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SERVICE DATE – SEPTEMBER 26, 2013

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[Docket No. AB 303 (Sub-No. 42X)]

Wisconsin Central Ltd.—Abandonment Exemption—in Brown County, Wis.

On September 6, 2013, Wisconsin Central Ltd. (WCL) filed with the Surface Transportation Board a petition under 49 U.S.C. § 10502 for exemption from the provisions of 49 U.S.C. § 10903 for WCL to abandon approximately 0.33 miles of its railroad line, between milepost 97.75 and milepost 98.08 in Denmark, Brown County, Wis. The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Code 54208.¹

WCL states that, based on information in its possession, the line does not contain Federally granted rights-of-way. Any documentation in WCL's possession will be made available to those requesting it.

The interest of railroad employees will be protected by the conditions set forth in Oregon Short Line Railroad—Abandonment Portion Goshen Branch Between Firth & Ammon, in Bingham & Bonneville Counties, Idaho, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979).

By issuing this notice, the Board is instituting an exemption proceeding pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 10502(b). A final decision will be issued by December 24, 2013.

¹ WCL states that there is only one shipper on the line, United Cooperative. According to WCL, upon a grant of abandonment authority and with the State of Wisconsin's cooperation, WCL plans to convey the line to United Cooperative, which plans to expand and improve its facilities. WCL will continue to provide rail service to United Cooperative after the proposed abandonment.

Any offer of financial assistance (OFA) under 49 C.F.R. § 1152.27(b)(2) will be due no later than 10 days after service of a decision granting the petition for exemption. Each OFA must be accompanied by a \$1,600 filing fee. See 49 C.F.R. § 1002.2(f)(25).

All interested persons should be aware that, following abandonment of rail service and salvage of the line, the line may be suitable for other public use, including interim trail use. Any request for a public use condition under 49 C.F.R. § 1152.28 or for interim trail use/rail banking under 49 C.F.R. § 1152.29 will be due no later than October 16, 2013. Each trail use request must be accompanied by a \$250 filing fee. See 49 C.F.R. § 1002.2(f)(27).

All filings in response to this notice must refer to Docket No. AB 303 (Sub-No. 42X) and must be sent to: (1) Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001; and (2) Audrey L. Brodrick, Fletcher & Sippel LLC, 29 North Wacker Drive, Suite 920, Chicago, IL 60606. Replies to the petition are due on or before October 16, 2013.

Persons seeking further information concerning abandonment procedures may contact the Board's Office of Public Assistance, Governmental Affairs, and Compliance at (202) 245-0238 or refer to the full abandonment or discontinuance regulations at 49 C.F.R. pt. 1152. Questions concerning environmental issues may be directed to the Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) at (202) 245-0305. Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

An environmental assessment (EA) (or environmental impact statement (EIS), if necessary) prepared by OEA will be served upon all parties of record and upon any agencies or other persons who commented during its preparation. Other interested persons may contact OEA to obtain a copy of the EA (or EIS). EAs in these abandonment proceedings normally will be made available within 60 days of the filing of the petition. The deadline for submission of comments on the EA generally will be within 30 days of its service.

Board decisions and notices are available on our website at
“WWW.STB.DOT.GOV.”

Decided: September 23, 2013.

By the Board, Rachel D. Campbell, Director, Office of Proceedings.