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SERVICE DATE - OCTOBER 22, 1998

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Docket No. AB-57 (Sub-No. 45X)

SOO LINE RAILROAD COMPANY--ABANDONMENT
EXEMPTION--IN DAKOTA COUNTY, MN

Decided: October 20, 1998

Soo Line Railroad Company (Soo) filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F--Exempt Abandonments to abandon an approximately .62+/-mile line of its railroad on the Farmington Minnesota Line between milepost 143.73+/- and milepost 144.35+/- in Farmington, Dakota County, MN. Notice of the exemption was served and published in Federal Register on July 17, 1998 (63 FR 38691-92).

By decision served August 14, 1998, a public use condition was imposed on the line at the request of the Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/Dot). Mn/Dot sought the condition for alternative transportation and transmission usages.¹ By letter filed October 9, 1998, Mn/Dot requests that the public use condition be removed. Mn/Dot states that no public groups or agencies have expressed any interest in acquiring or using the railroad property, except for its Right-of-Way and Highway Department to improve the highway crossing. Given that to date only the Mn/Dot has sought a public use condition, Mn/Dot's request will be granted and the public use condition will be removed.

This decision will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or conservation of energy resources.

It is ordered:

1. The proceeding is reopened.
2. The public use condition imposed in the Board's August 14, 1998 decision is removed.

¹ The 180-day public use condition required Soo to leave intact all of the right-of-way underlying the track, including bridges, trestles, culverts and tunnels (but not track or track materials), for a period of 180 days from the August 16, 1998 effective date (until February 12, 1999), to enable any state or local government agency, or interested person to negotiate the acquisition of the line for public use.

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3. This decision is effective on its service date.

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

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary