

SERVICE DATE - APRIL 28, 1997

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Docket No. AB-303 (Sub-No. 16X)

WISCONSIN CENTRAL LTD.--ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION--
IN CLARK COUNTY, WI

Decided: April 23, 1997

Wisconsin Central LTD (WCL) has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F--*Exempt Abandonments* to abandon approximately .64 miles of its line of railroad, known as the Abbotsford line, between milepost 303.37 and milepost 304.01, in Abbotsford, Clark County, WI. The notice was served and published in *Federal Register* on April 1, 1997 (62 FR 15562-63). The exemption is scheduled to become effective on May 1, 1997.

The Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) has issued an environmental assessment (EA) in this proceeding, served April 4, 1997. In the EA, SEA indicates that the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) has identified two geodetic station markers that may be affected by the abandonment. NGS states that it must be notified 90 days in advance to plan for relocation of any marker that may be disturbed or destroyed. Therefore, SEA recommends that a condition be imposed requiring WCL to consult with the NGS and provide NGS with 90 days' notice prior to disturbing or destroying any geodetic markers.

SEA also indicates that the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has requested that, during salvage activities, WCL clean up and dispose of hazardous materials in accordance with state regulations and that WCL stabilize with vegetative cover any disturbed portions of the right-of-way in order to minimize soil erosion. Therefore, SEA recommends that a condition be imposed requiring that WCL clean up and dispose of hazardous materials in accordance with state regulations and that WCL stabilize with vegetative cover any disturbed portions of the right-of-way in order to minimize soil erosion.

The recommended conditions will be imposed.

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

It is ordered:

1. This proceeding is reopened.
2. Upon reconsideration, the exemption of the abandonment of the line described above is subject to the conditions that WCL shall: (a) consult with the NGS and provide NGS with 90 days' notice prior to disturbing or destroying any geodetic markers; and (b) clean up and dispose of hazardous materials in accordance with state regulations and stabilize with vegetation any disturbed portions of the right-of-way in order to minimize soil erosion.
3. This decision is effective on its service date.

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

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary