



# Village of Skokie

205570



## Village Hall

5127 Oakton Street  
Skokie, Illinois 60077

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## Council-Manager Government

Mayor	George Van Dusen
Clerk	Marlene Williams
Trustees	Michele L. Bromberg
	Michael A. Gelder
	Frank G. McCabe
	Donald P. Perille
	Harry C. Piper
	Randall E. Roberts
Counsel	Barbara M Meyer
Manager	Albert J. Rigoni

May 29, 2002

Mr. Vernon A. Williams  
Secretary  
Surface Transportation Board  
1925 K Street, NW, Room 711  
Washington, DC 20423-0001

FILED JUN 10 2002

Re: Union Pacific Railroad Company Abandonment in Cook County,  
Illinois, STB Docket Number AB-33 (Sub-No. 167X)

Dear Mr. Williams:

This request is filed on behalf of the Village of Skokie, which is a municipality interested in advancing transportation and recreation opportunities, which is hereinafter referred to as "proponent".

FILED

JUN 16 2002

SURFACE  
TRANSPORTATION BOARD

While not taking a position on the merits of this abandonment, proponent requests issuance of a Public Use Condition as well as a Certificate or Notice of Interim Trail Use rather than an outright abandonment authorization between railroad milepost 12.60 (Oakton Street) and railroad milepost 13.64 (Dempster Street).

### A. Request for Public Use Condition

Proponent asks the STB to find that this property is suitable for other public use, specifically trail use, and to place the following conditions on the abandonment:

1. An order prohibiting the carrier from disposing of the corridor, other than the tracks, ties and signal equipment, except for public use on reasonable terms. Justification for this condition is: the rail corridor would make an excellent recreational and bicycle/pedestrian transportation trail, and conversion of the property to trail use is in accordance with local plans. It would connect a major downtown residential and employment center with a Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) rail station. The time period sought is 180 days from the effective date of the abandonment authorization. Proponent needs this much time to begin negotiations with the carrier.

## Awards and Distinctions

- All America City Finalist
- Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA)
- Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI)
- Fitch ICBA AAA Financial Bond Rating
- Government Finance Officers Association Budget Award
- Government Finance Officers Association Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting
- Insurance Services Office (ISO) Class One Fire Department
- State of Illinois Certified Health Department
- Tree City U.S.A. Distinction

2. An order barring removal or destruction of potential trail-related structures such as bridges, trestles, culverts and tunnels. The justification for this condition is that these structures have considerable value for recreational trail purposes. The time period requested is 180 days from effective date of the abandonment authorization for the same reason as indicated above.

**B. Request For Interim Trail Use**

The railroad right-of-way in this proceeding is suitable for railbanking. In addition to the public use conditions sought above, proponent also makes the following request:

**STATEMENT OF WILLINGNESS TO ASSUME FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

In order to establish interim trail use and railbanking under section 8(d) of the National Trails System Act, 16 U.S.C. §1247(d), and 49 CFR §1152.29, the Village of Skokie is willing to assume full responsibility for management of, for any legal liability arising out of the transfer or use of (unless the user is immune from liability, in which case it need only indemnify the railroad against any potential liability), and for the payment of any and all taxes that may be levied or assessed against the right-of-way owned by Union Pacific Railroad Company and operated by Union Pacific Railroad Company subsequent to the transfer of ownership to the Village.

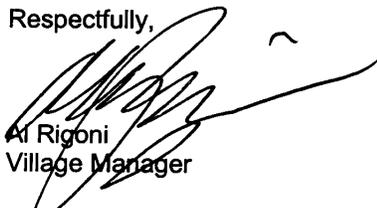
The property, known as the Skokie Industrial Lead, extends from railroad milepost 12.60 near Oakton Street to railroad milepost 13.64 near Dempster Street, a distance of approximately 1 mile in Cook County, Illinois. The right-of-way is part of a line of railroad proposed for abandonment in STB Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 167X).

A map depicting the right-of-way is attached.

The Village of Skokie acknowledges that use of the right-of-way is subject to the user's continuing to meet its responsibilities described above and subject to possible future reconstruction and reactivation of the right-of-way for rail service.

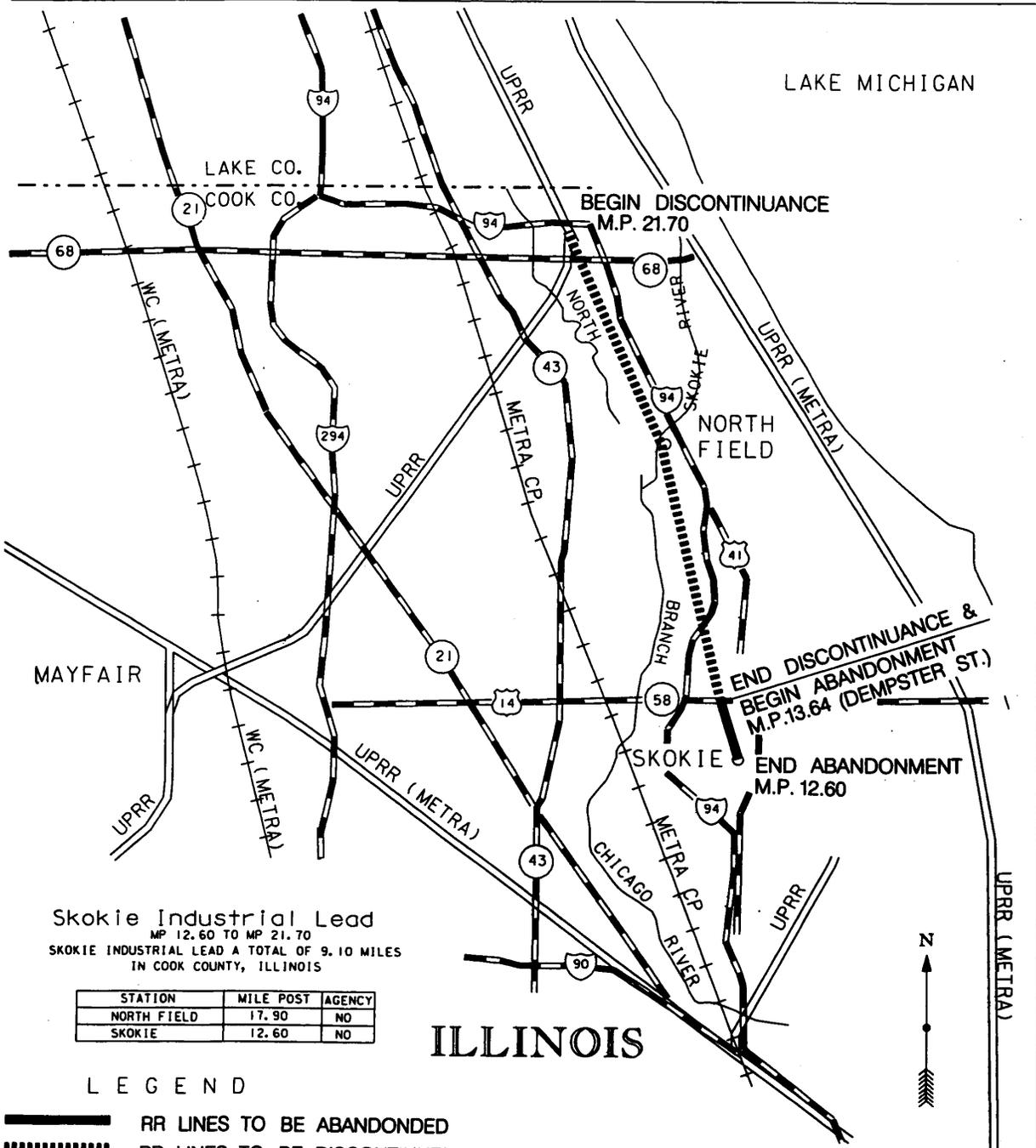
By my signature below, I certify service upon Union Pacific Railroad Company, 1416 Dodge Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68179, by overnight mail, postage prepaid, this 29<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2002.

Respectfully,



Al Rigoni  
Village Manager

On behalf of The Village of Skokie



Skokie Industrial Lead  
 MP 12.60 TO MP 21.70  
 SKOKIE INDUSTRIAL LEAD A TOTAL OF 9.10 MILES  
 IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

STATION	MILE POST	AGENCY
NORTH FIELD	17.90	NO
SKOKIE	12.60	NO

# ILLINOIS

## LEGEND

- RR LINES TO BE ABANDONDED
- RR LINES TO BE DISCONTINUED
- OTHER UPRR LINES
- OTHER RAILROADS
- 50+ YEAR OLD STRUCTURES
- PRINCIPAL HIGHWAYS
- OTHER ROADS

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD CO.  
 SKOKIE INDUSTRIAL LEAD  
 INCL. 50+ YEAR OLD STRUCTURES  
 (NONE)

