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SERVICE DATE – MARCH 26, 2007

DO

FR-4915-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-254 (Sub-No. 9X)]

Providence and Worcester Railroad Company—Abandonment Exemption—

Slatersville Secondary Track (Woonsocket, RI and Blackstone, MA)

Providence and Worcester Railroad Company (P&W) has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F—Exempt Abandonments to abandon a portion of the Slatersville Secondary Track located in Woonsocket, Providence County, RI, extending from milepost 0.85 +/- at the north side of Boyden Street and continuing to a point that is 1,480 +/- feet northerly of the end of the track at milepost 0.0 in Blackstone, Worcester County, MA, a total distance of approximately 1.1 miles. The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Codes 02895 and 01504.

P&W has certified that: (1) no local traffic has moved over the line for at least 2 years; (2) there is no overhead traffic on the line; (3) no formal complaint filed by a user of rail service on the line (or by a state or local government entity acting on behalf of such user) regarding cessation of service over the line either is pending with the Surface Transportation Board or with any U.S. District Court or has been decided in favor of complainant within the 2-year period; and (4) the requirements of 49 CFR 1105.7 (environmental report), 49 CFR 1105.8 (historic report), 49 CFR 1105.11

(transmittal letter), 49 CFR 1105.12 (newspaper publication), and 49 CFR 1152.50(d)(1) (notice to governmental agencies) have been met.

As a condition to this exemption, any employees adversely affected by the abandonment shall be protected under Oregon Short Line R. Co.—Abandonment—Goshen, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979). To address whether this condition adequately protects affected employees, a petition for partial revocation under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) must be filed.

Provided no formal expression of intent to file an offer of financial assistance (OFA) has been received, this exemption will be effective on April 25, 2007, unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay that do not involve environmental issues,<sup>1</sup> formal expressions of intent to file an OFA under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2),<sup>2</sup> and trail use/rail banking requests under 49 CFR 1152.29 must be filed by April 5, 2007. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by April 16, 2007, with: Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001.

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<sup>1</sup> The Board will grant a stay if an informed decision on environmental issues (whether raised by a party or by the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) in its independent investigation) cannot be made before the exemption's effective date. See Exemption of Out-of-Service Rail Lines, 5 I.C.C.2d 377 (1989). Any request for a stay should be filed as soon as possible so that the Board may take appropriate action before the exemption's effective date.

<sup>2</sup> Each OFA must be accompanied by the filing fee which is currently set at \$1,300. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to P&W's representative: Edward D. Greenberg, 1054 Thirty-First Street, N. W., Washington, DC 20007.

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void ab initio.

P&W has filed environmental and historic reports which address the effects, if any, of the abandonment on the environment and historic resources. SEA will issue an environmental assessment (EA) by March 30, 2007. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA by writing to SEA (Room 1100, Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423-0001) or by calling SEA, at (202) 245-0305. [Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.] Comments on environmental and historic preservation matters must be filed within 15 days after the EA becomes available to the public.

Environmental, historic preservation, public use, or trail use/rail banking conditions will be imposed, where appropriate, in a subsequent decision.

Pursuant to the provisions of 49 CFR 1152.29(e)(2), P&W shall file a notice of consummation with the Board to signify that it has exercised the authority granted and fully abandoned the line. If consummation has not been effected by P&W's filing of a notice of consummation by March 26, 2008, and there are no legal or regulatory barriers to consummation, the authority to abandon will automatically expire.

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Decided: March 16, 2007.

By the Board, Joseph H. Dettmar, Acting Director, Office of Proceedings.

Vernon A. Williams

Secretary