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SERVICE DATE - LATE RELEASE NOVEMBER 14, 1996

FR-4915-00-P

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

[STB Finance Docket No. 33224]

Adrian & Blissfield Rail Road Company, Inc.--Lease and Operation Exemption--Norfolk and Western Railway Company

Adrian & Blissfield Rail Road Company, Inc. (ADBF), a Class III shortline carrier, has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.41 to lease and operate approximately 2.1 route miles in Lenawee County, MI, from Norfolk and Western Railway Company (NW) between milepost 44.2, at Page, and milepost 46.3, at Adrian (the Tecumseh Branch Line).¹

The earliest the transaction could be consummated was October 25, 1996, the effective date of the exemption (7 days after the exemption was filed).

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. 33224, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Branch, 1201 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20423. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on: Kenneth J. Bisdorf, 400 West Maple Road, Suite 300, Birmingham, MI 48009. Telephone: (810)647-7514.

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: Kenneth J. Bisdorf, 400 West Maple Road, Suite 300, Birmingham, MI 48009. Telephone: (810) 647-7514.

Decided: November 5, 1996.

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

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary

¹ ADBF's lease is an interim arrangement which will remain in effect until such time as ADBF acquires the Tecumseh Branch Line from NW. Prior to acquisition, ADBF must obtain the necessary approval or exemption to acquire the Tecumseh Branch Line.