

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Surface Transportation Board****[STB Docket No. AB-303 (Sub-No. 22X)]****Wisconsin Central Ltd.—Abandonment Exemption—in Calumet and Brown Counties, WI**

On October 2, 2000, 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. 10903-05¹ to abandon a line of railroad known as the Hilbert-Greenleaf Line, extending between milepost 170.4 at Hilbert and milepost 183 at Greenleaf, in Calumet and Brown Counties, WI, a distance of 12.6 miles. The line traverses U.S. Postal Service Zip Codes 54129, 54123 and 54126, and includes the station at Greenleaf (milepost 183).

The line does not contain federally granted rights-of-way. Any documentation in WC'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 issuing this notice, the Board is instituting an exemption proceeding pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10502(b). A final decision will be issued by January 19, 2001.

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 \$1,000 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 November 9, 2000.

¹ WCL's petition states that it seeks exemption from the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 10903-05, thus evidently including exemption from the offer of financial assistance (OFA) requirements of 49 U.S.C. 10904 and the public use requirements of 49 U.S.C. 10905. WCL has not submitted evidence to establish that the proposed exemptions from the sections 10904 and 10905 meet the criteria of 49 U.S.C. 10502. Therefore, its request as to those two provisions will not be considered.

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. 22X) and must be sent to: (1) Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001; and (2) Michael J. Barron, Jr., P.O. Box 5062, Rosemont, IL 60017-5062. Replies to the WCL petition are due on or before November 9, 2000.

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 1-800-877-8339.]

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.

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

Decided: October 12, 2000.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Bureau of Transportation Statistics****Advisory Council on Transportation Statistics**

AGENCY: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 10(A)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act

(Public Law 72-363; 5 U.S.C. App. 2) notice is hereby given of a meeting of the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) Advisory Council on Transportation Statistics (ACTS) to be held Tuesday, October 31, 2000, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The meeting will take place at the U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC, in conference room 10234-10238 of the Nassif Building.

The Advisory Council, called for under section 6007 of Public Law 102-240, Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991, December 18, 1991, and chartered on June 19, 1995, was created to advise the Director of BTS on transportation statistics and analyses, including whether or not the statistics and analysis disseminated by the Bureau are of high quality and are based upon the best available objective information.

The agenda for this meeting will include, Director's programs update, Advisory Council report to the Director, data gaps, identification of substantive issues, review of plans and schedule, other items of interest, discussion and agreement of date(s) for subsequent meetings, and comments from the floor.

Since access to the DOT building is controlled, all persons who plan to attend the meeting must notify Ms. Lillian "Pidge" Chapman, Council Liaison, on (202) 366-1270 prior to October 27, 2000. Attendance is open to the interested public but limited to space available. With the approval of the Chair, members of the public may present oral statements at the meeting. Noncommittee members wishing to present oral statements, obtain information, or who plan to access the building to attend the meeting should also contact Ms. Chapman.

Members of the public may present a written statement to the Council at any time.

Persons with a disability requiring special services, such as an interpreter for the hearing impaired, should contact Ms. Chapman (202) 366-1270 at least seven days prior to the meeting.

Issued in Washington, DC, on October 16, 2000.

Ashish Sen,
Director.

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