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SERVICE DATE - AUGUST 10, 2001

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Docket No. AB-303 (Sub-No. 5X)

WISCONSIN CENTRAL LTD.–ABANDONMENT
EXEMPTION–IN MARQUETTE COUNTY, MI

Decided: August 7, 2001

Wisconsin Central Ltd. (WCL) has been authorized in this proceeding to abandon its 0.75-mile line of railroad known as the Marquette Ore Dock Line between milepost 155.25 (the Ore Dock Approach) and the end of the Marquette Ore Dock, in Marquette County, MI. The Board's authorization imposed a deadline of October 14, 2000, for consummation of the abandonment by WCL. In a decision served September 5, 2000, the due date for filing a notice of consummation was extended until October 14, 2001.

By facsimile submission filed on August 1, 2001, WCL has requested that the Board further extend, until October 14, 2002, the time to consummate the abandonment and to file its notice of consummation. WCL states that it had entered into an agreement with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) that it would not consummate the abandonment until it had fulfilled certain obligations under that agreement. WCL further states that it has fulfilled all of the obligations except one, which will require additional time. The extension is therefore intended to provide sufficient time for WCL to meet its obligations to MDEQ before consummation of the abandonment.

WCL's request to extend the time to consummate the abandonment and for filing a notice of consummation in this proceeding is reasonable and will be granted. Accordingly, the deadline for filing the notice of consummation will be extended to October 14, 2002.

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

It is ordered:

1. WCL's request for an extension of time to exercise the abandonment authority is granted.

2. The authority to abandon must be exercised, and the notice of consummation must be filed, on or before October 14, 2002.
3. This decision is effective on its service date.

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

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary