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SERVICE DATE – LATE RELEASE NOVEMBER 19, 2010

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 290X)

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY—ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION—
IN PULASKI COUNTY, ARK.

Decided: November 19, 2010

Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 C.F.R. pt. 1152 subpart F—Exempt Abandonments to abandon a line of railroad known as the North Little Rock Junction Bridge Line, extending from milepost 343.65 to the end of the line at milepost 343.97, a distance of .32 miles, in North Little Rock, in Pulaski County, Ark. Notice of the exemption was served and published in the Federal Register on October 21, 2010 (75 Fed. Reg. 65,049). The exemption is scheduled to become effective on November 20, 2010.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) served an environmental assessment (EA) in this proceeding on October 26, 2010, requesting comments by November 10, 2010. In the EA, OEA recommended that the Board not impose environmental conditions on any decision granting abandonment authority and concluded that the proposed action would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment. No comments were received during the comment period.

On November 18, 2010, OEA received a late-filed comment from the National Geodetic Survey (NGS). NGS has identified 1 geodetic station marker that may be affected by the proposed abandonment. Accordingly, OEA now recommends a condition requiring UP to consult with NGS and notify NGS at least 90 days prior to beginning salvage activities that could disturb or destroy any geodetic station markers. Based on OEA's recommendation, the recommended condition 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 notice served and published in the Federal Register on October 21, 2010, exempting the abandonment of the line described above, is subject to the condition that UP shall consult with NGS and notify NGS at least 90 days prior to beginning salvage activities that could disturb or destroy any geodetic station markers.

3. This decision is effective on its service date.

By the Board, Rachel D. Campbell, Director, Office of Proceedings.