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SERVICE DATE - JULY 9, 1999

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 382X)

THE BURLINGTON NORTHERN AND SANTA FE RAILWAY COMPANY--
ABANDONMENT OF CHICAGO AREA TRACKAGE IN COOK COUNTY, IL

Decided: July 8, 1999

By petition filed on June 3, 1999, The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF) seeks an exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502 from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 10903 to abandon its switching/industrial lead track beginning north of Corwith Yard at station 24 + 43 and ending at station 149 + 87 near the east end of the Western Avenue Bridge, a total distance of 2.38 miles within the city limits of Chicago, in Cook County, IL. Notice of the institution of an exemption proceeding was published in the Federal Register at 64 FR 33544-45 on June 23, 1999. The notice provided until July 13, 1999, to file replies.

On July 6, 1999, counsel for shippers Crown Steel Sales, Inc., International Cellulose, Inc., Kolcraft Enterprises, Inc., and Pure Asphalt Company requests a 10-day extension of time until July 23, 1999, to file a reply. According to counsel, the additional time is needed to allow the shippers and the Illinois Department of Transportation to take into account the photographs filed by BNSF as Supplemental Exhibit P on July 6, 1999. Counsel for shippers represents that BNSF does not oppose the requested extension.

The request is reasonable and will not unduly interfere with timely issuance of a decision by September 21, 1999 (day 110). Accordingly, the extension request will be granted.

It is ordered:

1. The request for an extension of time to file replies is granted.
2. Replies are due July 23, 1999.
3. This decision is effective on its date of service.

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

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary