a modified historic preservation condition.

In the Final Supplemental EA, SEA concludes that the material provided by UP was sufficient to satisfy five of the six environmental conditions imposed by the ICC to ensure that, prior to salvage of the line, the potential significance of environmental effects related to the proposed track salvage will have been properly evaluated.³ Furthermore, SEA concludes, based on the available information and the input of other agencies and government entities with specialized expertise, that if UP complies with the mitigation in the Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis and the Track Salvage Work Plan that were issued and approved by EPA, and the Biological Assessment prepared by UP and approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and if the additional mitigation SEA has recommended is imposed and implemented by UP, UP's proposal to salvage the Wallace Branch would not have significant adverse environmental impacts. Therefore, the preparation of an environmental impact statement is not warranted.

The Board will consider the entire environmental record, the Draft Supplemental EA, the Final Supplemental EA, and all public comments before issuing a decision either granting or denying UP final authority to salvage the portion of the Wallace Branch outside of the BHSS. In that decision, if UP's proposal is approved, the Board will impose any environmental conditions it deems appropriate.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

April 4, 2000.

The Department of Treasury has submitted the following public information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the

³ The only condition that has not yet been satisfied is the ICC's Environmental Condition No. 6, involving historic preservation. SEA recommends that the Board impose a modified historic preservation condition on any decision approving salvage to ensure completion of the historic review process.