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SEC

SERVICE DATE - FEBRUARY 12, 1997

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Finance Docket No. 33290

SAULT STE. MARIE BRIDGE COMPANY--ACQUISITION AND OPERATION
EXEMPTION--LINES OF UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY

Decided: February 5, 1997

By petition filed January 31, 1997, Sault Ste. Marie Bridge Company (SSMB), a Class III common carrier by rail, and Inland Steel Company and LTV Steel Company, Inc. (collectively protestants) jointly request an extension of all remaining due dates and deadlines in this proceeding of 31 days, in addition to a 10-day extension previously agreed to by the parties and requested by correspondence filed January 28, 1997.

On December 30, 1996, SSMB filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.41, et seq. to acquire and operate approximately 220 miles of rail lines of Union Pacific Railroad Company in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and northern Wisconsin. On January 6, 1997, protestants filed a petition to stay the effectiveness of the exemption, and a petition to revoke the exemption or to reject the notice of exemption. The exemption was scheduled to take effect on January 20, 1997, but SSMB extended the consummation date to January 24, 1997. The petition to stay was denied by decision served January 24, 1997, and a procedural schedule was set out to provide opportunities for the parties to supplement the record prior to the Board's consideration of the petition to revoke or reject. It is this procedural schedule that the parties seek to extend. The request will be granted in order to develop a complete record.¹

It is ordered:

1. Protestants' supplemental petition is due April 3, 1996.
2. SSMB's reply to the supplemental petition is due April 18, 1997.
3. This decision is effective on the service date.

By the Board, Vernon A. Williams, Secretary.

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary

¹ Although the parties have proposed dates for certain discovery steps, the revised procedural schedule will only contain dates for the filing of pleadings. Discovery deadlines will be left to the parties to determine within the parameters of the revised schedule for the parties' supplemental filings with the Board in this proceeding.