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SERVICE DATE - MAY 28, 1999

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Docket No. AB-57 (Sub-No. 46X)

SOO LINE RAILROAD COMPANY--ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION--IN ST. PAUL,
RAMSEY COUNTY, MN

IN THE MATTER OF AN OFFER OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Decided: May 27, 1999

By decision served on May 5, 1999 (May 5 decision), the effective date of the exemption authorizing the abandonment of a .90±-mile line of railroad known as the St. Paul Terminal Trackage by Soo Line Railroad Company, doing business as Canadian Pacific Railway (Soo), was postponed in order to permit the offer of financial assistance (OFA) process under 49 U.S.C. 10904 and 49 CFR 1152.27 to proceed.¹ The May 5 decision stated that, if Soo and the offeror could not agree on the purchase price, either party may request the Board to establish the terms and conditions of the purchase on or before June 1, 1999. The decision also stated that, if no agreement is reached and no request is submitted by that date, the Board will serve a decision vacating the decision and allowing the abandonment exemption to become effective.

On May 26, 1999, the offeror and Soo filed a joint request for a 30-day extension until July 1, 1999, for the filing of requests for the establishment of terms and conditions of the purchase. The parties state that they have entered into negotiations as to the purchase price and other terms of sale pursuant to the OFA, but more time is needed to evaluate and negotiate the proposed terms, including environmental issues.

Because this request is reasonable, the deadline for the parties to request the Board to establish terms and conditions of the purchase is extended to July 1, 1999.

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

It is ordered:

¹ On April 30, 1999, Tilsner Carton Company (the offeror) timely filed an OFA in this proceeding to purchase the northern 3,200 feet of the track and a short siding, together with all of the underlying right-of-way between Jackson Street and Case Street, consisting of approximately 12.15 acres.

STB Docket No. AB-57 (Sub-No. 46X)

1. The joint request to extend the time period for either party to request the Board to establish the terms and conditions of the purchase is granted.

2. If Soo and the offeror cannot agree on the purchase price, either party may request the Board to establish the terms and conditions of the purchase on or before July 1, 1999.

3. This decision is effective on its service date.

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

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary