

33066

**SERVICE DATE - OCTOBER 21, 2002**  
**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**  
WASHINGTON, DC 20423

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**STB Docket NO. AB-471 (Sub-No. 6X)**

### **South Kansas and Oklahoma Railroad Company—Abandonment Exemption—in Crawford County, KS**

#### **BACKGROUND**

In the above entitled proceeding, South Kansas and Oklahoma Railroad Company (SKO) 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 of a 0.4-mile line of railroad between milepost 134.3 and milepost 134.7, within the city of Pittsburg, in Crawford County, KS. 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 approximately 66 feet in width and traverses five city blocks within the city of Pittsburg along E 2nd Street between Joplin Street and Walnut Street. The line was constructed sometime between 1877 and 1880. In its application SKO states that there has been no traffic on the line during the past two years.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

SKO 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. SKO 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 Crawford County Commissioners; Department of Health and Environment; Department of Transportation; Kansas Corporation Commission; Kansas State Historical Society; Military Traffic Management Command; National Geodetic Survey; National Park Service; State Conservationist U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service; U.S. Army Engineer District, Tulsa; U.S.

Department of Agriculture; U.S. Department of Interior; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

### **CONDITIONS**

We recommend that no environmental conditions be placed on any decision granting abandonment authority.

### **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 abandonment 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, 1925 K St., N.W., 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 Surface Transportation Board, Case Control Unit, Washington, DC 0423, to the attention of Ann Newman, who prepared this environmental assessment. **Please refer to Docket No. AB-471 (Sub-No. 6X) in all correspondence addressed to the Board.** If you have questions regarding this environmental assessment, you should contact Ann Newman at (202) 565-1629, fax at (202) 565-9002, or e-mail at [Ann.Newman@STB.dot.gov](mailto:Ann.Newman@STB.dot.gov).

Date made available to the public: October 21, 2002.

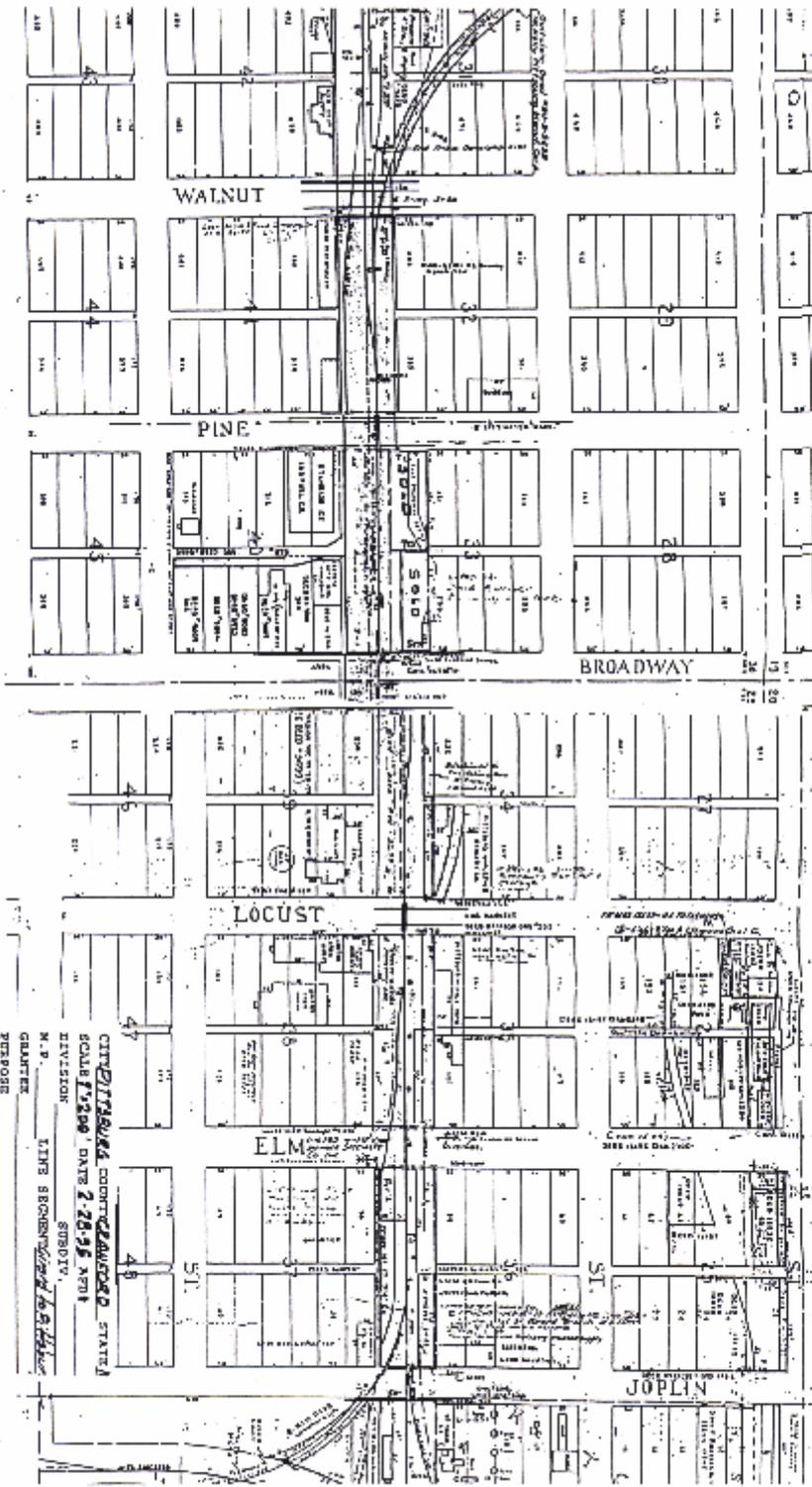
**Comment due date: November 5, 2002.**

By the Surface Transportation Board, Victoria Rutson, Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis.

Vernon A. Williams  
Secretary

Attachment

FD No. 33066  
 STB Docket No.  
 AB-471 (Subno.)



CITY OF JOPLIN, MO. (CLEANSED STATE)  
 SCALE 1"=200' DATE 2-28-95 APD  
 INVESTOR: \_\_\_\_\_  
 N. D. \_\_\_\_\_  
 SUBDIVISION: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CHARTER: \_\_\_\_\_  
 PER POST: \_\_\_\_\_  
 DRAWING NO. **BV 6766**