

21442 **SERVICE DATE - LATE RELEASE JANUARY 9, 1997**

SEC SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Ex Parte No. 537

ABANDONMENT AND DISCONTINUANCE OF RAIL LINES AND
RAIL TRANSPORTATION UNDER 49 U.S.C. 10903

Decided: January 9, 1997

By decision served December 24, 1996, the Board revised its regulations concerning the abandonment and discontinuance processes at 49 U.S.C. 1152 (and made conforming changes to the environmental rules at part 1105) to conform to changes in the law made by the ICC Termination Act of 1995. Petitions for reconsideration are due on January 13, 1997.

On January 8, 1997, the Association of American Railroads (AAR) filed a request for an extension of time to January 27, 1997, to file any such petition. AAR Counsel states that additional time is necessary because the recent holiday period delayed AAR's receipt of input from affected industry representatives. The request is reasonable and will be granted.

It is ordered:

1. AAR's extension request is granted.
2. Petitions for reconsideration are due on or before January 27, 1997.
3. This decision is effective on the date of service.

By the Board, Vernon A. Williams, Secretary.

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary