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SERVICE DATE - AUGUST 15, 2000

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Docket No. AB-57 (Sub-No. 50X)

SOO LINE RAILROAD COMPANY--ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION--
IN MARSHALL AND ROBERTS COUNTIES, SD

Decided: August 14, 2000

On December 22, 1999, Soo Line Railroad Company (Soo) filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F--Exempt Abandonments to abandon a 8.1+/-mile portion of its line of railroad between milepost 228.2+/-west of Claire City and milepost 236.3+/-, at the end of the track near Veblen, in Marshall and Roberts Counties, SD. Notice of the exemption was served and published in the Federal Register on January 11, 2000 (65 FR 1673), and the exemption became effective on February 10, 2000. By decision served February 8, 2000, the exemption was made subject to the condition that Soo consult with the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) and provide NGS with 90 days' notice prior to disturbing or destroying any geodetic station markers identified by NGS that might be affected by the abandonment.

On August 9, 2000, Soo filed a request to withdraw its notice of exemption. Soo states that Sunflour Railroad, Inc., has acquired approximately 26.3 miles of rail line extending from milepost 210.0, near Rosholt, to the end of the track at milepost 236.3, in Marshall and Roberts Counties, SD.¹ Accordingly, the request will be granted, and the notice of exemption will be dismissed.

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

It is ordered:

1. Soo's request to withdraw its notice of exemption filed on December 22, 1999, is granted.
2. The notice of exemption is dismissed and this proceeding is discontinued.

¹ See Sunflour Railroad, Inc.--Acquisition and Operation Exemption--Soo Line Railroad Company, STB Finance Docket No. 33903 (STB served July 25, 2000).

3. This decision is effective on its service date.

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

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary