

28703

SERVICE DATE - DECEMBER 23, 1997

DO

FR-4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 552X)]

CSX Transportation, Inc.--Abandonment Exemption--in Raleigh County, WV

[STB Docket No. AB-290 (Sub-No. 201X)]

Norfolk and Western Railway Company--Discontinuance of Trackage Rights

Exemption--in Raleigh County, WV

On December 3, 1997, CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT), and Norfolk and Western Railway Company (N&W)¹ filed with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) a petition under 49 U.S.C. 10502 for exemption from the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 10903 for CSXT to abandon and N&W to discontinue trackage rights over approximately 6.24 miles of line between milepost CAR-0.58 at Beckley Junction, WV, and milepost CAR-6.82 at the end of the track at Cranberry, WV, which traverses U.S. Postal Service ZIP Codes 25801, 25813, 25827, 25832, 25919, and 25920, in Raleigh County, WV. The line includes the stations of Beckley, located at milepost CAR-1, Sprague, located at milepost CAR-4, Skelton, located at milepost CAR-5, and Cranberry, located at milepost CAR-6.

The line does not contain federally granted rights-of-way. Any documentation in CSXT's possession will be made available promptly to those requesting it.

¹ N&W is a wholly owned subsidiary of Norfolk Southern Railway Company.

STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 552X), et al.

The interest of railroad employees will be protected by Oregon Short Line R. Co.-- Abandonment--Goshen, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979).

By issuance of this notice, the Board is instituting an exemption proceeding pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10502(b). A final decision will be issued by March 23, 1998.

Any offer of financial assistance (OFA) under 49 CFR 1152.27(b)(2) will be due no later than 10 days after service of a decision granting the petition for exemption. Each OFA must be accompanied by the filing fee, which currently is set at \$900. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

All interested persons should be aware that, following abandonment of rail service and salvage of the line, the line may be suitable for other public use, including interim trail use. Any request for a public use condition under 49 CFR 1152.28 or for trail use/rail banking under 49 CFR 1152.29 will be due no later than January 12, 1998. Each trail use request must be accompanied by a \$150 filing fee. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(27).

All filings in response to this notice must refer to STB Docket Nos. AB-55 (Sub-No. 552X) and AB-290 (Sub-No. 201X) and must be sent to: (1) Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001; and (2) Charles M. Rosenberger, CSX Transportation, Inc., 500 Water Street - J150, Jacksonville, FL 32202; and James R. Paschall, Norfolk Southern Corporation, Three Commercial Place, Norfolk, VA 23510-2191.

Persons seeking further information concerning abandonment procedures may contact the Board's Office of Public Services at (202) 565-1592 or refer to the full abandonment or discontinuance regulations at 49 CFR part 1152. Questions concerning

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environmental issues may be directed to the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) at (202) 565-1545. [TDD for the hearing impaired is available at (202) 565-1695.]

An environmental assessment (EA) (or environmental impact statement (EIS), if necessary) prepared by SEA will be served upon all parties of record and upon any agencies or other persons who commented during its preparation. Other interested persons may contact SEA to obtain a copy of the EA (or EIS). EAs in these abandonment proceedings normally will be made available within 60 days of the filing of the petition. The deadline for submission of comments on the EA will generally be within 30 days of its service.

Decided: December 12, 1997.

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

Vernon A. Williams

Secretary

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