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SERVICE DATE - FEBRUARY 5, 1997

DO

FR-4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33349]

Wisconsin Central Ltd.--Trackage Rights Exemption--Sault
Ste. Marie Bridge Company

Sault Ste. Marie Bridge Company (SSMB) has agreed to grant Wisconsin Central Ltd. (WCL) non-exclusive overhead trackage rights over SSMB's line of railroad between milepost 118.0 at Larch, MI, and milepost 176.9 at Negaunee, MI, a distance of approximately 58.9 miles, and non-exclusive overhead and local trackage rights between milepost 4.1 at Hermansville, MI, and milepost 118.0 at Larch, MI, a distance of approximately 25.0 miles. The total distance of trackage rights to be acquired is approximately 83.9 miles.

The transaction is scheduled to be consummated on January 29, 1997, or upon SSMB's consummation of the transaction in STB Finance Docket No. 33290, Sault St. Marie Bridge Company--Acquisition and Operation Exemption--Lines of Union Pacific Railroad Company, whichever is later.¹

¹ The exemption in STB Finance Docket No. 33290, which covers the transaction by which SSMB would acquire the lines
(continued...)

The purpose of the trackage rights is to connect WCL's existing lines at Hermansville, Larch, and Negaunee, MI. The trackage rights between Larch and Negaunee will improve transit times and the quality of WCL service for shippers in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. SSMB has concurrently filed a Notice of Exemption in STB Finance Docket No. 33348, Sault Ste. Marie Bridge Company--Trackage Rights Exemption--Wisconsin Central Ltd. In conjunction with that filing, the proposed trackage rights between Hermansville, MI, and Larch, MI, will allow WCL and SSMB to jointly utilize their parallel lines to improve the flexibility and efficiency of operations in that corridor.

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 it contains false or misleading information, the exemption is

(...continued)
over which it is granting trackage rights to WCL in the present transaction, became effective on January 20, 1997. SSMB agreed to refrain from consummating the acquisition until January 24, 1997. A petition to stay the effective date, that had been filed on January 6, 1997, was denied by decision served on January 24, 1997.

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 transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 33349, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Branch, 1201 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20423. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on Thomas J. Litwiler, Esq., Oppenheimer Wolff & Donnelly, Two Prudential Plaza, 45th Floor, 180 North Stetson Avenue, Chicago, IL 60601.

Decided: January 29, 1997.

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

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary