

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Docket No. AB-314 (Sub-No. 2X)

CHICAGO CENTRAL & PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY–ABANDONMENT
EXEMPTION–IN LINN COUNTY, IA

Decided: December 29, 2006

By decision and notice of interim trail use or abandonment (NITU) served on October 25, 2002, the Board granted Chicago Central & Pacific Railroad Company (CCP) an exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502 from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 10903 to abandon a segment of the Marion-Louisa Industry Lead, extending from milepost ZA 225.7 to milepost ZA 229.5, a distance of approximately 3.8 miles in Linn County, IA. The exemption was granted subject to trail use, public use, environmental, and standard employee protective conditions, and the Board authorized a 180-day period for the City of Marion, IA (Marion), and the City of Cedar Rapids, IA, to negotiate an interim trail use/rail banking agreement with CCP. The negotiating period under the NITU was scheduled to expire on April 25, 2003, but was subsequently extended in a number of decisions, with the latest extension scheduled to expire on December 30, 2006.¹

On December 20, 2006, Marion filed a request to extend the NITU negotiating period until March 31, 2007, for that portion of the rail line within its corporate city limits. Marion stated that the parties are still in active negotiations, but that the negotiations would not be concluded by the December 30 deadline. CCP filed a letter agreeing to the extension request as to the portion of the line between mileposts ZA 225.7 and ZA 228.45.

¹ The decision served on April 23, 2003, modified the NITU to cover only that portion of the line between mileposts ZA 225.7 and ZA 229.1. The decision served on October 29, 2003, modified the NITU to cover only that portion of the line between mileposts ZA 225.7 and ZA 228.45.

Where, as here, the carrier is willing to continue trail use negotiations, the NITU negotiating period may be extended. See Rail Abandonments—Supplemental Trails Act Procedures, 4 I.C.C.2d 152, 157-58 (1987). Under the circumstances, an extension of the negotiating period is warranted and will promote the establishment of trail use and rail banking, consistent with the National Trails System Act, 16 U.S.C. 1247(d). Accordingly, the NITU negotiating period will be granted as agreed to by CCP. Given the length of time the parties have had to negotiate a trail use agreement, however, the negotiation parties are urged to conclude their negotiations so that further extensions are not necessary.

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

It is ordered:

1. The request to extend the interim trail use negotiating period for the portion of the line between mileposts ZA 225.7 and ZA 228.45 is granted.
2. The negotiating period under the NITU is extended to March 31, 2007.
3. This decision is effective on its service date.

By the Board, Joseph H. Dettmar, Acting Director, Office of Proceedings.

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary