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SERVICE DATE – MARCH 17, 2004

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Docket No. AB-491 (Sub-No. 1X)

R.J. CORMAN RAILROAD COMPANY/PENNSYLVANIA LINES, INC.–ABANDONMENT
EXEMPTION–IN CLEARFIELD AND CENTRE COUNTIES, PA

Decided: March 15, 2004

On April 3, 2001, a decision and notice of interim trail use or abandonment (NITU) was served authorizing a 180-day period for R.J. Corman Railroad Company/Pennsylvania Lines, Inc. (RJCP), to negotiate an interim trail use/rail banking agreement with the Clearfield County Rails to Trails Association (CCRTA), for approximately 22.7 miles consisting of 6 segments of its Wallaceton Branch in Clearfield and Centre Counties, PA.¹ The negotiating period under the NITU was extended by decisions served on October 16, 2001, March 29, 2002, June 27, 2002, September 25, 2002, April 4, 2003, and September 24, 2003. The latest extension is scheduled to expire on March 18, 2004.

On February 24, 2004, CCRTA filed a petition to extend the NITU negotiating period for an additional 180 days. According to CCRTA, additional time is needed to conclude negotiations and to reach an agreement on trail use/rail banking. RJCP supports a 180-day extension of the negotiating period.

Where, as here, the carrier is willing to continue trail use negotiations, the negotiating period may be extended. An extension of the negotiating period will promote the establishment of trail use and rail banking consistent with the National Trails System Act, 16 U.S.C. 1247(d).² Accordingly, CCRTA's extension request will be granted and the NITU negotiating period will be extended until September 14, 2004.

¹ The 6 segments of the Wallaceton Branch are: (1) the Wallaceton Secondary, between approximately milepost 9.2, near Bigler, and approximately milepost 11.7, near Wallaceton; (2) the Mills Industrial Track, between approximately milepost 11.2, near Wallaceton, and approximately milepost 24.5, near Osceola Mills; (3) the Bigler Industrial Track, between approximately mileposts 31.4 and 31.8; (4) the Moshannon-Clearfield Industrial Track, between approximately mileposts 0.0 and 4.0; (5) the Trout Run Branch, between approximately mileposts 0.0 and 2.2; and (6) the Big Run Branch, between approximately mileposts 0.0 and 0.3.

² See Rail Abandonments–Supplemental Trails Act Procedures, 4 I.C.C.2d 152 (1987).

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

It is ordered:

1. CCRTA's request to extend the NITU negotiating period is granted.
2. The negotiating period under the NITU is extended for 180 days until September 14, 2004.
3. This decision is effective on its service date.

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

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary