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SERVICE DATE - NOVEMBER 6, 1997

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Docket No. AB-77 (Sub-No. 10X)

BANGOR & AROOSTOOK RAILROAD COMPANY--ABANDONMENT  
EXEMPTION--IN AROOSTOOK COUNTY, ME

Decided: November 4, 1997

Bangor & Aroostook Railroad Company (Applicant) has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F--Exempt Abandonments to abandon a 5.66-mile line of railroad on the Fort Fairfield Branch from milepost F-13.00 to the end of the branch at milepost F-18.66, in the Town of Fort Fairfield, in Aroostook County, ME. The notice was served and published in Federal Register on October 10, 1997 (62 FR 53057). The exemption is scheduled to become effective on November 9, 1997.

The Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) has issued an environmental assessment (EA) in this proceeding, served October 22, 1997. In the EA, SEA indicates that the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) has identified six geodetic markers that may be affected by the abandonment. NGS states that it must be notified 90 days in advance to plan for relocation of any markers that may be disturbed or destroyed. Therefore, SEA recommends that a condition be imposed requiring Applicant to consult with the NGS and provide NGS with 90 days' notice prior to disturbing or destroying any geodetic markers. The recommended condition will be imposed.

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

It is ordered:

1. This proceeding is reopened.
2. Upon reconsideration, the exemption of the abandonment of the line described above is subject to the condition that Applicant consult with the NGS and provide NGS with 90 days' notice prior to disturbing or destroying any geodetic markers.
3. This decision is effective on its service date.

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

Vernon A. Williams  
Secretary

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