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SERVICE DATE - NOVEMBER 10, 2003

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Docket No. AB-468 (Sub-No. 6X)

PADUCAH & LOUISVILLE RAILWAY, INC.–ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION–
IN HOPKINS COUNTY, KY

Decided: November 7, 2003

Paducah & Louisville Railway, Inc. (P&L), filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F–Exempt Abandonments to abandon a 4.81-mile line of railroad between milepost J-159.6, near Ilesley, and milepost J-164.41, near Dawson Springs, in Hopkins County, KY. Notice of the exemption was served and published in the Federal Register on October 10, 2003 (68 FR 58747). The exemption is scheduled to become effective on November 12, 2003.

The Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) served an environmental assessment (EA) in this proceeding on October 17, 2003. In the EA, SEA states that the Kentucky Heritage Council (SHPO) has not yet completed its review of the proposed abandonment. Therefore, SEA recommends that P&L be required to retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the historic integrity of the line and all sites and structures on the line until the completion of the section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 470f (NHPA).

Comments to the EA were due by November 3, 2003.¹ No comments were received by the due date. Accordingly, the environmental condition recommended by SEA in the EA will be imposed.

As conditioned, this decision will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

It is ordered:

1. This proceeding is reopened.
2. Upon reconsideration, the exemption of the abandonment of the line described above is subject to the condition that P&L retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the historic integrity of

¹ On October 20, 2003, a notice to the parties was served specifying the correct comment due date.

the line and all sites and structures on the line until the completion of the section 106 process of the NHPA.

3. This decision is effective on its service date.

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

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary