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SERVICE DATE - JUNE 16, 2000

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 576X)

CSX TRANSPORTATION, INC.--ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION--
IN GUERNSEY COUNTY, OH

Decided: June 13, 2000

By decision and notice of interim trail use or abandonment (NITU) served on January 11, 2000, the Board authorized a 180-day period for the Cambridge-Guernsey County Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) to negotiate an interim trail use/rail banking agreement with CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT). CIC wants to build a trail on a 7.79-mile portion of CSXT's Louisville Service Lane, Central Ohio Subdivision, between milepost BP-49.49 near Cambridge and milepost BP-41.70 at the end of the track at Gibson, in Guernsey County, OH. The 180-day negotiating period is scheduled to expire on June 19, 2000.

In a letter filed on June 1, 2000, CSXT requests a 30-day extension to finalize negotiations for an interim trail use agreement. By facsimile filed on June 13, 2000, CIC advises that it supports the extension request, which would allow CIC to work out commitments and conclude the needed agreement with CSXT.

CSXT is willing to continue trail use negotiations with CIC and an extension of the negotiating period will promote the establishment of trail use and rail banking consistent with the National Trails System Act, 16 U.S.C. 1247(d). Accordingly, the requested extension is reasonable and will be granted.

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

It is ordered:

1. CSXT's request to extend the NITU negotiating period is granted.
2. The NITU negotiating period is extended to July 19, 2000.

3. This decision is effective on its service date.

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

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary