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SERVICE DATE - JULY 29, 1998

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Docket No. AB-83 (Sub-No. 16X)

MAINE CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY-ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION--  
IN ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTY, ME

Decided: July 27, 1998

Maine Central Railroad Company (MeC) filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F-- Exempt Abandonments and Discontinuances to abandon an approximately 18.97-mile line of its railroad on the Lewiston Industrial Track between Engineering Station 0+00 (approximately milepost 0.00) and Engineering Station 1001+81.6 (approximately milepost 18.97), in Androscoggin County, ME. Notice of the exemption was served and published in the Federal Register on July 1, 1998 (63 FR 36033-34). The exemption is scheduled to become effective on July 31, 1998.

The Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) served an environmental assessment (EA) in this proceeding on July 6, 1998. In the EA, SEA states that the Maine Historic Preservation Commission requested additional information concerning potentially historic resources on the line and MeC's planned salvage techniques and the possible impacts to any historic structures during salvage operations. Because of the outstanding historic resources concerns, SEA recommends that a condition be imposed requiring MeC to retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the historic integrity of all sites and structures on the right-of-way until completion of section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 470f.

SEA also states that the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) has identified 43 geodetic station markers that may be affected by the abandonment. NGS requests that it be notified 90 days in advance of any activities that would disturb or destroy these markers. Therefore, SEA recommends that a condition be imposed requiring MeC to consult with the NGS and provide NGS with 90 days' notice prior to disturbing or destroying any geodetic markers.

The recommended conditions will be imposed. As conditioned, this decision will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

It is ordered:

1. This proceeding is reopened.
2. Upon reconsideration, the exemption of the abandonment of the line described above is subject to the conditions that MeC shall: (a) retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the

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historic integrity of the line until completion of the section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 470f; and (b) consult with the NGS and provide NGS with 90 days' notice prior to disturbing or destroying any geodetic markers.

3. This decision is effective on its service date.

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

Vernon A. Williams  
Secretary