

25479

SERVICE DATE - MAY 5, 1997

SEC

FR-4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-477 (Sub-No. 1X)]

Owensville Terminal Company, Inc--Abandonment Exemption--in Edwards and  
White Counties, IL and in Gibson and Posey Counties, IN

On April 15, 1997, Owensville Terminal Company, Inc. (OTC) filed with the Surface Transportation 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 Browns-Poseyville line, extending from railroad milepost 205.0 near Browns, IL, to railroad milepost 227.5 near Poseyville, IN, which traverses U.S. Postal Service Zip Codes 62818, 62844, 47616, and 47633, a distance of 22.5 miles, in Edwards and White Counties, IL, and Gibson and Posey Counties, IN. The line includes the stations of: Browns, MP 205.0; Grayville, MP 213.5; Griffin, MP 219.9; and Stewartville, MP 225.4.

The line does not 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).

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 within 90 days (by August 1, 1997).

Any offer of financial assistance 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 offer of

financial assistance 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 1152.29 and any request for trail use/rail banking under 49 CFR 1152.28 will be due no later than 20 days after notice of the filing of the petition for exemption is published in the *Federal Register*. 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-477 (Sub-No. 1X) and must be sent to: (1) Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001, and (2) Thomas F. McFarland, Jr., McFarland & Herman, 20 North Wacker Drive, Suite 1330, Chicago, IL 60606-2902.

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 at (202) 565-1545. [TDD for the hearing impaired is available at (202) 565-1695.]

An environmental assessment (EA) (or environmental impact statement (EIS), if necessary) prepared by the Section of Environmental Analysis will be served upon all parties of record and upon any agencies or other persons who commented during its preparation.

Any other persons who would like to obtain a copy of the EA (or EIS) may contact the Section of Environmental Analysis. EAs in these abandonment proceedings normally will be 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: April 28, 1997.

By the Board, Vernon A. Williams, Secretary.

Vernon A. Williams

Secretary