

February 12, 2013

233788

Ms. Cynthia T. Brown  
Chief, Section of Administration  
Office of Proceedings  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20423

ENTERED  
Office of Proceedings  
February 12, 2013  
Part of  
Public Record

Re: STB Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 277X), *Union Pacific Railroad Company – Abandonment Exemption – In Lafourche Parish, LA*

Dear Ms. Brown:

I am writing on behalf of Union Pacific Railroad Company (“UP”) in response to the letter filed in this docket on January 29, 2013, by Valentine Chemicals, LLC (“Valentine”). The letter addresses a pending motion in which UP asked the Board to modify the abandonment authorized in a notice of exemption served November 14, 2011, in order to permit only UP’s discontinuance of service over a 12.5-mile portion of UP’s Lockport Branch.

Valentine asks the Board to “take into account” the “realistic potential for substantial rail traffic over the Lockport Branch in any decision regarding abandonment or continued rail service over the Branch.” Another shipper, LogiBio, LLC, also recently wrote to the Board about the possibility of locating a facility on the Branch.

UP remains open to commercial opportunities with potential users of the Lockport Branch, including Valentine and LogiBio. UP is not seeking to abandon the Branch. Rather, UP is seeking authority to discontinue service over a portion of the line. As UP has explained to the Board, one reason why it decided to pursue a discontinuance instead of an abandonment is the possibility of future business on the line. Moreover, UP has agreed that, as a condition on the discontinuance, it will not salvage track material on the line without further authorization from the Board.

However, the portion of the Lockport Branch at issue in this docket has not carried traffic in many years—the last loaded car was delivered to a customer in December

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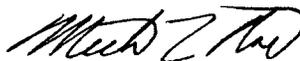
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2008<sup>1</sup>—and it may well never carry traffic again. The Board should authorize the discontinuance.

Sincerely,



Michael L. Rosenthal  
*Counsel for Union Pacific  
Railroad Company*

cc: All Parties of Record

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<sup>1</sup> See Combined Notice of Exemption at 1, *Union Pac. R.R. – Abandonment Exemption – In Lafourche Parish, LA*, AB-33 (Sub-No. 277X) (Sept. 28, 2011).