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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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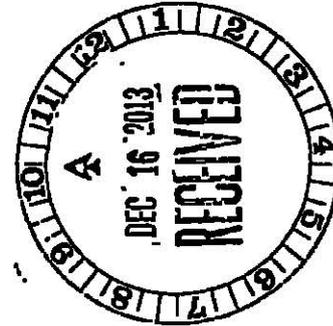
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AUDREY L. BRODRICK
(312) 252-1518
abrodick@fletcher-sippel.com

December 13, 2013

VIA OVERNIGHT DELIVERY

Surface Transportation Board
Office of Environmental Analysis
Attention: Victoria J Rutson
395 E Street, S.W., Room 1106
Washington, DC 20423-0001



Re Environmental Report, Historic Report and Required Certifications for
Docket No. AB 303 (Sub No. 43X) – Wisconsin Central Ltd.
Petition for Exemption for Abandonment in Barron County, Wisconsin

Dear Ms. Rutson

Wisconsin Central Ltd. has filed a Petition for Exemption for Abandonment for the above-reference proposed abandonment on December 16, 2013. Enclosed for the above-referenced Petition for Exemption are the following, which are required by 49 C.F.R. Part 1105

1. An copy of the Environmental/Historic Report; and
2. An original of a certificate demonstrating compliance with the requirements of 49 C F R Part 1105 and including related Attachments

Thank you for your assistance in this matter, and please feel free to call me if you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Audrey Brodrick

Audrey L. Brodrick
Counsel for Wisconsin Central Ltd.

Al.B:dg
Enclosures

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
DEC 16 2013
Part of
Public Record

FILED

DEC 16 2013

**SURFACE
TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

FEE RECEIVED

DEC 16 2013

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Docket No. AB-303 (Sub-No. 43X)

WISCONSIN CENTRAL LTD.

PETITION FOR EXEMPTION FOR
ABANDONMENT IN BARRON
COUNTY, WISCONSIN

To. Cynthia T Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, S W.
Washington, D C. 20024

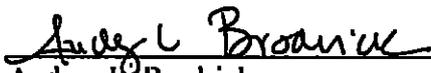


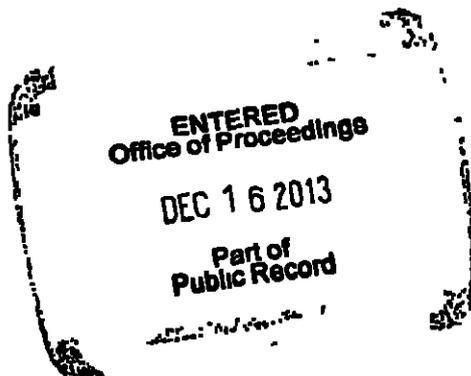
CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE WITH 49 C.F.R. PART 1105

I hereby certify that on October 22, 2013, copies of the Environmental Report and Historic Report for the above-captioned proceeding were served on the agencies listed at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7(b), all agencies consulted in preparing the reports, and on the Wisconsin Historical Society. A service list and copy of the letter sent to all such agencies is attached and incorporated into this certificate as Attachment A. The reports have been sent within the time period specified, as Wisconsin Central Ltd is filing its Petition for Exemption more than 20 days after it served its Environmental Report and Historic Report. All appropriate agencies as listed in 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7(e) have been consulted well in advance of preparing the Environmental Report.

I also certify that a newspaper notice was published on August 21, 2013 in *The Rice Lake Chronotype*, a newspaper of general circulation in Barron County, Wisconsin. The notices alerted the public to the proposed abandonment, to possible reuse alternatives, and to procedures for participating in the STB proceeding. A copy of the text of the notice is attached to this certificate as Attachment B.

Dated this 13th day of December, 2013


Audrey L. Brodrick
Counsel for Wisconsin Central Ltd.



FEE RECEIVED

DEC 16 2013

**SURFACE
TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

FILED

DEC 16 2013

**SURFACE
TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

Docket AB 303 (Sub No. 43X)—Wisconsin Central Ltd
Abandonment Exemption in Barron County, Wisconsin

ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORIC REPORT SERVICE LIST

Mr James Miller
Barron County Board Chairperson
638 Nunn Avenue
Rice Lake, Wisconsin 54868

Mr Steve Harrington, Mayor
City Hall
30 East Eau Claire Street
Rice Lake, WI 54868

Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Hill Farms State Transportation Building
4802 Sheboygan Avenue
PO Box 7910
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7910

Via E-mail and U.S. Mail to:
Simon.Monroe@noaa.gov
NGS.Infocenter@noaa.gov

National Geodetic Survey
Geodetic Survey Division
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Springs, Maryland 20910-3282
Attention: Simon Monroe

Mr Gregory Hines, RC&D Coordinator
National Resource Conservation Service
3071 Voyager Drive, Suite E
Green Bay, WI 54311-8343

USDA, NRCS, Office of the Chief
1400 Independence Ave., SW, Room 5105-A
Washington, DC 20250

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Water
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N W
Washington, DC 20460

Mr. David M. Kennedy, Director
Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management
NOAA Ocean Service
1305 East-West Highway
Silver Springs, Maryland 20910

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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
2800 Lake Shore Drive East Suite B
Ashland, WI 54806-2427

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
DNR Northeast Region HDQRS
2984 Shawano Ave.
Green Bay, Wisconsin 54313-6727

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707

Regional Environmental Coordinator
National Park Service, Midwest Region
601 Riverfront Drive
Omaha, NE 68102

Mr. Kenneth A. Westlake
Chief, EPA Implementation Section
US EPA Region 5
77 West Jackson Blvd
Chicago, IL 60604

U.S. Army Corp of Engineers
St Paul District (CEMVP-PA)
190 Fifth Street East
St Paul, MN 55101-1638

Wisconsin Coastal Management Program
P O. Box 8944
101 East Wilson Street
Madison, WI 53708-8944

Via E-mail (Kathleen.angel@wis.gov)
and U.S. Mail
Coastal Zone Management
Wisconsin Department of Administration
101 East Wilson Street
Madison, WI 53707
Attention: Kathleen Angel

Mr Sherman Banker
Wisconsin Historical Society
Division of Historic Preservation and Public History
816 State Street
Madison, WI 53706

Wisconsin Department of IGA Relations
P O Box 7868
101 East Wilson Street, 6th Floor
Madison, WI 53707-7868

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October 22, 2013

Via E-mail (Kathleen.angel@wis.gov)
and U.S. Mail

Coastal Zone Management
Wisconsin Department of Administration
101 East Wilson Street
Madison, WI 53707
Attention: Kathleen Angel

Re: **Docket No. AB-303 (Sub-No. 43X)**
Wisconsin Central Ltd. – Abandonment
Petition for Exemption – Barron County, Wisconsin

FILED
DEC 13 2013
SURFACE
TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Dear Ms. Angel:

On or after November 11, 2013, Wisconsin Central Ltd. ("WCL") expects to file with the Surface Transportation Board a petition for exemption for the abandonment of WCL's railroad line extending from MP 56.0 and ending at MP 55.2 in Rice Lake, Barron County, Wisconsin, a distance of approximately 0.80 miles. Your review of and comments on this project were previously requested by letter dated on or around June 19, 2013.

In accordance with 49 C.F.R. §§ 1105.7(b) and 1105.11, we are providing for your information the enclosed Environmental/Historic Report which will accompany the petition for exemption and which describes the proposed action and any expected environmental or historic effects. The Report also includes a map of the affected area.

We are providing this report so that you may review the information that will form the basis for the Board's independent environmental analysis of this proceeding. If any of the information is misleading or incorrect, if you believe that pertinent information is missing, or if you have any questions about the Board's environmental review process, please contact the Office of Environmental Analysis at the following address:

Surface Transportation Board
Office of Environmental Analysis
395 E Street, S W, Room 1106
Washington, DC 20423-0001
(202) 245-0295

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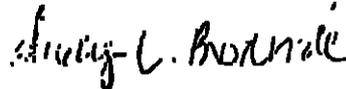
FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

Coastal Zone Management
Wisconsin Department of Administration
October 22, 2013
Page 2

Your comments should reference Docket No. AB-303 (Sub-No 43X) and, if written, should include a copy to the undersigned. Because the applicable statutes and regulations impose stringent deadlines for processing this action, your written comments to the Office of Environmental Analysis would be appreciated within three weeks

Your comments will be considered by the Board in evaluating the environmental and historic preservation impacts of the contemplated action. If there are any questions concerning this proposal, you should feel free to contact me directly at 312-252-1518. Thank you for your assistance on this matter. Kind regards.

Very truly yours,



Audrey L. Brodrick
Attorney for Wisconsin Central Ltd.

ALB:dg
Enclosure

ATTACHMENT B

235202

NOTICE

Wisconsin Central Ltd gives notice that on or after September 13, 2013 it intends to file with the Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423, a petition for exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502 from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 10903, et seq., permitting the abandonment of a 0.80 mile line of railroad between railroad milepost 56.0 and railroad milepost 55.2 which traverses through United States Postal Service ZIP Codes 54868 in Rice Lake, Barron County, WI. The proceeding will be docketed as No. AB 303 (Sub-No 43X).

