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SERVICE DATE - OCTOBER 20, 1997

DO

FR-4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 114X)]

Union Pacific Railroad Company--Abandonment Exemption--in Washburn County, WI

On September 30, 1997, Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) filed with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) a petition under 49 U.S.C. 10502 for exemption from the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 10903 to abandon a line of railroad known as the Hayward Industrial Lead, extending from milepost 83.32 near Trego to milepost 96.0 near Hayward Junction, in Washburn County, WI, which traverses U.S. Postal Service ZIP Codes 54888 and 54875, a distance of 12.68 miles.<sup>1</sup> The line includes the non-agency stations of Trego at milepost 83.3, Earl at milepost 87.3, and Spring Brook at milepost 91.4.

The line does contain federally granted rights-of-way. Any documentation in the railroad's possession will be made available promptly to those requesting it.

The interest of railroad employees will be protected by Oregon Short Line R. Co.--Abandonment--Goshen, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979).

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<sup>1</sup> UP states that the Hayward Industrial Lead previously extended from Trego in Washburn County to a location near Hayward in Sawyer County, WI. The segment between Hayward Junction and Hayward was acquired by Wisconsin Central Ltd. (WCL) pursuant to an acquisition exemption in Wisconsin Central Ltd.--Acquisition Exemption--Lines of Union Pacific Railroad Company, STB Finance Docket No. 33116 (STB served Apr. 17, 1997). WCL operates another rail line that connects to the acquired line at Hayward Junction. UP states that the line to be abandoned does not now connect to any UP rail line.

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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 January 16, 1998.

Any offer of financial assistance (OFA) 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 OFA must be accompanied by the filing fee, which currently is set at \$900. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

All interested persons should be aware that, following abandonment of rail service and salvage of the line, the line may be suitable for other public use, including interim trail use. 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 November 10, 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-33 (Sub-No. 114X) 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) Joseph D. Anthofer, 1416 Dodge Street, Room 830, Omaha, NE 68179-0830.

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.]

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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.

Decided: October 15, 1997.

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

Vernon A. Williams

Secretary