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SERVICE DATE - OCTOBER 29, 1997

DO

FR-4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33473]

Iowa Interstate Railroad, Ltd.--Trackage Rights Exemption--The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company

The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF) has agreed to grant overhead trackage rights to Iowa Interstate Railroad, Ltd. (IAIS), between the connection of the parties at East Moline, IL, at or near milepost 246.17, and the connection of the parties at Rock Island, IL, at or near milepost 253.51, all within Rock Island County, IL. The total distance of the trackage rights is approximately 7.34 miles. The transaction is to be consummated on or soon after October 21, 1997, the effective date of the exemption.

The purpose of the proposed trackage rights is for IAIS and BNSF to improve operational and maintenance efficiencies and to combine operations over parallel lines of railroad which BNSF and IAIS have in or near the cities of Rock Island, Moline, and East Moline, IL.

As a condition to this exemption, any employees affected by the trackage rights will be protected by the conditions imposed in Norfolk and Western Ry. Co.--Trackage Rights--BN, 354 I.C.C. 605 (1978), as modified in Mendocino Coast Ry., Inc.--Lease and Operate, 360 I.C.C. 653 (1980).

This notice is filed under 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(7). If the notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void ab initio. Petitions to revoke the exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) may be filed at any time. The filing of a petition to revoke will not automatically stay the

STB Finance Docket No. 33473

transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 33473, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001 and served on: T. Scott Bannister, Secretary & General Counsel, Iowa Interstate Railroad, Ltd., 1300 Des Moines Building, 405 Sixth Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50309.

Decided: October 20, 1997.

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

Vernon A. Williams

Secretary