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SERVICE DATE - JUNE 4, 1998

DO

FR-4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33601]

Grand Trunk Western Railroad Incorporated -- Petition for Declaratory Order -- Spur,
Industrial, Team, Switching or Side Tracks, in Detroit, MI

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board.

ACTION: Request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Surface Transportation Board (Board) is instituting a declaratory order proceeding and is requesting comments on the petition of Grand Trunk Western Railroad, Inc. (GTW), for an order declaring that certain tracks located near the Renaissance Center in Detroit, MI, are "spur, industrial, team, switching, or side tracks" under the regulatory exemption at 49 U.S.C. 10906.

DATES: Any interested person may file with the Board written comments concerning GTW's petition by July 2, 1998. GTW may reply by July 16, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Send an original plus 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 33601, to: Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001, ATTN: STB Finance Docket No. 33601. In addition, pleadings must certify that a copy has been served on GTW's representatives: Robert P. vom Eigen and Jamie Palter Rennert, Hopkins & Sutter, 888 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joseph H. Dettmar, (202) 565-1600.

[TDD for the hearing impaired: (202) 565-1695.]

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION: By petition filed on May 20, 1998, GTW requests that we issue an order under 5 U.S.C. 554(e) and 49 U.S.C. 721(a) declaring that certain tracks located near the Renaissance Center in Detroit, MI, are "spur, industrial, team, switching, or side tracks" that are, under 49 U.S.C. 10906, exempt from Board authority over the abandonment and purchase of lines of railroad. The tracks at issue extend from GTW's Dequindre Line at mileposts 0.57, 0.71, and 0.81, respectively, near the Detroit riverfront. GTW has requested expedited consideration of its petition so that plans for the sale and development of the parcels of land underlying these tracks may proceed promptly. According to GTW, this land is to be developed to support (a) relocation of General Motors Corporation's global headquarters to the Renaissance Center on the Detroit riverfront and (b) a casino district designated by the City of Detroit. By this notice, the Board is requesting comments on GTW's petition.

Board decisions and notices are available on our website at
"WWW.STB.DOT.GOV."

Decided: May 28, 1998.

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

Vernon A. Williams

Secretary