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SERVICE DATE - JULY 7, 1998

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 112X)

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY--ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION--
IN LANCASTER COUNTY, NE

Decided: June 30, 1998

A decision and notice of interim trail use or abandonment (NITU) served on September 24, 1997, authorized the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) to abandon a 1.88-mile segment of its Lincoln Branch between milepost 494.76 near 10th Street and milepost 492.88 near 33rd Street in Lincoln, Lancaster County, NE. The September 24, 1997 decision stated that if "consummation has not been effected by UP's filing a notice of consummation by September 24, 1998, and there are no legal or regulatory barriers to consummation, the authority to abandon will automatically expire." Under 49 CFR 1152.29 (e)(2), a railroad may, for good cause shown, file a request for an extension of time to file a notice of consummation in abandonment proceedings.

On June 22, 1998, UP filed a request to extend for one year (until September 24, 1999), the time to consummate the abandonment and to file its notice of consummation. UP maintains that the extension is necessary because the line currently is being used for delivery of grain trains to the Omaha, Lincoln & Beatrice Railroad Company (OL&B), as well as for providing service to Lincoln Lumber Company, while new trackage is being constructed. The new trackage is not expected to be completed prior to September 24, 1998.

UP has shown good cause to extend the time to consummate the abandonment and for filing a notice of consummation in this proceeding. Accordingly, the request will be granted.

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

It is ordered:

1. UP's request for a 1-year extension of time to exercise the abandonment authority is granted.

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2. The authority to abandon is scheduled to expire on September 24, 1999.
3. This decision is effective on its service date.

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

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary