

28371 SERVICE DATE - SEPTEMBER 26, 1997

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD¹

[Finance Docket No. 32530]

Kansas City Southern Railway Company -- Construction and
Operation exemption -- Geismar Industrial area near Gonzales
and Sorrento, Louisiana

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board

ACTION: Notice of extension of time for comment period for
draft environmental impact statement (EIS).

SUMMARY: The Kansas City Southern Railway Company (KCS)
applied to the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC), now the
Surface Transportation Board (Board), for authority to
construct and operate an 8.62-mile rail line from the
Geismar Industrial area to its mainline near Gonzales and
Sorrento, in Ascension Parish, Louisiana. On July 16, 1997,
the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) issued a
draft EIS. Consistent with Council on Environmental Quality
(CEQ) regulations for implementing the National
Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), SEA provided a 45-day
comment period for the public review of the draft EIS, with
comments due by September 8, 1997.

In response to several requests to extend the comment
period an additional 60 days, SEA granted a 15-day extension
for filing comments to September 23, 1997.

The Concerned Citizens of Ascension Parish (CCAP) filed
an Appeal of SEA's decision and requested the full 60 days
sought in their original request. As stated in the original
extension decision, SEA believes that the 45-day comment
period specified by CEQ guidelines is sufficient in this
case. However, in order to allow every opportunity for
public input into the Board's NEPA process in this case, SEA
will accept comments to the draft EIS for an additional 14
days past the current due date of September 23, 1997.
Comments to the draft EIS will now be due on October 7,
1997.

If you wish to file comments on the draft EIS, send an
original and 10 copies to: Vernon A. Williams, Secretary,

Surface Transportation Board, Suite 700, 1925 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20423. Mark the lower left corner of the envelope: Attention: Michael Dalton, Environmental Comments, Finance Docket No. 32530.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Dalton, Section of Environmental Analysis, Room 528, Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20423; phone number (202) 565-1530. TDD for the hearing impaired: (202) 565-1695.

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

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary

1. The ICC Termination Act of 1995, Pub. L. No. 104-88, 109 Stat. 803 (the Act), which was enacted on December 29, 1995, and took effect on January 1, 1996, abolished the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) and transferred certain functions and proceedings to the Surface Transportation Board (Board). Section 204(b)(1) of the Act provides, in general, that proceedings pending before the ICC on the effective date of that legislation shall be decided under the law in effect prior to January 1, 1996, insofar as they involve functions retained by the Act. This notice relates to a proceeding that was pending with the ICC prior to January 1, 1996, and to functions that are subject to Board jurisdiction pursuant to section 49 U.S.C. 10901. Therefore, this notice applies the law in effect prior to the Act, and citations are to the former section of the statute, unless otherwise indicated.