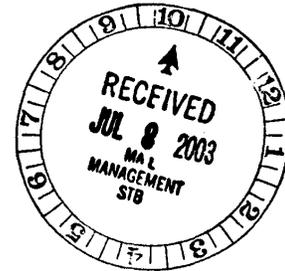


208299



July 7, 2003

VIA U.P.S. OVERNIGHT

Mr. Vernon Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

**RE: Docket AB-33 (Sub-No. 143X), Union Pacific Railroad Company
- Abandonment Exemption - In Wright, Franklin and Cerro
Gordo Counties, IA (Thornton Industrial Lead Between Thornton,
IA and Belmond, IA--Formerly Known as the Fort Dodge Branch)**

Dear Mr. Williams:

The Union Pacific Railroad Company has received a fifth request from the Iowa Trails Council for an additional 180 day extension in which to complete negotiations for the acquisition of that portion of the Union Pacific's right-of-way between Thornton and Belmond in Franklin, Wright and Cerro Gordo Counties from M.P. 17.14 near Thornton to M.P. 29.52 near Belmond, for trail use. The Union Pacific is willing to continue to negotiate with the Iowa Trails Council concerning the acquisition of the subject property for trail use and supports the Iowa Trails Council's request for a fifth extension of the negotiation period for 180 days commencing July 10, 2003. A copy of the Iowa Trails Council's request is attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and hereby made a part hereof.

Ten (10) additional copies of this letter and exhibit are enclosed for the Board's use and distribution.

Very truly yours,

Enclosures

cc: Tom F. Neenan

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
JUL - 8 2003
Part of
Public Record

O:\ABANDONMENTS\33-143X\STB5.DOC

Mack H. Shumate, Jr.
Senior General Attorney, Law Department

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD
101 N. Wacker Dr., Rm. 1920, Chicago, IL 60606-1718
ph. (312) 777-2055 fx. (312) 777-2065



Post Office Box 131 Center Point, Iowa 52213-0131 319-849-1844
 Tom F. Neenan, Executive Director



Board of Directors:
 Joy Adams, Monticello
 Penny Bates, Cedar Rapids
 Don Benson, Clive
 Kate Conick, Orange
 Eldon Collins, Harwardia
 Terry Dalton, Iowa City
 Duane Edwot, Urbanda
 Jon Fagan, Ames
 Dan Gifford, Waukegan
 Stephen Grant, Coon Rapids
 Samuel Goodson, Dike
 Howard Hammond, Slater
 Diane Haudler, Cedar Rapids
 Lynn Hladwick, Cedar Rapids
 Robert LaGrange, Vernon
 David Lyon, Mt. Vernon
 Tom Neenan, Center Point
 Matthew Neenan, Center Point
 Chuck Oberburger, Storm Lake
 James Ralbe, Waverly
 John Rice, Bettendorf
 Dwight Saunders, Des Moines
 Alice Schuler, Des Moines
 Dick Sellers, Iowa City
 Jerry Tomped, Waukegan
 Donald Thomas, Cedar Rapids
 Gregory Vink, Des Moines
 Melvin Wilson, Des Moines
 Rich Zick, Walker

***Executive Committee**
Advisory Board:
 Doreen Bollen, LeChaire
 Robert Chadwin, Cedar Rapids
 Douglas Cheever, Dubuque
 Lavone Colton, Harwardia
 John Combschick, Marion
 Clive Cook, Mason
 Kathy Cuddeback, Brighton
 Marvin Danner, Waterloo
 Ray Ewan, Cedar Rapids
 Richard George, Mt. Vernon
 E. Ross Halstrom, Boone
 William Hansen, Dyers
 Mary Lou Hattery, Cedar Rapids
 Lawrence Krain, North Liberty
 Jeff Landon, Peary
 Teresa Lovings, Humboldt
 Marilyn Mergel, Cedar Rapids
 David Olson, Carroll
 David Omsberg, Mt. Vernon
 Rick Young, Waterloo
 Hank Zahnd, Nevada
 Frank Zigmund, Humboldt

Executive Director
 Tom Neenan, Center Point

July 2, 2003

Vernon Williams, Secretary
 Surface Transportation Board
 1925 "K" Street NW
 Washington, D. C. 20423-0001

Re AB 33 (Sub No. 143X)

Dear Secretary Williams:

We remain in negotiation for acquisition of the railroad right-of-way between Thornton and Belmond in Wright, Franklin and Cerro Gordo counties in Iowa. We believe that we will be able to finalize these negotiations if we are able to receive one additional extension of time in which to accomplish this.

We are of the opinion that the Union Pacific Railroad favors this extension of time so that we will be able to establish a trail on this land. We are sending a copy of this letter to their offices in Omaha and Chicago and are asking for their concurrence in this regard.

We are providing ten copies of this letter for review by your Board. We thank you for your kind consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Tom F. Neenan