

EFFECTIVE DATE: The proposed productivity adjustment is effective 30 days after the date of service.

ADDRESSES: Send comments (an original and 10 copies) referring to STB Ex Parte No. 290 (Sub-No. 4) to: Office of the Secretary, Case Control Branch, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001. Parties should submit all pleading and attachments on a 3.5-inch diskette in WordPerfect 6.0 or 6.1 compatible format.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: H. Jeff Warren, (202) 565-1533. Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) for the hearing impaired: 1-800-877-8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Additional information is contained in the Board's decision, which is available on our Web site <http://www.stb.dot.gov>. To purchase a copy of the full decision, write to, call, or pick up in person from the Board's contractor, ASAP Document Solutions, Suite 405, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20006, phone (202) 293-7878. [Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through FIRS: 1-800-877-8339.]

This action will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or energy conservation.

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 605(b), we conclude that our action will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities within the meaning of the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

Decided: January 6, 2004.

By the Board, Chairman Nober.

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 04-547 Filed 1-9-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket Nos. AB-855 (Sub-No. 1X), and AB-847 (Sub-No. 2X)]

A & R Line, Inc.—Abandonment Exemption—in Cass and Pulaski Counties, IN; Toledo, Peoria & Western Railway Corporation—Discontinuance of Service, Exemption—in Cass and Pulaski Counties, IN

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board.

ACTION: Notice to the Parties.

SUMMARY: The Surface Transportation Board's Section of Environmental Analysis is correcting the environmental assessment (EA) served on September 29, 2003. The correct length of the line sought to be abandoned and discontinued is 21 miles. All other

information in the EA remains unchanged.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kenneth Blodgett, (202) 565-1554. [Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.]

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On September 29, 2003, the section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) served an environmental assessment (EA), which described the length of the line sought to be abandoned and discontinued as 15.9 miles. On December 23, 2003, Counsel for A&R Line, Inc., and the Toledo, Peoria & Western Railway Corporation (carriers) filed a "Motion to Amend the Pleadings and Decisions and Hold Offer of Financial Assistance Process in Abeyance."¹ Included in the motion was a request for the Board to amend the pleadings and decisions to reflect the correct length of the line as 21 miles. According to the carriers, the pleadings contained incorrect information pertaining to the total mileage involved in this proceeding, and this misstatement of the mileage occurred because there are currently two milepost designations, Milepost 5.1W and Milepost 0.0, for the same location. Therefore, the EA should have stated that the line runs from Milepost 0.0, near Kenneth, to Milepost 21.0W, near Winamac, for a total distance of 21 miles. SEA considered the impact that the abandonment and discontinuance would have on the area between Kenneth and Winamac, which covered the full 21 miles of the line. Therefore, all other information in the EA remains unchanged.

Please correct your copies accordingly.

Board decisions and notices are available on our Web site at <http://www.stb.dot.gov>.

Decided: January 6, 2004.

By the Board, Victoria Rutson, Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis.

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 04-548 Filed 1-9-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-43 (Sub-No. 175X)]

Illinois Central Railroad Company—Abandonment Exemption—in Mobile County, AL

Illinois Central Railroad Company (IC) has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F—*Exempt Abandonments* to abandon a 1.03-mile line of railroad between milepost 3.67 and milepost 4.7 in Prichard, Mobile County, AL. The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Code 36610.

IC has certified that: (1) No local traffic has moved over the line for at least 2 years; (2) there is no overhead traffic on the line; (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 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 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 February 11, 2004, unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay that do not involve environmental issues,¹ formal expressions of intent to file an OFA under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2),² and rail use/rail banking requests under 49 CFR

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 (SEA) 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 OFA must be accompanied by the filing fee, which currently is set at \$1,100. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

¹ The Board is currently considering the motion.

1152.29 must be filed by January 22, 2004. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by February 2, 2004, with: Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423.

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to IC's representative: Michael J. Barron, Jr., Illinois Central Railroad Company, c/o CN, 455 North Cityfront Plaza Drive Chicago, IL 60611.

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

IC has filed an environmental report which addresses the abandonment's effects, if any, on the environment and historic resources. SEA will issue an environmental assessment (EA) by January 16, 2004. 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) 565-1539. [Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.] 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), IC 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 IC's filing of a notice of consummation by January 12, 2005, 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 Web site at <http://www.stb.dot.gov>.

Decided: January 6, 2004.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 04-546 Filed 1-9-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-290 (Sub-No. 247X)]

Norfolk Southern Railway Company— Abandonment Exemption-in Mecklenburg County, NC

On December 23, 2003, Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSR) filed with the Board a petition under 49 U.S.C. 10502 for exemption from the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 10903-05 to abandon a segment at the end of its line of railroad known as the old R-Line. The 1.95-mile segment extends from Milepost old R-3.00 to Milepost old R-4.95, in Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, NC. The line traverses United States Postal Service ZIP Codes 28210 and 28217 and includes no stations.

In addition to an exemption from 49 U.S.C. 10903, petitioner seeks exemption from 49 U.S.C. 10904 [offer of financial assistance (OFA) procedures] and 49 U.S.C. 10905 [public use conditions]. In support, NSR states that the right-of-way has been conveyed to the City of Charlotte (City) for public purposes. As part of the transaction, NSR proposes to reclassify the track as industrial lead track, retain an easement over the reclassified track and enter into an operating agreement with the City, which will permit NSR to continue to provide rail service over the reclassified track. These requests will be addressed in the final decision.

The line does not contain Federally granted rights-of-way. Any documentation in the railroad'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 April 9, 2004.

Any 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, unless the Board grants the requested exemption from the OFA process. Each OFA must be accompanied by a \$1,100 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. Unless the Board grants the requested exemption from the public use provisions, 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 February 2, 2004. 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-290 (Sub-No. 247X) and must be sent to: (1) Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001; and (2) James R. Paschall, Norfolk Southern Corporation, Three Commerce Place, Norfolk, VA 23510. Replies to the petition are due on or before February 2, 2004.

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) 565-1539. [Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) 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 <http://www.stb.dot.gov>.

Decided: January 6, 2004.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 04-564 Filed 1-9-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

Open Meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Treasury.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: An open meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Taxpayer