

31638

**SERVICE DATE - FEBRUARY 23, 2001**

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD  
WASHINGTON, DC 20423**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**STB Docket NO. AB-33 (SUB-NO. 165X)**

**Union Pacific Railroad Company--Abandonment Exemption--  
in Caddo Parish, LA**

### **BACKGROUND**

In the above entitled proceeding, Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP), has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152.50 seeking exemption from the requirements of 49 U.S.C. 10903 in connection with the Abandonment and Discontinuances of Service and Trackage Rights to abandon a 0.47-mile line of railroad over the Good Roads Lead from milepost 8.21 to milepost 8.68 in Shreveport, Caddo Parish, LA. A map depicting the rail line in relationship to the area served is appended to the report. If the exemption becomes effective, the railroad will be able to salvage track, ties and other railroad appurtenances, and to dispose of the right-of-way.

### **DESCRIPTION OF THE LINE**

The right-of-way is 100 feet in width and is level with adjacent property. The line is constructed with 75-pound track material. In its application, UP states that there has been no traffic on the line during the past two years.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

UP submitted an environmental report that concludes the quality of the human environment will not be affected significantly as a result of the abandonment or any post abandonment activities, including salvage and disposition of the right-of-way. UP served the environmental and historical reports on a number of appropriate Federal, state, and local agencies as required by the Surface Transportation Board's environmental rules [49 CFR 1105.7(b)]. Also we have consulted with appropriate agencies and individuals to verify the railroad's report and to obtain additional information and comments regarding the potential environmental effects of the proposed abandonment. Contacts have included the Louisiana Department of Transportation; Louisiana Public Service Commission; Louisiana Environmental Quality Department; Caddo Parish Administration; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6; U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Region 4; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; National Park Service; U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service; National Geodetic Survey; Shreveport Chief Administrative Office; Soil & Water Conservation and the Wildlife & Fisheries Dept.

The National Geodetic Survey (NGS) has identified one geodetic station marker that may be affected by the proposed abandonment. NGS requests that it receive not less than 90 days' notification in advance of any salvage activities in order to plan for its relocation.

### **CONDITIONS**

We recommend the following environmental condition be placed on any decision granting abandonment authority:

**The NGS has identified one geodetic station marker that may be affected by the proposed abandonment. Therefore, we recommend that UP consult with the NGS at least 90 days prior to salvage activities in order to plan for its relocation.**

### **CONCLUSIONS**

Based on the information provided from all sources to date, we conclude that, as currently proposed, abandonment of the line will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Therefore, the environmental impact statement process is unnecessary.

Alternatives to the proposed discontinuance would include denial (and, therefore no change in operations), discontinuance of service without abandonment, and continued operation by another operator. In this case, the existing quality of the human environment and energy consumption should not be affected.

### **PUBLIC USE**

If abandonment and salvage of the rail line does not take place, the right-of-way may be suitable for other public use. A request containing the requisite four-part showing for imposition of a public use condition (49 CFR 1152.28) must be filed with the Board and served on the railroad within the time specified in the Federal Register notice.

### **TRAILS USE**

A request for a notice of interim trail use (NITU) is due to the Board, with a copy to the railroad, within 10 days of publication of the notice of the petition for exemption in the Federal Register. However, the Board will accept late-filed requests as long as it retains jurisdiction to do so in a particular case. This request must comply with the Board's rules for use of rights-of-way as trails (49 CFR 1152.29).

### **PUBLIC ASSISTANCE**

The Board's Office of Public Services responds to questions regarding interim trail use, public use, and other reuse alternatives. You may contact the Office of Public Services directly at (202) 565-1592, or mail inquiries to Surface Transportation Board, Office of Public Services, Washington, DC 20423.

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMENTS**

If you wish to file comments regarding this environmental assessment, send an **original and two copies** to Vernon A. Williams, Office of the Secretary, Room 2215, Washington, DC 20423, to the attention of Ann Newman, who prepared this environmental assessment. **Please refer to Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 165X) in all correspondence addressed to the Board.** If you have questions regarding this environmental assessment, you should contact Ann Newman at (202) 565-1629.

Date made available to the public: February 23, 2001.

**Comment due date: March 12, 2001.**

By the Surface Transportation Board, Elaine K. Kaiser, Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis.

Vernon A. Williams  
Secretary

Attachment

STB Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 165X)

MAP TO BE SCANNED