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SERVICE DATE – OCTOBER 7, 2016

DO

FR-4915-01-P

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

[Docket No. AB 337 (Sub-No. 9X)]

Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern Railroad Corporation—Abandonment Exemption—in  
Scott County, Iowa

Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern Railroad Corporation d/b/a Canadian Pacific (DM&E) has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 C.F.R. pt. 1152 subpart F—Exempt Abandonments to abandon a 1.95-mile rail line referred to as the Eldridge Line, between milepost 7.52 +/- and milepost 9.47 +/- in Scott County, Iowa (the Line). The Line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Code 52748.

DM&E has certified that: (1) no local freight traffic has moved over the Line for at least two years; (2) because the Line is not a through route, no overhead traffic has operated; and, therefore, none needs to be rerouted over other lines; (3) no formal complaint filed by a user of rail service on the Line (or by a state or local government entity acting on behalf of such user) regarding cessation of service over the Line is either pending with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) or with any U.S. District Court or has been decided in favor of complainant within the two-year period; and (4) the requirements at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7(c) (environmental report), 49 C.F.R. § 1105.11 (transmittal letter), 49 C.F.R. § 1105.12 (newspaper publication), and 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50(d)(1) (notice to governmental agencies) have been met.

As a condition to this exemption, any employee adversely affected by the abandonment shall be protected under Oregon Short Line Railroad—Abandonment Portion Goshen Branch Between Firth & Ammon, in Bingham & Bonneville Counties, Idaho, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979). To address whether this condition adequately protects affected employees, a petition for partial revocation under 49 U.S.C. § 10502(d) must be filed.

Provided no formal expression of intent to file an offer of financial assistance (OFA) has been received, this exemption will be effective on November 10, 2016, unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay that do not involve environmental issues,<sup>1</sup> formal expressions of intent to file an OFA under 49 C.F.R. § 1152.27(c)(2),<sup>2</sup> and trail use/rail banking requests under 49 C.F.R. § 1152.29 must be filed by October 17, 2016. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 C.F.R. § 1152.28 must be filed by October 27, 2016, with the Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The Board will grant a stay if an informed decision on environmental issues (whether raised by a party or by the Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) in its independent investigation) cannot be made before the exemption's effective date. See Exemption of Out-of-Serv. Rail Lines, 5 I.C.C. 2d 377 (1989). Any request for a stay should be filed as soon as possible so that the Board may take appropriate action before the exemption's effective date.

<sup>2</sup> Each OFA must be accompanied by the filing fee, which is currently set at \$1,600. See 49 C.F.R. § 1002.2(f)(25).

<sup>3</sup> DM&E states that the Line may be suitable for other public purposes or trail use, and is not aware of any restriction on title to the property, including any reversionary interest which would affect the transfer of title or the use of the property for non-rail purposes.

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to DM&E's representative: W. Karl Hansen, Stinson Leonard Street LLP, 150 South Fifth Street, Suite 2300, Minneapolis, MN 55402.

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void ab initio.

DM&E has filed environmental and historic reports that address the effects, if any, of the abandonment on the environment and historic resources. OEA will issue an environmental assessment (EA) by October 14, 2016. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA by writing to OEA (Room 1100, Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423-0001) or by calling OEA at (202) 245-0305. Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Comments on environmental and historic preservation matters must be filed within 15 days after the EA becomes available to the public.

Environmental, historic preservation, public use, or trail use/rail banking conditions will be imposed, where appropriate, in a subsequent decision.

Pursuant to the provisions of 49 C.F.R. § 1152.29(e)(2), CSXT shall file a notice of consummation with the Board to signify that it has exercised the authority granted and fully abandoned the Line. If consummation has not been effected by DM&E's filing of a notice of consummation by October 7, 2017, and there are no legal or regulatory barriers to consummation, the authority to abandon will automatically expire.

Board decisions and notices are available on our website at "WWW.STB.GOV."

Decided: October 4, 2016.

By the Board, Rachel D. Campbell, Director, Office of Proceedings.