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SERVICE DATE - FEBRUARY 5, 1997

DO

FR-4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33348]

Sault Ste. Marie Bridge Company--Trackage Rights Exemption--
Wisconsin Central Ltd.

Wisconsin Central Ltd. (WCL) has agreed to grant non-exclusive overhead trackage rights to Sault Ste. Marie Bridge Company (SSMB) over WCL's line of railroad between milepost 310.7 at Hermansville, MI, and milepost 342.7 at Gladstone, MI, a distance of approximately 32.0.

The transaction is scheduled to be consummated on January 29, 1997, or upon SSMB's consummation of the transaction in STB Finance Docket No. 33290, Sault St. Marie Bridge Company--Acquisition and Operation Exemption--Lines of Union Pacific Railroad Company, whichever is later.¹

WCL has concurrently filed a Notice of Exemption in STB Finance Docket No. 33349, Wisconsin Central Ltd.--Trackage Rights Exemption--Sault Ste. Marie Bridge Company. In

¹ The exemption in STB Finance Docket No. 33290 became effective on January 20, 1997. SSMB agreed to refrain from consummating the acquisition until January 24, 1997. A petition to stay the effective date, that had been filed on January 6, 1997, was denied by a decision served on January 24, 1997.

conjunction with that filing, the proposed trackage rights will allow SSMB and WCL to jointly utilize their parallel lines between Hermansville, MI, and Larch/Gladstone, MI, for the purpose of improving the flexibility and efficiency of operations in that corridor.

As a condition to this exemption, any employees affected by the trackage rights will be protected by the conditions imposed in Norfolk and Western Ry. Co.--Trackage Rights--BN, 354 I.C.C. 605 (1978), as modified in Mendocino Coast Ry., Inc. - Lease and Operate, 360 I.C.C. 653 (1980).

This notice is filed under 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(7). If it contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void ab initio. Petitions to revoke the exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) may be filed at any time. The filing of a petition to revoke will not automatically stay the transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 33348, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Branch, 1201 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20423. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be

STB Finance Docket No. 33348

served on Thomas J. Litwiler, Esq., Oppenheimer Wolff &
Donnelly, Two Prudential Plaza, 45th Floor, 180 North
Stetson Avenue, Chicago, IL 60601.

Decided: January 29, 1997.

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

Vernon A. Williams

Secretary