

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33403]

**Union Pacific Railroad Company—
Trackage Rights Exemption—The
Burlington Northern and Santa Fe
Railway Company**

The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company has agreed to grant overhead trackage rights to Union Pacific Railroad Company over trackage extending generally in a northeast direction from milepost 59.06, near 10th Street and Avery Avenue, to milepost 56.92, a distance of 2.14 miles in Lincoln, Lancaster County, NE.

The transaction is scheduled to be consummated on May 28, 1997.

The purpose of the trackage rights is to facilitate efficient train operations and coordination of rail operations in the City of Lincoln, NE, in connection with the plan of the Lincoln-Lancaster County Railroad Transportation Safety District.

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. 33403, 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 Joseph D. Anthofer, Esq., 1416 Dodge Street, #830, Omaha, NE 68179.

Decided: May 27, 1997.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-14588 Filed 6-3-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-103 (Sub-No. 11X)]

**The Kansas City Southern Railway
Company—Abandonment Exemption—
in Hempstead, Lafayette and Columbia
Counties, AR**

The Kansas City Southern Railway Company (KCS) has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F—Exempt Abandonments to abandon a 42.78-mile line of railroad between milepost 4.00 at or near Hope, and milepost 46.78 at the Arkansas-Louisiana State Line, in Hempstead, Lafayette and Columbia Counties, AR. The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Codes 71860 and 71861.

KCS 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 July 4, 1997, unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay that do not involve environmental issues,¹ formal expressions of intent to file an

¹The 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.

OFA under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2),² and trail use/rail banking requests under 49 CFR 1152.29³ must be filed by June 16, 1997. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by June 24, 1997, with: Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20423.

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to applicant's representative: Thomas F. McFarland, Jr., McFarland and Herman, 20 North Wacker Drive, Suite 1330, Chicago, IL 60606-2902.

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

KCS has filed an environmental report which addresses the abandonment's effects, if any, on the environment and historic resources. The Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) will issue an environmental assessment (EA) by June 9, 1997. 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), KCS 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 KCS's filing of a notice of consummation by June 4, 1998, and there are no legal or regulatory barriers to consummation, the authority to abandon will automatically expire.

Decided: May 28, 1997.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-14587 Filed 6-3-97; 8:45 am]

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²Each offer of financial assistance must be accompanied by the filing fee, which currently is set at \$900. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

³The Board will accept late-filed trail use requests as long as the abandoning has not been consummated and the abandoning railroad is willing to negotiate an agreement.