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SERVICE DATE - JULY 2, 1998

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 121X)

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY--ABANDONMENT
EXEMPTION--IN ARKANSAS COUNTY, AR

Decided: June 30, 1998

Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F--Exempt Abandonments and Discontinuances of Service and Trackage Rights to abandon and discontinue service over a 26.0-mile line of railroad on the Stuttgart Branch from milepost 236.0 near Ricusky to the end of the line at milepost 262.0 near Indiana, in Arkansas County, AR. Notice of the exemption was served and published in the Federal Register on June 5, 1998 (63 FR 30811-12). The exemption is scheduled to become effective on July 5, 1998.

The Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) served an environmental assessment (EA) in this proceeding on June 12, 1998. In the EA, SEA states that the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) has identified 43 geodetic markers that may be affected by the abandonment. NGS requests that it be notified 90 days in advance of any activities that would disturb or destroy these markers to plan for their relocation. Therefore, SEA recommends that a condition be imposed requiring UP to consult with the NGS and provide NGS with 90 days' notice prior to disturbing or destroying any geodetic markers.

The recommended condition will be imposed. As conditioned, this decision will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

It is ordered:

1. This proceeding is reopened.
2. Upon reconsideration, the exemption of the abandonment of the rail line described above is subject to the condition that UP consult with the NGS and provide NGS with 90 days' notice prior to disturbing or destroying any geodetic markers.

STB Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 121X)

3. This decision is effective on its service date.

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

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary