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Service Date-December 12,1996

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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 8 2 X)

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY--ABANDONMENT
EXEMPTION--IN MORGAN AND WELD COUNTIES, CO

Decided: December 12, 1996

A decision and notice of interim trail use or abandonment (N ITU) served on July 2, 1996, established a 180-day period until December 12, 1996, for the Rails to Trails Conservancy (RTC) to negotiate an interim trail use/rail banking agreement with the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) for the right-of-way involved in this proceeding.

On December 2, 1996, RTC filed a request to extend the N ITU negotiation period for an additional 180 days until June 10, 1997. R TC states that the extension is needed to resolve outstanding issues, including the completion of a Phase I environmental site assessment, and that it is confident that an agreement will be reached by June 10, 1996. UP agrees to the extension of the negotiation period.

Because an extension of the negotiation period will promote the establishment of trail use and rail banking consistent with the National Trails System Act, 16 U.S.C. 1247(d), and the parties agree on the necessity for the extension, the request will be granted.

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

It is ordered:

1. RTC's request to extend the N ITU negotiation period is granted.
2. The negotiation period under the N ITU is extended to June 10, 1997..
3. This decision is effective on its service date.

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

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary

