

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
WASHINGTON, DC 20423

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

STB Docket NO. AB-473 (Sub-No. 1X)

**West Texas & Lubbock Railroad Company–Abandonment
Exemption–in Lubbock County, TX**

BACKGROUND

In the above entitled proceeding, West Texas & Lubbock Railroad Company (WTRL) has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152.50 seeking exemption from the requirements of 49 U.S.C. 10903 in connection with the abandonment a 1.1-mile line of railroad from milepost 1.1, at University Avenue, eastward to milepost 0.0, at the interchange with the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company near North Avenue U, in the City of Lubbock, Lubbock, TX. If the exemption becomes effective, the railroad will be able to salvage track, ties and other railroad appurtenances, and to dispose of the right-of-way.

DESCRIPTION OF THE LINE

WTRL states that the land adjoining the line is a mixture of industrial, State office use, and urban park land. WTRL states that there have been no local traffic on the line in over 2 years and that overhead traffic has been diverted to another rail route.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

WTRL submitted an environmental report that concludes the quality of the human environment will not be affected significantly as a result of the abandonment or any post abandonment activities, including salvage and disposition of the right-of-way. WTRL served the environmental and historical reports on a number of appropriate Federal, state, and local agencies as required by the Surface Transportation Board's environmental rules [49 CFR 1105.7(b)].

Also we have consulted with appropriate agencies and individuals to verify the railroad's report and to obtain additional information and comments regarding the potential environmental effects of the proposed abandonment. Contacts have included the State Clearinghouse; Environmental Protection Division, Texas General Land Office, County Judge, the Honorable Tom Head; Honorable Windy Sitton; State Conservationist, U.S.DA. Natural Resources Conservation Service; United States Environmental Protection Agency; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 2; U.S. Army Engineer Dist, Fort Worth; National Park Service; the National Geodetic Survey; Texas General Land Office; Texas

Historical Commission; Transportation Commission; MTMCTEA; and the Department of Agriculture.

CONDITIONS

We recommend that no environmental conditions be placed on any decision granting abandonment authority.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the information provided from all sources to date, we conclude that, as currently proposed, abandonment of the line will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Therefore, the environmental impact statement process is unnecessary.

Alternatives to the proposed abandonment would include denial (and, therefore no change in operations), discontinuance of service without abandonment, and continued operation by another operator. In this case, the existing quality of the human environment and energy consumption should not be affected.

PUBLIC USE

If abandonment and salvage of the rail line does not take place, the right-of-way may be suitable for other public use. A request containing the requisite four-part showing for imposition of a public use condition (49 CFR 1152.28) must be filed with the Board and served on the railroad within the time specified in the Federal Register notice.

TRAILS USE

A request for a notice of interim trail use (NITU) is due to the Board, with a copy to the railroad, within 10 days of publication of the notice of the petition for exemption in the Federal Register. However, the Board will accept late-filed requests as long as it retains jurisdiction to do so in a particular case. This request must comply with the Board's rules for use of rights-of-way as trails (49 CFR 1152.29).

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

The Board's Office of Public Services responds to questions regarding interim trail use, public use, and other reuse alternatives. You may contact the Office of Public Services directly at (202) 565-1592, or mail inquiries to Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K St., N.W., Office of Public Services, Washington, DC 20423.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMENTS

If you wish to file comments regarding this environmental assessment, send an **original and two copies** to Surface Transportation Board, Case Control Unit; Washington, DC 20423, to the attention of Ann E. Newman, who prepared this environmental assessment. **Please refer to Docket No. AB-473 (Sub-No. 1X) in all correspondence addressed to the Board.** If you have questions regarding this environmental assessment, you should contact Ann Newman at (202) 565-1629, fax at (202) 565-9002, or e-mail at Ann Newman@STB.dot.gov.

Date made available to the public: July 22, 2002.

