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SERVICE DATE - AUGUST 19, 1999

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Docket No. AB-57 (Sub-No. 46X)

SOO LINE RAILROAD COMPANY--ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION--IN ST. PAUL,
RAMSEY COUNTY, MN

IN THE MATTER OF AN OFFER OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Decided: August 18, 1999

By decision served on May 5, 1999 (May 5 decision), the effective date of the exemption authorizing the abandonment of a .90±-mile line of railroad known as the St. Paul Terminal Trackage by Soo Line Railroad Company, doing business as Canadian Pacific Railway (Soo), was postponed in order to permit the offer of financial assistance (OFA) process under 49 U.S.C. 10904 and 49 CFR 1152.27 to proceed.¹ The May 5 decision stated that, if Soo and the offeror could not agree on the purchase price, either party may request the Board to establish the terms and conditions of the purchase on or before June 1, 1999. The decision also stated that, if no agreement is reached and no request is submitted by that date, the Board will serve a decision vacating the decision and allowing the abandonment exemption to become effective. At the joint request of the parties, the time period for the Board to establish the terms and conditions of the purchase was extended by decisions served May 28, 1999, June 30, 1999, and July 15, 1999. The latest extension is through August 16, 1999.

On August 16, 1999, Soo and the offeror filed a joint request for a 15-day extension until August 31, 1999, for the filing of requests for the establishment of terms and conditions of the purchase. The parties state that they have been continuing to engage in negotiations, but because of the complex terms of the sale, more time is needed to conclude the negotiations.

Because this request is reasonable, the deadline for the parties to request the Board to establish terms and conditions of the purchase is extended to August 31, 1999.

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

It is ordered:

¹ On April 30, 1999, Tilsner Carton Company (the offeror) timely filed an OFA in this proceeding to purchase the northern 3,200 feet of the track and a short siding, together with all of the underlying right-of-way between Jackson Street and Case Street, consisting of approximately 12.15 acres.

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1. The joint request to extend the time period for either party to request the Board to establish the terms and conditions of the purchase is granted.

2. If Soo and the offeror cannot agree on the purchase price, either party may request the Board to establish the terms and conditions of the purchase on or before August 31, 1999.

3. This decision is effective on its service date.

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

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary