

33467
SEC

SERVICE DATE - MARCH 21, 2003

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

Docket No. AB-389 (Sub-No. 1X)

GEORGIA GREAT SOUTHERN DIVISION, SOUTH CAROLINA CENTRAL RAILROAD CO.,
INC.—ABANDONMENT AND DISCONTINUANCE EXEMPTION—BETWEEN
ALBANY AND DAWSON, IN TERRELL, LEE AND DOUGHERTY COUNTIES, GA

Decided: March 20, 2003

On March 5, 2003, the Georgia Southwestern Railroad, Inc. (GSRW), successor in interest to the Georgia Great Southern Division, South Carolina Central Railroad Co., Inc., filed a petition to vacate the notice of interim trail use or abandonment issued in this proceeding to permit GSRW to reactivate rail service on the line. By motion filed on March 14, 2003, Rails to Trails Conservancy and South Georgia Rails to Trails, Inc. (RTC/SGR), request a 40-day extension of time, from March 25, 2003, to May 5, 2003, to file a reply to the petition. In support of their request, RTC/SGR cite the importance of the issues, which they claim necessitate additional time to adequately prepare their reply, and the need to conduct discovery.

In its reply filed March 19, 2003, GSRW objects to the motion on the grounds that it is a reply disguised as an extension request and no valid justification has been provided for the requested 40-day extension. GSRW, however, would not object to a brief extension.

Inasmuch as RTC/SGR have not provided any specific reason why such a long extension is required and GSRW does not object to a brief extension, an extension will be granted only until April 4, 2003.

It is ordered:

1. RTC/SGR's motion is granted in part and the due date for replies is extended until April 4, 2003.

2. This decision is effective on its date of service.

By the Board, Vernon A. Williams, Secretary.

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary