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SERVICE DATE – DECEMBER 15, 2005

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 213X)

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY—ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION—IN  
DALLAS COUNTY, IA

Decided: December 15, 2005

By decision and notice of interim trail use or abandonment (NITU) served on October 25, 2004, the Board granted Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) an exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502 from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 10903 to abandon a line of railroad known as the Perry Subdivision, extending from milepost 296.8 near Waukee, IA, to milepost 279.9 (Equation milepost 275.9 = 361.8) near Perry, IA, and from milepost 361.8 to milepost 369.0 near Dawson, IA, a total distance of 28.1 miles, in Dallas County, IA. The exemption was granted subject to public use, environmental, and standard employee protective conditions, and the Board authorized a 180-day period for the Dallas County Conservation Board and the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (collectively, INHF), to negotiate an interim trail use/rail banking agreement with UP. The trail use negotiation period expired on April 23, 2005, but, by decision served May 26, 2005, was extended to October 22, 2005.

By motion filed on December 5, 2005, INHF requests an additional extension of the NITU negotiating period until April 12, 2006. INHF states that they have been negotiating with UP, but that the parties need additional time to complete the negotiations and obtain grant funds for acquisition. UP states that it is willing to continue to negotiate with INHF and, therefore, agrees to the extension.

Where, as here, the carrier has not consummated the abandonment at the end of the previously imposed negotiating period and has indicated its willingness to continue negotiations, the Board retains jurisdiction and the NITU negotiating period may be extended. Under the circumstances, further extension of the negotiating period is warranted. See *Birt v. STB*, 90 F.3d 580, 588-90 (D.C. Cir. 1996); *Grantwood Village v. Missouri Pac. R.R. Co.*, 95 F.3d 654, 659 (8th Cir. 1996), cert. denied, 519 U.S. 1149 (1997). An extension of the negotiating period will promote the establishment of trail use and rail banking consistent with the Trails Act.<sup>1</sup> Accordingly, the NITU negotiating period will be extended to April 12, 2006.

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<sup>1</sup> See *Rail Abandonments—Supplemental Trails Act Procedures*, 4 I.C.C.2d 152, 157-58 (1987).

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

It is ordered:

1. INHF's request to extend the NITU negotiating period is granted.
2. The negotiating period under the NITU is extended to April 12, 2006.
3. This decision is effective on its service date.

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

Vernon A. Williams  
Secretary