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SERVICE DATE - JULY 20, 1998

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Docket No. AB-32 (Sub-No. 83)

BOSTON AND MAINE CORPORATION--ABANDONMENT--IN HARTFORD AND NEW
HAVEN COUNTIES, CT

STB Docket No. AB-355 (Sub-No. 23)

SPRINGFIELD TERMINAL RAILWAY COMPANY--DISCONTINUANCE OF SERVICE--IN
HARTFORD AND NEW HAVEN COUNTIES, CT

Decided: July 16, 1998

By decision served on April 22, 1998, the Board found that the public convenience and necessity permit Boston and Maine Corporation (B&M) to abandon and Springfield Terminal Railway Company (ST) to discontinue service over a line of railroad, known as the Canal Branch, extending from milepost 14.50 in Cheshire to milepost 24.00 in Southington, a distance of 9.50 miles, in Hartford and New Haven Counties, CT (the line). Before the decision authorizing abandonment and discontinuance became effective, Dalton Enterprises, Inc. (Dalton), timely filed an offer of financial assistance (OFA) under 49 U.S.C. 10904 and 49 CFR 1152.27(c) to purchase the line.

By decision served on May 5, 1998, Dalton was found to be financially responsible and the effective date of the decision authorizing abandonment and discontinuance was postponed to permit the financial assistance process to proceed. Subsequently, as no agreement was reached, Dalton filed a request that the Board establish the conditions and amount of compensation for the sale of the line, to which applicants replied. By decision served on July 1, 1998, the Board set the purchase price for the line at \$1,382,416, and established terms for transfer of the line.

By letter filed on July 10, 1998, Dalton indicates that it accepts the Board's terms and conditions to purchase the line.

When a carrier and a person offering to purchase a line enter into an agreement for continued rail service, the Board is required to approve the transaction and dismiss the abandonment application. See 49 U.S.C. 10904 and 49 CFR 1152.27(f)(2). Accordingly, the sale will be approved and the application will be dismissed.

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

STB Docket No. AB-32 (Sub-No. 83), et al.

It is ordered:

1. Under 49 U.S.C. 10904, Dalton is authorized to acquire the rail line described above.
2. Under 49 U.S.C. 10904 and 49 CFR 1152.27(f)(2), the application is dismissed effective on the date the sale is consummated.
3. This decision is effective on its service date.

By the Board, Joseph H. Dettmar, Acting Director, Office of Proceedings.

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary