

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 December 31, 2001. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by January 10, 2002, 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 CSXT's representative: Paul R. Hitchcock, Assistant General Counsel, CSX Transportation, Inc., 500 Water Street, J150, Jacksonville, FL 32202.

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

CSXT has filed an environmental report which addresses the effects, if any, of the abandonment on the environment and historic resources. SEA will issue an environmental assessment (EA) by December 28, 2001. 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) 565-1552. 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), CSXT 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 CSXT's filing of a notice of consummation by December 21, 2002, 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: December 11, 2001.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 01-30993 Filed 12-20-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

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 \$1000. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-43 (Sub-No. 172X)]

Illinois Central Railroad Company—Abandonment Exemption—in Adams County, MS

On December 4, 2001, Illinois Central Railroad Company (ICR), 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 line of railroad known as the Natchez Spur, between milepost LN 94.48 and milepost LN 98.38, a distance of 3.9 miles in Natchez, Adams County, MS.¹ The line traverses U.S. Postal Service Zip Code 39120. There are no stations on the line.

The line does not contain federally granted rights-of-way. Any documentation in ICR'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 22, 2002.

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 January 10, 2002. 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-43 (Sub-No. 172X) and must be sent to: (1) Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423—

¹ According to petitioner, the southernmost 0.56 miles of the line is ICR terminal trackage and former Natchez & Southern trackage not formally included in ICR's milepost numbering system. The southern boundary of the abandonment is the equivalent of milepost LN 98.38 under the numbering system used on the remainder of the line.

0001; and (2) Michael J. Barron, Jr., 455 North Cityfront Plaza Drive, Chicago, IL 60611-5317. Replies to the IC petition are due on or before January 10, 2002.

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) 565-1552. [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 web site at "WWW.STB.DOT.GOV."

Decided: December 14, 2001.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 01-31369 Filed 12-20-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-596]

New York City Economic Development Corporation—Adverse Abandonment—New York Cross Harbor Railroad, Inc., in New York, NY

On December 4, 2001,¹ New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) on behalf of the City of New York (City) filed an adverse application under 49 U.S.C. 10903 requesting that the Surface Transportation Board

¹ On December 4, 2001, NYCEDC filed a petition for a 1-day extension of time in order to gather the information necessary to file its application for adverse abandonment. Board regulations and case law permit extension of time for filing when good cause is shown and no party will be prejudiced by the delayed submission. See *Huron Valley Steel Co. v. Seaboard System RR, Inc.*, ICC Docket No. 39886 (ICC served Feb. 12, 1988). The extension is granted and the application is accepted because NYCEDC has shown good cause and no party will be prejudiced by the delay.