

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Finance Docket No. 33116

WISCONSIN CENTRAL LTD.--ACQUISITION EXEMPTION--LINES OF
UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY

Decided: January 24, 1997

By Federal Register notice published on November 27, 1996 (61 FR 60320-21), the Board sought public comments on the petition by Wisconsin Central Ltd. (WCL) seeking an exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502 from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 10902 for its acquisition of two rail lines in central Wisconsin. The Board asked that the comments address whether WCL's employee protective arrangement meets the statutory requirements and whether the Board should establish and/or oversee the procedural aspects of such arrangements in rail line acquisitions by Class II railroads.

Comments were filed by United States Congressmen Ed Whitfield and Vernon J. Ehlers, Association of American Railroads, The American Short Line Railroad Association, Genesee & Wyoming Inc., Regional Railroads of America, Transportation Trades Department of the AFL-CIO, United Transportation Union, and WCL. Given the importance of the matters involved in this proceeding, the parties will be provided the opportunity to file reply comments within 15 days of service of this decision.

It is ordered:

1. Reply comments in this proceeding may be filed on or before February 10, 1997.
2. This decision is effective on the service date.

By the Board, Vernon A. Williams, Secretary.

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary