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DO

FR-4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33290]<sup>1</sup>

Sault Ste. Marie Bridge Company--Acquisition and Operation  
Exemption--Lines of Union Pacific Railroad Company

Sault Ste. Marie Bridge Company (SSMB), a Class III rail carrier, has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.41 to acquire and operate approximately 220 miles of rail lines of Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and northern Wisconsin. The lines to be acquired and operated are: (1) The Escanaba Subdivision, extending from milepost 4.0 near Duck Creek, WI, to LS&I milepost 74.50 at Ishpeming, MI, a distance of 178.25 miles. (There are milepost equations at Menominee, MI, where milepost 49.99 = milepost 51.00, and at Escanaba, MI, where milepost 116.49 = milepost 117.00.)<sup>2</sup>; (2) The Iron

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<sup>1</sup> On January 6, 1997, Inland Steel Company and LTV Steel Company, Inc., jointly filed a petition to reject the notice of exemption or to revoke the exemption. Simultaneously, they filed a petition to stay the effectiveness of the notice of exemption pending a ruling on the petition to reject or revoke. The stay request was denied by decision served January 24, 1997. The petition to reject or revoke will be handled in a separate decision.

<sup>2</sup> Trackage between Negaunee, MI, and Ishpeming is  
(continued...)

Mountain Branch, extending from milepost 0.0 at Powers, MI (connection with the Escanaba Subdivision) to milepost 30.24 at Antoine, MI, a total distance of 32.01 miles. (The Iron Mountain Branch includes 1.30 miles of trackage rights over E&LS between UP mileposts 28.45 and 29.60 at Antoine, and a 1.62-mile industrial park spur at Antoine.); (3) The Niagara Industrial Lead, extending from milepost -0.40 at Quinnesec, MI (connection with the Iron Mountain Branch) to milepost 3.75 at Niagara, WI, a distance of 4.15 miles.; and (4) The Palmer Industrial Lead, extending from milepost 0.0 at Cascade (connection with the Escanaba Subdivision) to milepost 6.06 at Palmer, MI, a distance of 6.06 miles. (The Palmer Industrial Lead currently is out of service). SSMB also will acquire by assignment from UP incidental trackage rights over lines of LS&I between Eagle Mills Jct. and Eagle Mills, MI, a distance of approximately 3 miles, and between

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<sup>2</sup>(...continued)  
owned and operated jointly by UP, Wisconsin Central Ltd. (WCL), and the Lake Superior & Ishpeming Railroad Company (LS&I). Reflecting this arrangement, changes in milepost numbering occur at West Wye near Negaunee, where milepost 176.85 and WCL milepost 164.49 designate the same point, and again at Euclid Avenue Yard in Ishpeming, where WCL milepost 170.70 and LS&I milepost 73.79 designate the same point. The Escanaba Subdivision includes industry trackage at Menominee/Marinette jointly owned or operated with the Escanaba & Lake Superior Railroad Company (E&LS).

Empire Junction and Empire Mine, MI, a distance of approximately 2 miles, and over lines of Fox Valley & Western Ltd. between Duck Creek and Green Bay, WI, a distance of approximately 4 miles.

The scheduled consummation date originally was January 20, 1997, but SSMB extended it to January 24, 1997.

If the notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void ab initio. Petitions to revoke the exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) may be filed at any time. The filing of a petition to revoke does not automatically stay the transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 33290, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Branch, 1201 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20423. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on: Janet H. Gilbert, 6250 North River Road, Suite 9000, Rosemont, IL 60018 and Robert H. Wheeler, Two Prudential Plaza, 45th Floor, 180 North Stetson Avenue, Chicago, IL 60601.

Decided: January 28, 1997.

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

STB Finance Docket No. 33290

Proceedings.

Vernon A. Williams

Secretary