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SERVICE DATE – LATE RELEASE DECEMBER 14, 2007

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Docket No. AB-268 (Sub-No. 16X)

PORTLAND TERMINAL COMPANY—ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION—IN
CUMBERLAND COUNTY, ME

December 14, 2007

Portland Terminal Company (PT) filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F—Exempt Abandonments for PT to abandon approximately 1.3 miles of railroad known as the Mountain Branch in Westbrook, ME, extending from milepost 6.0 to milepost 7.3 in Cumberland County, ME.¹ Notice of the exemption was served and published in the Federal Register on November 16, 2007 (72 FR 64703-04). The exemption is scheduled to become effective on December 18, 2007.

The Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) served an environmental assessment (EA) in this proceeding on November 23, 2007. In the EA, SEA indicated that the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) has identified three geodetic markers that may be affected by the proposed abandonment. Therefore, SEA recommends a condition requiring PT to consult with NGS and to notify NGS at least 90 days prior to beginning salvage activities that will disturb or destroy any geodetic station markers.

Comments to the EA were due by December 7, 2007. No comments were received. Accordingly, the condition recommended by SEA in the EA will be imposed. Based on SEA's recommendation, the proposed abandonment, if implemented as conditioned, 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 notice served and published in the Federal Register on November 16, 2007, exempting the abandonment of the line described above is subject to the condition that PT consult with NGS and notify NGS at least 90 days prior to beginning salvage activities that will disturb or destroy any geodetic station markers.

¹ The notice was filed jointly with Springfield Terminal Railway Company which seeks to discontinue service over the line.

3. This decision is effective on its service date.

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

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary