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SERVICE DATE – SEPTEMBER 3, 2010

DO

FR-4915-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[Docket No. AB 55 (Sub-No. 704X)]

CSX Transportation, Inc.—Abandonment Exemption—in Clay County, Ky.

CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT) filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 C.F.R. pt. 1152 subpart F—Exempt Abandonments to abandon a 2.95-mile of railroad on its Southern Region, Huntington Division West, CV Subdivision, extending from milepost 0CF 208.71 to milepost 0CF 211.66, known as the Horse Creek Branch, in Manchester, Clay County, Ky. The following stations are located on the line:

(1) Claymont, milepost 0CF208; (2) Greenleaf, milepost 0CF210; (3) Red Bird, milepost 0CF203; (4) Orford, milepost 0CF214; (5) Sibert, milepost 0CF216; (6) North Ridge, milepost 0CF212; and (7) Becky Ann², milepost 0CF217. The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Code 40962.

CSXT has certified that: (1) no local traffic has moved over the line for at least 2 years; (2) any overhead traffic on the line can be rerouted over other lines; (3) no formal complaint filed by a user of rail service on the line (or by a state or local government entity acting on behalf of such user) regarding cessation of service over the line either is pending with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) or with any U.S. District Court or has been decided in favor of complainant within the 2-year period; and (4) the requirements at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7(c) (environmental report),

49 C.F.R. § 1105.11 (transmittal letter), 49 C.F.R. § 1105.12 (newspaper publication), and 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50(d)(1) (notice to governmental agencies) have been met.

As a condition to this exemption, any employee adversely affected by the abandonment shall be protected under Oregon Short Line Railroad & The Union Pacific Railroad—Abandonment Portion Goshen Branch Between Firth & Ammon, in Bingham & Bonneville Counties, Idaho, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979). To address whether this condition adequately protects affected employees, a petition for partial revocation under 49 U.S.C. § 10502(d) must be filed.

Provided no formal expression of intent to file an offer of financial assistance (OFA) has been received, this exemption will be effective on October 5, 2010, unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay that do not involve environmental issues,¹ formal expressions of intent to file an OFA under 49 C.F.R. § 1152.27(c)(2),² and trail use/rail banking requests under 49 C.F.R. § 1152.29 must be filed by September 13, 2010. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 C.F.R. § 1152.28 must be filed by September 23, 2010, with the Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001.

¹ The Board will grant a stay if an informed decision on environmental issues (whether raised by a party or by the Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) in its independent investigation) cannot be made before the exemption's effective date. See Exemption of Out-of-Serv. Rail Lines, 5 I.C.C.2d 377 (1989). Any request for a stay should be filed as soon as possible so that the Board may take appropriate action before the exemption's effective date.

² Each OFA must be accompanied by the filing fee, which is currently set at \$1,500. See 49 C.F.R. § 1002.2(f)(25).

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to CSXT's representative: Kathryn R. Barney, CSX Transportation, Inc., 500 Water Street, J-150, Jacksonville, FL 32202.

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void ab initio.

CSXT has filed environmental and historic reports which address the effects, if any, of the abandonment on the environment and historic resources. OEA will issue an environmental assessment (EA) by September 10, 2010. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA by writing to OEA (Room 1100, Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423-0001) or by calling OEA, at (202) 245-0305. [Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.] Comments on environmental and historic preservation matters must be filed within 15 days after the EA becomes available to the public.

Environmental, historic preservation, public use, or trail use/rail banking conditions will be imposed, where appropriate, in a subsequent decision.

Pursuant to the provisions of 49 C.F.R. § 1152.29(e)(2), CSXT shall file a notice of consummation with the Board to signify that it has exercised the authority granted and fully abandoned the line. If consummation has not been effected by CSXT's filing of a notice of consummation by September 3, 2011, and there are no legal or regulatory barriers to consummation, the authority to abandon will automatically expire.

Board decisions and notices are available on our website at
“WWW.STB.DOT.GOV.”

Decided: August 27, 2010.

By the Board, Rachel D. Campbell, Director, Office of Proceedings.