

BEFORE THE  
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

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**AB-303 (SUB-NO. 37X)**

WISCONSIN CENTRAL LTD. –  
ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION  
IN WESTON, MARATHON COUNTY, WISCONSIN

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ENTERED  
Office of Proceedings  
March 23, 2012  
Part of  
Public Record

**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (DNR) MOTION TO EXTEND  
TIME TO NEGOTIATE FOR INTERIM TRAIL USE AGREEMENT**

**BACKGROUND**

Wisconsin Central Ltd., (“WCL”) filed with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) a Notice of Exemption under 49 C.F.R. § 1152 Subpart F – Exempt Abandonments to abandon a line of railroad, near Weston, WI, from Milepost 17.50 to Milepost 18.64, a distance of 1.14 miles in Marathon County, WI. The line runs through United States Postal Service Zip Code 54474.

On February 18, 2011, the Deputy Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) signed a Statement of Willingness to Accept Financial Responsibility pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 1152.29. This statement is for the 1.14-mile segment of WCL railroad, from Milepost 17.50 near Weston, WI to Milepost 18.64 in Marathon County, WI.

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT), on behalf of DNR, petitioned the Board to obtain a notice of interim trail use for interim highway, bicycle, pedestrian and other trail purposes and railbanking pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 1247(d) and 49 C.F.R. § 1152.29 for specified segments of the right of way involved in this proceeding. DNR will use or preserve the land corridor and related real property for interim public transportation and recreational purposes (including highway, pedestrian and other trail), subject to restoration for railroad purposes. WisDOT and DNR have agreed to work cooperatively to acquire and use the right of way. DNR’s acquisition of the corridor for present and future transportation purposes as stated above is consistent with all

**FILING FEE WAIVED**

Congressional purposes and neither abandonment nor discontinuance permitted by the Board conditioned as requested by DNR would be inconsistent with or disruptive of potential future rail use.

The Board issued a NITU under 49 C.F.R. § 1152.29, served on April 5, 2011, allowing DNR until October 2, 2011, to negotiate a rail banking agreement with WCL.

On October 19, 2011, and by supplemental filing October 24, 2011, DNR moved the Board to extend the negotiating period for 180 days. The Board granted the extension on service date November 16, 2011 until March 30, 2012.

Both DNR and WCL continue to negotiate in good faith, and a successful transaction is expected. At this time, the offer to purchase has been accepted by the railroad, and the purchase proposal is being finalized by the state process. This transaction will be one part of a package of purchases, and thus another extension is needed to complete the transaction.

### **CONCLUSION**

DNR respectfully requests the Board extend the negotiating period for 180 days to finalize the Interim Trail Use Agreement for the land corridor and related real property, for the 1.14-mile segment of WCL railroad, from Milepost 17.50 near Weston, WI to Milepost 18.64 in Marathon County, Wisconsin to DNR.

Respectfully submitted,



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3/23/12

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that I have caused the foregoing cover letter in regards to **AB303** (**Sub-No. 37X**), by electronic mail, pursuant to 49 C.F.R. §1104.12, this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2012, on all parties of record on the service list.

  
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