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SERVICE DATE - FEBRUARY 8, 2000

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Docket No. AB-57 (Sub-No. 50X)

SOO LINE RAILROAD COMPANY--ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION--
IN MARSHALL AND ROBERTS COUNTIES, SD

Decided: February 3, 2000

Soo Line Railroad Company (Soo) filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F--Exempt Abandonments to abandon a 8.1+/-mile portion of its line of railroad between milepost 228.2+/-west of Claire City and milepost 236.3+/-, at the end of the track near Veblen, in Marshall and Roberts Counties, SD. Notice of the exemption was served and published in the Federal Register on January 11, 2000 (65 FR 1673). The exemption is scheduled to become effective on February 10, 2000.

The Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) served an environmental assessment (EA) in this proceeding on January 14, 2000. In the EA, SEA states that the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) has identified eight geodetic station markers that may be affected by the proposed abandonment. NGS requests that it be notified 90 days in advance of any activities that may disturb or destroy these markers to plan for their relocation. Therefore, SEA recommends that a condition be imposed requiring Soo to consult with the NGS and provide NGS with 90 days' notice prior to disturbing or destroying any geodetic markers. The condition will be imposed.

This decision will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the 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 Soo consult with the NGS and provide NGS with 90 days' notice prior to disturbing or destroying any geodetic station markers.

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3. This decision is effective on its service date.

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

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary