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SERVICE DATE - MAY 12, 1998

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 113)

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY--DISCONTINUANCE OF TRACKAGE RIGHTS
AND ABANDONMENT--IN NATRONA AND CONVERSE COUNTIES, WY

Decided: May 8, 1998

On November 12, 1997, a decision and certificate of interim trail use or abandonment (CITU) was served in the above proceeding, which authorized a 180-day period for the City of Casper, WY (City) to negotiate an interim trail use/rail banking agreement with Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) for portions¹ of a 17.8-mile line of railroad extending from milepost 590.0 to the end of the line at milepost 607.8 near Casper (Air Base), in Natrona County, WY.

The negotiating period is scheduled to expire on May 9, 1998. On May 6, 1998, the City filed a request for an additional 180-day period in which to continue negotiations with the railroad. The City believes that this extension will insure sufficient time for the parties to conclude their negotiations and reach a mutually acceptable final agreement. In a letter filed May 6, 1998, UP states that it agrees with the request.

An extension of the trail use negotiating period may be granted as long as the Board retains jurisdiction over the involved railroad right-of-way and the carrier is willing to continue negotiations. Inasmuch as UP has not consummated the abandonment and has indicated a willingness to continue to negotiate, the extension request can be granted.

The requested extension 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 extension request will be granted.

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

It is ordered:

1. The request to extend the interim use negotiating period is granted.
2. The CITU negotiating period is extended to November 5, 1998.

¹ These portions are located between mileposts 590.0 and 599.6 and between mileposts 603.5 and 607.8.

STB Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 113)

3. This decision is effective on its service date.

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

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary