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SERVICE DATE - SEPTEMBER 15, 1997

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
[Finance Docket No. 32760]

Union Pacific Railroad Company--Control and Merger--Southern Pacific
Transportation Company: Wichita Mitigation Study, Preliminary Mitigation Plan

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board

ACTION: Issuance of Preliminary Mitigation Plan (PMP), Request for Public Comment, and
Notice of Public Meeting

SUMMARY: The Surface Transportation Board's (Board) Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) will issue the Preliminary Mitigation Plan (PMP) for the Wichita, KS Mitigation Study on September 15, 1997, for public review and comment. On August 12, 1996, in Decision No. 44, the Board approved the Union Pacific/Southern Pacific merger. As part of its approval, the Board directed SEA to conduct a mitigation study to develop additional tailored environmental mitigation measures (beyond those already imposed in Decision No. 44) to address unique local conditions in Wichita and Sedgwick County regarding the potential environmental impacts of increased rail traffic. The preliminary results of this study and SEA's preliminary recommendations for additional environmental mitigation measures are reflected in the PMP. SEA encourages public comments on the PMP during the 30-day review period, which will end on October 15, 1997. SEA will distribute copies of the PMP to interested parties. In addition, copies of the report will be available at the Wichita and Sedgwick County Library and Wichita State University Library, or by request by calling (202) 565-1530.

SEA will hold a public information meeting on September 30, 1997, to provide the public with an opportunity to comment on the PMP and receive additional information. SEA will consider all public comments and issue a Final Mitigation Plan (FMP) for public review and comment. Based on the PMP, FMP, and public comments, SEA will then make its final recommendations to the Board. The meeting will be held in the Mary Jane Teall Theater at the Century II Convention Center in Wichita. The meeting will include an informal open house from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and a formal public meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Public comments should be submitted in writing (one original plus 10 copies), no later than October 15, 1997, to: Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, Finance Docket No. 32760, Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20423-0001. Mark the lower left hand corner of the envelope: Attention: Elaine K. Kaiser, Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis, Environmental Filing - Wichita.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Dalton, Section of Environmental Analysis, Room 500, Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20423, (202) 565-1530, TDD for the hearing impaired: (202) 565-1695.

By the Board, Elaine K. Kaiser, Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary