

LAW OFFICE  
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THOMAS F. MCFARLAND

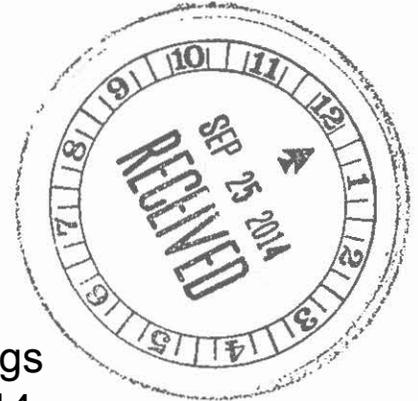
September 24, 2014

By UPS overnight mail

236735

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

ENTERED  
Office of Proceedings  
September 25, 2014  
Part of  
Public Record



Re: Finance Docket No. 35860, *Wisconsin Great Northern Railroad, Inc. -- Lease and Operation Exemption -- Rail Line of Wisconsin Central, Ltd. in Washburn and Sawyer Counties, WI*

Dear Ms. Brown:

Hereby transmitted is the original and 10 copies of a Verified Notice Of Exemption Under 49 C.F.R. § 1150.41 for filing with the Board in the above referenced matter.

Also enclosed is a check in the amount of \$1,800 for the filing fee.

Very truly yours,

Thomas F. McFarland  
*Attorney for Applicant*

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FILED  
September 25, 2014  
SURFACE  
TRANSPORTATION BOARD

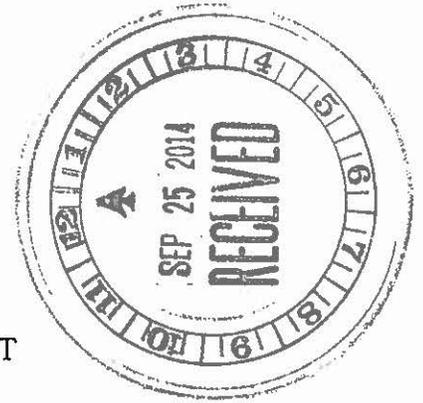
FEE RECEIVED  
September 25, 2014  
SURFACE  
TRANSPORTATION BOARD

BEFORE THE  
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

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WISCONSIN GREAT NORTHERN )  
RAILROAD, INC. -- LEASE AND )  
OPERATION EXEMPTION -- RAIL LINE ) FINANCE DOCKET  
OF WISCONSIN CENTRAL, LTD. IN ) NO. 35860  
WASHBURN AND SAWYER )  
COUNTIES, WI )

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**VERIFIED NOTICE OF EXEMPTION  
UNDER 49 C.F.R. § 1150.41**

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WISCONSIN GREAT NORTHERN  
RAILROAD, INC.  
N6639 Dilly Lake Road  
Trego, WI 54888

Applicant

THOMAS F. McFARLAND  
THOMAS F. McFARLAND, P.C.  
208 South LaSalle Street, Suite 1890  
Chicago, IL 60604-1112  
(312) 236-0204

Attorney for Applicant

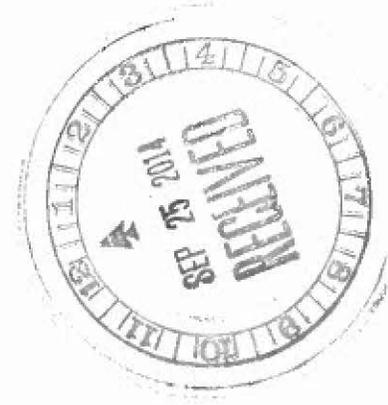
DATE FILED: September 25, 2014

BEFORE THE  
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

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WISCONSIN GREAT NORTHERN	)	
RAILROAD, INC. -- LEASE AND	)	
OPERATION EXEMPTION -- RAIL LINE	)	FINANCE DOCKET
OF WISCONSIN CENTRAL, LTD. IN	)	NO. 35860
WASHBURN AND SAWYER	)	
COUNTIES, WI	)	

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**VERIFIED NOTICE OF EXEMPTION  
UNDER 49 C.F.R. § 1150.41**

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Pursuant to the class exemption at 49 C.F.R. § 1150.41, WISCONSIN GREAT NORTHERN RAILROAD, INC. (WGNR), a Class III rail carrier, hereby provides verified notice of its exemption from 49 U.S.C. § 10902 for its acquisition by lease from WISCONSIN CENTRAL, LTD. (WC) and operation of a rail line between Milepost No. 95.2 near Hayward Junction and Milepost No. 101.5 at Hayward, a distance of approximately 6.3 miles in Washburn and Sawyer Counties, WI (the Rail Line).

**THE RAIL LINE TO BE LEASED AND OPERATED**

The Rail Line to be leased and operated is owned by WC, an affiliate of Canadian National Railway Company (CN). It extends generally in an east-west direction approximately 6.3 miles between Milepost No. 95.2 near Hayward Junction and Milepost No. 101.5 at Hayward in Washburn and Sawyer Counties, WI. The Rail Line connects with a north-south main line of WC at Milepost No. 96.0 at Hayward Junction, WI.

Historically, the Rail Line was a segment of a line owned by Chicago & North Western Railway Company (C&NW) between Spooner and Hayward, WI. C&NW was acquired by

Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP). In 1997, WC acquired the Rail Line from UP. *Wisconsin Central, Ltd. -- Acquisition Exem. -- Union Pac. R.R.*, 2 S.T.B. 218 (1997). In 2000, WGNR obtained Board authority to operate between Milepost 80.8 at or near Spooner and Milepost No. 96.0 at the point of connection to WC at Hayward Junction, WI. *Wisconsin Great Northern Railroad, Inc. -- Oper. Exempt. -- State of Wisconsin, et al.*, 2000 WL 1616607 (STB Docket No. FD 33947, served Oct. 27, 2000).<sup>1/</sup>

WGNR's lease and operation of the Hayward Junction-Hayward Rail Line in the subject proceeding will provide for unified operation both east and west of the north-south WC main line at Hayward Junction. A map of the Rail Line illustrating the proposed unified operation is attached to this Verified Notice as Appendix 1.

**INFORMATION REQUIRED BY 49 C.F.R. § 1150.43**

(a) *The full name and address of the Class III rail carrier applicant;*

Applicant is Wisconsin Great Northern Railroad, Inc., N6639 Dilly Lake Road, Trego, WI 54888.

(b) *The name, address, and telephone number of the representative of the applicant who should receive correspondence;*

Applicant's representative is Thomas F. McFarland, Thomas F. McFarland, P.C., 208 South LaSalle Street, Suite 1890, Chicago, IL 60604-1112, (312) 236-0204.

(c) *A statement that an agreement has been reached or details about when an agreement will be reached;*

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<sup>1/</sup> The operation included 0.8 miles of incidental trackage rights over WC between Milepost Nos. 95.2 and 96.0.

WGNR and WC are close to reaching agreement on a lease for WGNS's operation of the Rail Line.

*(d) The operator of the property;*

WGNR will operate the Rail Line.

*(e) A brief summary of the proposed transaction, including:*

*(1) The name and address of the railroad transferring the subject property to the Class III rail carrier applicant;*

The lessor of the Rail Line is Wisconsin Central, Ltd., 17641 South Ashland Avenue, Homewood, IL 60430-1345.

*(2) The proposed time schedule for consummation of the transaction;*

The lease and operation will be consummated no earlier than the 30<sup>th</sup> day after this Verified Notice is filed with the Board.

*(3) The mileposts of the subject property, including any branch lines;*

The Rail Line extends between Milepost Nos. 95.2 and 101.5.

*(4) The total route miles being acquired;*

There are a total of approximately 6.3 miles of rail line proposed to be leased and operated.

*(f) A map that clearly indicates the area to be served, including origins, termini, stations, cities, counties, and states; and*

The required map is attached as Appendix 1.

*(g) A certificate that applicant's projected revenues as a result of the transaction will not result in the creation of a Class II or Class I rail carrier so as to require processing under Sec. 1150.45.*

The required certification by the General Manager of WGNR is attached as Appendix 2.

**REVENUES LESS THAN \$5 MILLION PER YEAR**

Included in the Verification attached as Appendix 2 is certification that WGNR's annual revenues as a result of the proposed lease and operation will be less than \$5 million.

**CAPTION SUMMARY**

The caption summary required by 49 C.F.R. § 1150.44 is attached as Appendix 3.

**VERIFICATION**

A verification of the facts in this Notice is included in Appendix 2.

**ENVIRONMENTAL AND HISTORIC COMPLIANCE**

Pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 1105.6(c)(2)(i) and 49 C.F.R. § 1105.8(b)(1), no environmental or historic report is required in conjunction with this notice.

**EMPLOYEE PROTECTION**

Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 10902(d), employee protective conditions are not to be imposed in conjunction with this notice.

**NO INTERCHANGE COMMITMENT**

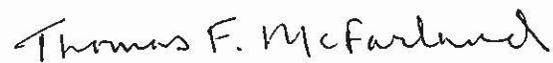
WGNR hereby certifies that the proposed lease and operation does not involve a provision or agreement that may limit future interchange with a third-party connecting carrier.

WHEREFORE, within 30 days of the filing of this notice, the Board should publish a notice in the Federal Register of the filing of this notice.

Respectfully submitted,

WISCONSIN GREAT NORTHERN  
RAILROAD, INC.  
N6639 Dilly Lake Road  
Trego, WI 54888

Applicant



THOMAS F. McFARLAND  
THOMAS F. McFARLAND, P.C.  
208 South LaSalle Street, Suite 1890  
Chicago, IL 60604-1112  
(312) 236-0204

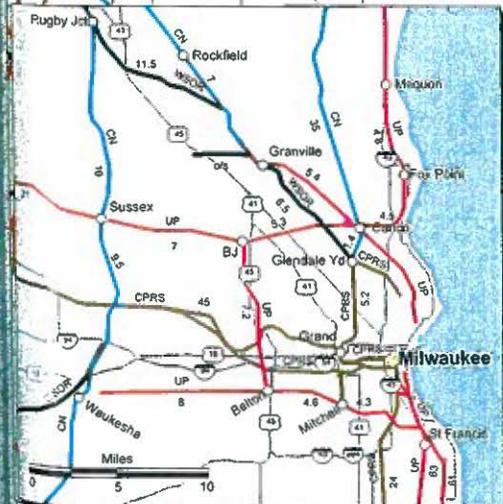
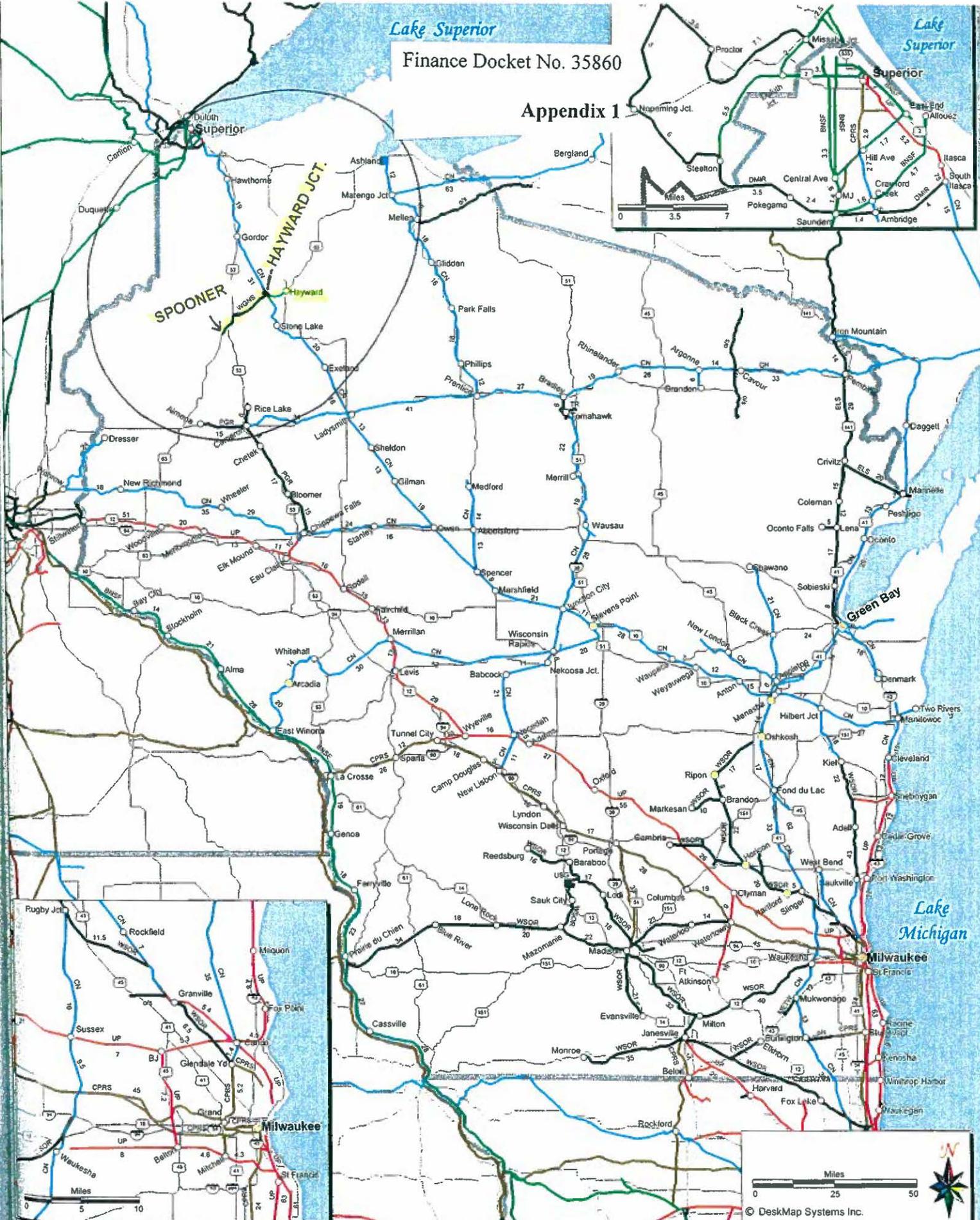
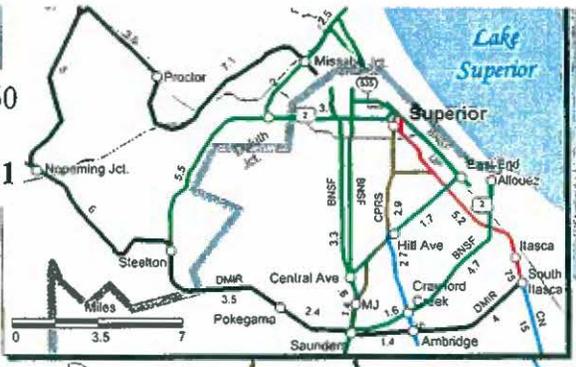
Attorney for Applicant

DATE FILED: September 25, 2014

Lake Superior

Finance Docket No. 35860

Appendix 1



STATE OF WISCONSIN )  
 )  
COUNTY OF WASHBURN )

VERIFICATION

GREGORY VREELAND, being duly sworn, states that he is General Manager of Wisconsin Great Northern Railroad, Inc. (WGNR); that the projected revenues from the operation proposed in this matter do not exceed those that would qualify WGNR as a Class III rail carrier; that such revenues will not exceed \$5 million annually; and that all allegations in this Verified Notice of Exemption are true and correct.

*Gregory P Vreeland*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
GREGORY VREELAND

SUBSCRIBED and SWORN to  
before me this 24<sup>th</sup> day of  
September, 2014.

*Dana M Olson*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public  
State of Wisconsin  
County of Washburn



**CAPTION SUMMARY**

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Notice of Exemption

**FINANCE DOCKET NO. 35860**

***WISCONSIN GREAT NORTHERN RAILROAD, INC. --  
LEASE AND OPERATION EXEMPTION --  
RAIL LINE OF WISCONSIN CENTRAL, LTD.  
IN WASHBURN AND SAWYER COUNTIES, WI***

Wisconsin Great Northern Railroad, Inc. (WGNR), a Class III rail carrier, has filed a Notice of Exemption to lease from Wisconsin Central, Ltd. (WC), and operate a rail line between Milepost No. 95.2 near Hayward Junction and Milepost No. 101.5 at Hayward, a distance of approximately 6.3 miles in Washburn and Sawyer Counties, WI. Comments must be filed with the Board and be served on WGNR's representative, Thomas F. McFarland, Thomas F. McFarland, P.C., 208 South LaSalle Street, Suite 1890, Chicago, IL 60604-1112, (312) 236-0204.

The Notice is filed under 49 C.F.R. § 1150.41. If the Notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*. Petitions to revoke the exemption under 49 U.S.C. § 10502(d) may be filed at any time. The filing of a petition to revoke will not automatically stay the transaction.

By the Board

Dated:

(SEAL)

Cynthia T. Brown  
Chief, Section of Administration