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SERVICE DATE – LATE RELEASE FEBRUARY 19, 2003

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 167X)

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY—ABANDONMENT AND DISCONTINUANCE  
EXEMPTION—IN COOK COUNTY, IL

Decided: February 19, 2003

By decision and notice of interim trail use or abandonment (NITU) served on August 23, 2002, the Board granted Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) an exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502 from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 10903 to abandon a 1.04-mile portion of a line of railroad, known as the Skokie Industrial Lead (the line), extending from milepost 12.60 south of Oakton Street to the north side of Dempster Street at milepost 13.64 (South Segment), and to discontinue service over an 8.06-mile portion of the line from milepost 13.64 to milepost 21.70 near Northfield (North Segment), a total distance of 9.10 miles, in Cook County, IL. The exemption was subject to public use, environmental, and standard employee protective conditions and authorized a 180-day period for the Village of Skokie (the Village) to negotiate an interim trail use/rail banking agreement with UP for the South Segment. The negotiating period under the NITU is scheduled to expire on February 19, 2003.

On February 14, 2003, the Village filed a request to extend the NITU negotiating period for an additional 180 days. The Village states that significant progress has been made toward an agreement but additional time is needed to complete negotiations. According to the Village, UP has no objection to the extension.

Where, as here, the carrier is willing to continue trail use negotiations, the negotiating period may be extended. An extension of the negotiating period will promote the establishment of trail use and rail banking consistent with the National Trails System Act, 16 U.S.C. 1247(d).<sup>1</sup> Accordingly, the NITU negotiating period will be extended for an additional 180 days from February 19, 2003.

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

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<sup>1</sup> See Rail Abandonments—Supplemental Trails Act Procedures, 4 I.C.C.2d 152 (1987).

It is ordered:

1. The Village's request to extend the NITU negotiating period is granted.
2. The negotiating period under the NITU is extended for 180 days until August 18, 2003.
3. This decision is effective on its service date.

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

Vernon A. Williams  
Secretary