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SERVICE DATE - AUGUST 4, 1998
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
DECISION

STB Docket No. AB-312 (Sub-No. 2X)

SOUTH CAROLINA CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY, INC., D/B/A CAROLINA
PIEDMONT DIVISION--ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION--IN GREENVILLE COUNTY, SC

Decided: July 31, 1998

By decision and notice of interim trail use or abandonment (NITU) served on May 20, 1998, a 90-day period was authorized for the Rails to Trails Conservancy (RTC), to negotiate an interim trail use/rail banking agreement with South Carolina Central Railroad Company, Inc., d/b/a Carolina Piedmont Division (CPDR), for two segments of rail line extending from:
(1) milepost AJK 585.34, in East Greenville, to milepost AJK 588.63 in Greenville; and
(2) milepost 0.0 to milepost 2.0 in Greenville, a total distance of 5.29 miles, in Greenville County, SC. The 90-day negotiating period expired on July 30, 1998.

On July 28, 1998, RTC filed a request for an extension of the negotiating period until October 31, 1998. RTC states that, while it is close to reaching an interim trail use/railbanking agreement with CPDR, several issues still need to be resolved. By letter filed July 28, 1998, CPDR states that it does not object to the extension request.

Where, as here, the carrier has not consummated the abandonment at the end of the previously imposed negotiating period and is willing to continue trail use negotiations, the Board retains jurisdiction to extend the NITU negotiating period.¹ RTC has shown that the additional time is necessary to complete negotiations. An extension of time will promote the establishment of trails and rail banking consistent with the National Trails System Act, 16 U.S.C. 1247(d). Accordingly, the NITU negotiating period will be extended until October 31, 1998.

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

It is ordered:

1. The NITU negotiating period is extended until October 31, 1998.
2. This decision is effective on the date of service.

¹ See Rail Abandonments - Supplemental Trails Act Procedures, 4 I.C.C.2d 152, 157-58 (1987).

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

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary