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SERVICE DATE - MARCH 22, 2000

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 567X)

CSX TRANSPORTATION, INC.—ABANDONMENT
EXEMPTION—IN ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PA

Decided: March 17, 2000

On February 12, 1999, a decision and notice of interim trail use or abandonment was served authorizing a 180-day period for the City of Pittsburgh to negotiate an interim trail use/rail banking agreement with CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT), for a .85-mile line extending from milepost 0.00 to milepost 0.85 in Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, PA. The 180-day negotiating period expired on August 11, 1999, but was extended through March 8, 2000, by decisions served August 11, 1999, November 24, 1999, and January 7, 2000.

On March 6, 2000, CSXT filed a request asking that the negotiating period be extended until May 8, 2000. According to CSXT, the parties need additional time to finalize the negotiations.

Where as here, the carrier is willing to continue trail use negotiations, the negotiating period may be extended.¹ CSXT has shown that the additional time is necessary to complete negotiations. An extension of time will promote the establishment of trail use and rail banking consistent with the National Trails System Act, 16 U.S.C. 1247(d). Accordingly, the negotiating period will be extended to May 8, 2000.

This decision will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

It is ordered:

1. The negotiating period is extended to May 8, 2000.

¹ See Rail Abandonments—Supplemental Trails Act Procedures, 4 I.C.C.2d 152 (1987).

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2. This decision is effective on its service date.

By the Board, Beryl Gordon, Acting Director, Office of Proceedings.

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary