

28898  
DO

SERVICE DATE - FEBRUARY 3, 1998

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Docket No. AB-167 (Sub-No. 1161X)

CONSOLIDATED RAIL CORPORATION--ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION--  
IN VERMILION AND CHAMPAIGN COUNTIES, IL

Decided: January 30, 1998

On February 7, 1997, a decision and notice of interim trail use or abandonment (NITU) was served, authorizing a 180-day period for Champaign County Design and Conservation Foundation (CCDC Foundation) to negotiate an interim trail use/rail banking agreement with Consolidated Rail Corporation (Conrail) for approximately 24.50 miles of its line of railroad known as the Pekin Secondary Track from approximately milepost 4.00 to approximately milepost 28.50, in Vermilion and Champaign Counties, IL. The 180-day period under the NITU was scheduled to expire on August 8, 1997, but was extended through February 4, 1998, by decision served August 1, 1998.<sup>1</sup>

On January 27, 1997, CCDC Foundation, with the consent of Conrail, filed a request for an extension of the negotiation period for an additional 180 days. CCDC Foundation states that it and Conrail have been negotiating in good faith and that it has signed a written agreement of sale subject to appraisals, environmental and title work, but additional time is needed to complete the conditions and reports under the written agreement for interim trail use/rail banking with Conrail.

Because Conrail consents to the request for extension of the negotiating period, an extension will be granted until August 3, 1998. This extension of time will promote the establishment of trails and rail banking consistent with the National Trails System Act, 16 U.S.C. 1247(d) (Trails Act). The purpose of the Trails Act is to preserve rail corridors for possible reactivation of rail service by permitting and encouraging their interim use as recreational trails. See Policy Statement on Rails to Trails Conversions, Ex Parte No. 274 (Sub-No. 13B) (ICC served Feb. 5, 1990).

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

It is ordered:

1. The negotiating period under the NITU is extended to August 3, 1998.

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<sup>1</sup> Notice of the exemption was published in the Federal Register on June 28, 1996 (60 FR 33695).

STB Docket No. AB-167 (Sub-No. 1161X)

2. The decision is effective on its service date.

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

Vernon A. Williams  
Secretary

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