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SERVICE DATE - JANUARY 26, 1998

DO

FR-4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33542]

CSX Transportation, Inc.--Trackage Rights Exemption--Consolidated Rail Corporation and Indiana Harbor Belt Railroad

Consolidated Rail Corporation (Conrail), as owner, and Indiana Harbor Belt Railroad Company (IHB), as operator,<sup>1</sup> have agreed to grant overhead trackage rights to CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT), to operate its trains, locomotives, cars, and equipment with CSXT's own crews over Conrail's Kankakee Line between Michigan Avenue, Indiana Harbor, IN, milepost 0.0±, and Osborn, IN, milepost 4.8±, at the connection between Conrail's Kankakee Line and the Norfolk and Western Railway Company, a total distance of approximately 4.8 miles. The trackage rights are restricted to bridge traffic only between the termini of the trackage rights for trainload movements of finished automobiles and associated empty equipment to and from the Ford Mixing Center in the Calumet Yard area.

The transaction is expected to be consummated on January 19, 1998, the effective date of the exemption.

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<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to a trackage rights agreement, dated April 9, 1906, Conrail granted trackage rights to IHB to operate over portions of its railroad, including that portion of the Kankakee Line which CSXT will acquire upon the effective date of this exemption. Since IHB acts as agent on behalf of Conrail in the performance of supervision, control and maintenance of this line of railroad, IHB is included as a party to the trackage rights agreement.

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 the notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is 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. 33542, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001 and served on: Charles M. Rosenberger, Senior Counsel, CSX Transportation, Inc., 500 Water Street, J-150, Jacksonville, FL 32202.

Decided: January 16, 1998.

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

Vernon A. Williams

Secretary