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SERVICE DATE - FEBRUARY 12, 1998

DO

FR-4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-503 (Sub-No. 1X)]

Bootheel Rail Properties, Inc.--Abandonment Exemption--in Pemiscot and Dunklin
Counties, MO

[STB Docket No. AB-502 (Sub-No. 1X)]

Bootheel Regional Rail Corporation--Discontinuance Exemption--in Pemiscot and Dunklin
Counties, MO

On January 23, 1998, Bootheel Rail Properties, Inc. (BRP) and Bootheel Regional Rail Corporation (BRRC) filed with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) a petition under 49 U.S.C. 10502 for exemption from the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 10903 for BRP to abandon and BRRC to discontinue service over a line of railroad known as the Hayti-Kennett Branch, extending from milepost 212.73, near Hayti, MO, to milepost 230.00, near Kennett, MO, a distance of 17.27 miles in Pemiscot and Dunklin Counties, MO. The line traverses U.S. Postal Service ZIP Codes 63851, 63857, 63871, and 63827. There are no agency stations located on the line.

The line does not contain federally granted rights-of-way. Any documentation in BRP's possession will be made available promptly to those requesting it. Because BRP and BRRC are proposing to abandon and discontinue service respectively over their entire lines, no labor conditions will be imposed.

By issuance of this notice, the Board is instituting an exemption proceeding pursuant

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to 49 U.S.C. 10502(b). A final decision will be issued by May 13, 1998.

Any offer of financial assistance (OFA) under 49 CFR 1152.27(b)(2) will be due no later than 10 days after service of a decision granting the petition for exemption. Each OFA must be accompanied by a \$900 filing fee. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

All interested persons should be aware that, following abandonment of rail service and salvage of the line, the line may be suitable for other public use, including interim trail use. Any request for a public use condition under 49 CFR 1152.28 or for trail use/rail banking under 49 CFR 1152.29 will be due no later than March 4, 1998. Each trail use request must be accompanied by a \$150 filing fee. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(27).

All filings in response to this notice must refer to STB Docket Nos. AB-503 (Sub-No. 1X) and AB-502 (Sub-No. 1X) and must be sent to: (1) Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001; and (2) Karl Morell, Suite 225, 1455 F Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20005.

Persons seeking further information concerning abandonment procedures may contact the Board's Office of Public Services at (202) 565-1592 or refer to the full abandonment or discontinuance regulations at 49 CFR part 1152. Questions concerning environmental issues may be directed to the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) at (202) 565-1545. [TDD for the hearing impaired is available at (202) 565-1695].

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An environmental assessment (EA) (or environmental impact statement (EIS), if necessary) prepared by SEA will be served upon all parties of record and upon any agencies or other persons who commented during its preparation. Other interested persons may contact SEA to obtain a copy of the EA (or EIS). EAs in these abandonment proceedings normally will be made available within 60 days of the filing of the petition. The deadline for submission of comments on the EA will generally be within 30 days of its service.

Decided: February 5, 1998.

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

Vernon A. Williams

Secretary