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SERVICE DATE - JUNE 17, 1997

SEC

FR-4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-367 (Sub-No. 2X)]

Georgia Central Railway, L.P.--Abandonment Exemption--in Chatham County, GA

On May 28, 1997, Georgia Central Railway, L.P. (Georgia Central), filed with the Surface Transportation Board a petition under 49 U.S.C. 10502 for exemption from the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 10903 to abandon a portion of its line of railroad extending from Value Station 42+33 where it switches off the Georgia Central main line to Value Station 37+72, a distance of 0.71 miles, in Savannah, Chatham County, GA. The line transverses through U.S. Postal Service Zip Code 31401.

The line does not contain federally granted rights-of-way. Any documentation in Georgia Central's possession will be made available promptly to those requesting it. The interest of railroad employees will be protected by the conditions set forth in *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 September 15, 1997.

Any offer of financial assistance 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 offer of financial assistance must be accompanied by a \$900 filing fee. *See* 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

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Georgia Central states that the right-of-way underlying the line is not suitable for use for other public purposes and that, upon abandonment, it will revert to its owner, CSX Transportation, Inc. Nonetheless, we will entertain public use/trail use requests. 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 July 7, 1997. 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 No. AB-367 (Sub-No. 2X) 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) Kelvin J. Dowd and Andrew B. Kolesar III, Slover and Loftus, 1224 Seventeenth Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20036.

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 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.

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Decided: June 11, 1997.

By the Board, Vernon A. Williams, Secretary.

Vernon A. Williams

Secretary