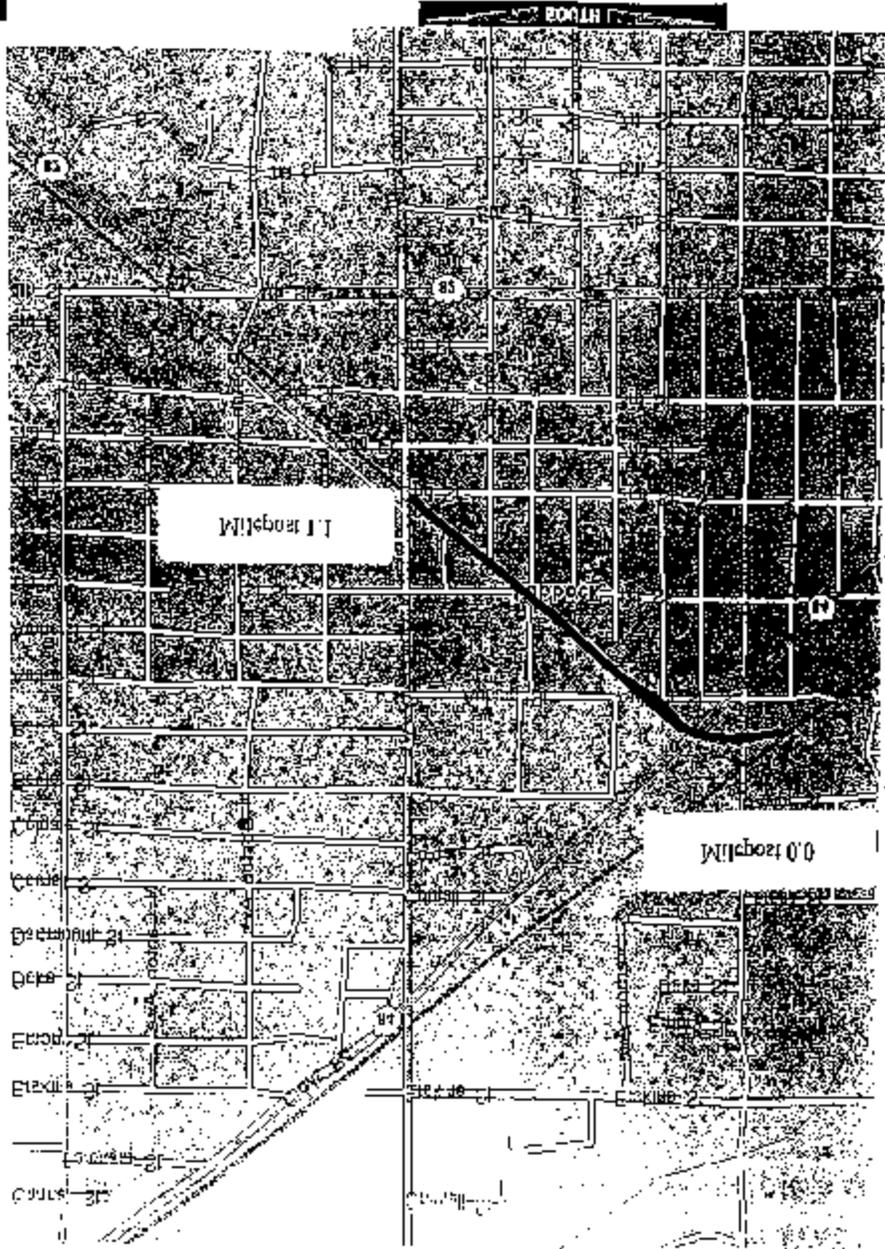
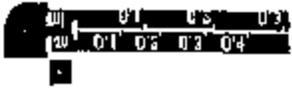
Comment due date: August 6, 2002.

By the Surface Transportation Board, Victoria Rutson, Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis.

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary

Attachment

ЕХЕБЪЛОН—И ГЛЪВОСКЪ ГЛЪВОСК СОСИЛА IX
МЕТЪ ЛЕХЪРЪ & ГЛЪВОСКЪ КЪЛГОВОДЪ СОМЪВЪЛЪ ТЪСЪ ВЪЗВИДОУЖЕНЪ
ДРОМЪТЪ ДЪ ВЪЗВИДОУЖЕНЪ (1978-1979) 1:2500



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