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) will generally prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA), which will normally be available 60 days after the filing of the petition for exemption. Comments on environmental and energy matters should be filed no later than 30 days after the EA becomes available to the public and will be addressed in a Board decision. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA or make inquiries regarding environmental matters by writing to OEA, Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423 or by calling SEA at 202-245-0295.

Appropriate offers of financial assistance to continue rail service can be filed with the Board. Requests for environmental conditions, public use conditions, or rail banking/trails use also can be filed with the Board. An original and 10 copies of any pleading that raises matters other than environmental issues (such as trails use, public use, and offers of financial assistance) must be filed directly with the Board's Section of Administration, Office of Proceedings, 395 E Street, SW, Washington, DC 20423-0001 [See 49 CFR 1104.1(a) and 1104.3(a)], and one copy must be served on applicant's representative [See 49 CFR 1104.12(a)]. Questions regarding offers of financial assistance, public use or trails use may be directed to the Board's Office of Public Assistance, Governmental Affairs, and Compliance at 202-245-0238. Copies of any comments or requests for conditions should be served on the applicant's representative: Fletcher & Sippel LLC, Attention: Audrey L. Brodrick, 29 N. Wacker Dr., Suite 920, Chicago, IL 60606.

Affidavit Of Publication

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BARRON COUNTY ss

Legal Notice

NOTICE: Wisconsin Central, Ltd. gives notice that on or after September 13, 2013, it intends to file with the Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423, a petition for exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10902, from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 10903, et seq., permitting the abandonment of a 0.80 mile line of railroad between railroad milepost 59.0 and railroad milepost 55.2, which traverses through Unifed States Postal Service ZIP Codes 54888 in Rice Lake, Barron County, WI. The proceeding will be docketed as No. AB-303 (Sub-No. 43X). The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) will generally prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA), which will normally be available 80 days after the filing of the petition for exemption. Comments on environmental and energy matters should be filed no later than 30 days after the EA becomes available to the public and will be addressed in the Board decision. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA or make inquiries regarding environmental matters by writing to OEA, Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423 or by calling SEA at 202-245-0285. Appropriate offers of financial assistance to continue rail service can be filed with the Board. Requests for environmental conditions, public use conditions, or trail banking/trails use also can be filed with the Board. An original and 10 copies of any pleading that raises matters other than environmental issues (such as trails use, public use, and offers of financial assistance) must be filed directly with the Board's Section of Administration, Office of Proceedings, 395 E Street, SW, Washington, DC 20423-0001. [See 49 CFR 1104.1(b) and 1104.13(a)] and one copy must be served on applicant's representative. [See 49 CFR 1104.12(a)]. Questions regarding offers of financial assistance, public use, or trails use may be directed to the Board's Office of Public Assistance, Governmental Affairs, and Compliance at 202-245-0238. Copies of any comments or requests for conditions should be served on the applicant's representative Fletcher & Sippel LLC, Attention: Audrey L. Brodrick, 29 N. Wacker, Dr. Suite 920, Chicago, IL 60606. Tel: 312-2552211 c51\WNAX\LP

Warren Dorrance
JAMES F. DORRANCE III being first duly sworn says That he is the foreman of the printer of the Rice Lake Chronotypo, which is a weekly newspaper of a general circulation, printed and published in the city of Rice Lake, in said county and state, that a notice of which the annexed is a printed copy taken from said paper, was printed and published in the full regular edition once in each week for 1 successive weeks commencing and the first such publication being on the 21st day of August AD 2013 and ending the last publication being on the 21st day of August AD 2013 being 1 publication(s)

Warren Dorrance
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 22 day of Aug. AD 2013

ROBERT V. DORRANCE
Notary Public Barron County, Wis.
My Commission Expires Oct. 19, 2014 Barron County, WI

FEES.	# Columns	1
Standard Lines		
<u>74</u> first insertion @	<u>0.4768</u>	= \$ <u>35.28</u>
insertions @	<u>0.3746</u>	= \$ <u>-</u>
Tabular Lines		
<u>0</u> first insertion @	<u>0.4768</u>	= \$ <u>-</u>
insertions @	<u>0.3746</u>	= \$ <u>-</u>
Affidavit Fee		= \$ <u>1.00</u>
Postage/Handling Fee		= \$ <u>2.00</u>
Total		= \$ <u>38.28</u>