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SERVICE DATE – FEBRUARY 4, 2008

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Docket No. AB-347 (Sub-No. 3X)

FLORIDA WEST COAST RAILROAD COMPANY, INC. — ABANDONMENT
EXEMPTION — IN ALACHUA AND GILCHRIST COUNTIES, FL

Decided: February 4, 2008

By decision served on June 14, 2004, the Board granted the petition for exemption filed by Florida West Coast Railroad Company, Inc. (FWCR), for abandonment of an approximately 13-mile line of railroad extending from milepost 734.0, in Trenton, to milepost 721.0, in Newberry, in Alachua and Gilchrist Counties, FL. The exemption was subject to public use, environmental, and standard employee protective conditions.¹ The decision stated that, if consummation has not been effected by FWCR's filing of a notice of consummation by June 14, 2005, and there are no legal or regulatory barriers to consummation, the authority to abandon would automatically expire.

The deadline for FWCR to file its notice of consummation was extended through January 10, 2008, as a result of decisions served on June 28, 2005, October 7, 2005, March 15, 2006, June 14, 2006, and January 16, 2007. On January 9, 2008, FWCR filed another request to extend the deadline for filing its notice of consummation. FWCR requests that the deadline be extended until January 10, 2009. The request will be granted because, according to FWCR, interested parties are continuing discussions regarding a trail use request.

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

It is ordered:

1. FWCR's request for an extension of time to exercise the abandonment authority is granted.
2. The authority to abandon must be exercised on or before January 10, 2009.

¹ The public use condition has expired.

3. This decision is effective on its service date.

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

Anne K. Quinlan
Acting Secretary