



DECISION ID NO.: 42276
 DECIDED DATE: 3/19/12
 SERVICE DATE: 3/19/12
 APPROVED: [Signature]

Office of Proceedings

extended to 3/25/13

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March 12, 2012

BY E-FILING

Cynthia T. Brown
 Chief of the Section of Administration, Office of Proceedings
 Surface Transportation Board
 395 E Street, SW
 Washington, DC 20423-0001

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 Office of Proceedings
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 Public Record

RE: STB Docket No. AB-415 (Sub-No. 2X)
*Escanaba & Lake Superior Railroad Company -- Abandonment Petition
 for Exemption - Line in Ontonagon and Houghton Counties, MI.*
EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION REQUESTED

Dear Ms. Brown:

Pursuant to the decision served herein on September 27, 2010, Escanaba & Lake Superior Railroad Company ("ELS") is permitted to terminate service over and to eliminate its 43-mile rail line between Ontonagon and Sidnaw in Michigan's Upper Peninsula ("the line"). The period for trail use negotiations terminated on June 26, 2011, and ELS has no further interest in engaging in such negotiations. However, on September 26, 2011, the Board granted ELS's request for a 180-day extension to consummate the abandonment and for filing a notice of consummation in this proceeding in order to allow ELS to evaluate developments that might have an effect on the possible utility of the line in the future. Under that extension ELS would be required to exercise its authority to abandon the line and file notice of consummation on or before March 25, 2012. For the reasons set forth below ELS is seeking a one-year extension on its authority to abandon the entire line from Ontonagon to Sidnaw and to file notice of consummation.

ELS has concluded that there is no realistic future for the roughly 13 miles of the line between milepost 395.0 at Rockland and the end of the line at milepost 408.02 at Ontonagon. Preliminary work has commenced that ultimately will result in recovery of the rail from that segment of the line when weather conditions permit. Pursuant to the extension sought herein ELS commits that it will promptly notify the Board that abandonment of the 13-mile segment has been consummated upon completion of recovery of the rails. The additional extension is also sought to permit ELS to evaluate possibilities and to engage in negotiations relating to potential developments in the region that could have a bearing on future viability of the rest of

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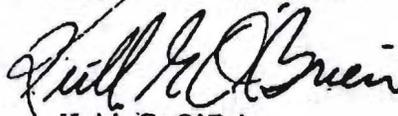
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the line. Since these possible developments have yet to come to fruition or to final dismissal from consideration, ELS believes that the possibilities merit further exploration and negotiation. In the circumstances, ELS respectfully requests the Board to extend the consummation deadline for an additional year from its current expiration date of March 25, 2012 as permitted under 49 C.F.R. §1152.29(e)(2).

If there are any questions concerning this request please contact me.

Respectfully Submitted,



Keith G. O'Brien

cc: All parties of record