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December 6, 2004

Via first class mail and fax (202) 565-9019

Mr. Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W., Room 700
Washington, DC 20423-0001



Re: Docket No. AB-303 (Sub-No. 26X) — Wisconsin Central Ltd. — Notice of Exemption for Abandonment — Ashland County, Wisconsin — Petition for Extension of Notice of Interim Trail Use

Dear Secretary Williams:

Enclosed please find an original and ten copies of the City of Ashland's and Wisconsin Central Ltd.'s Joint Petition for Extension of Notice of Interim Trail Use. Please date stamp the extra copy of the transmittal letter and return it in the envelope provided.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Barron
Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Counsel for Wisconsin Central Ltd.

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

DEC - 6 2004

Part of
Public Record

Encl.

cc: Mr. Allyn Lepaska, WisDOT

BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

AB-303 (SUB-NO. 26X)

WISCONSIN CENTRAL LTD.
-- NOTICE OF EXEMPTION FOR ABANDONMENT--
IN ASHLAND COUNTY, WISCONSIN

CITY OF ASHLAND WISCONSIN
MOTION TO EXTEND TIME TO
NEGOTIATE A NOTICE OF INTERIM TRAIL USE



BACKGROUND

On a service date of June 3, 2004, the Surface Transportation Board (STB or Board) served notice that Wisconsin Central LTD (WCL) filed with the Surface Transportation Board a Notice of Exemption pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 10502 and the Board's regulations at 49 C.F.R Part 1152.50. That Notice of Exemption is for WCL's abandonment of a .48 mile portion of its line of railroad between milepost 435.35 on Ashland's Lakefront and traveling 2,552 feet to a point where it connects to a private spur that used to serve C. Reiss Coal Company in Ashland, Ashland County, WI. The line traverses through United States postal zip code 54806.

On June 8, 2004, the City of Ashland (ASH) signed a Statement of Willingness to Accept Financial Responsibility pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 1152.29. This statement is for the segment of WCL railroad from milepost 435.35 on Ashland's Lake Superior lakefront, traveling southwest along the lakefront 2,552 feet to a point where it connects with a private spur that used to serve C. Reiss Coal Company, a total of approximately 0.48 miles.

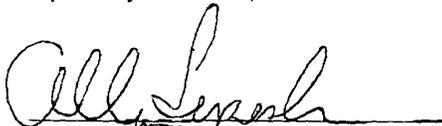
The Board issued an NITU under 49 CFR 1152.29, which was served on July 1, 2004, allowing the ASH until December 30, 2004, to negotiate a rail banking agreement with WCL.

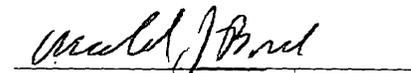
Negotiations are currently continuing in good faith between ASH and WCL. However, more time is needed to finalize negotiations. WCL is agreeable to an extension of time to continue negotiations under an NITU condition for the rail corridor between milepost 435.35 on Ashland's Lake Superior lakefront, traveling southwest along the lakefront 2,552 feet to a point where it connects with a private spur that used to serve C. Reiss Coal Company, a total of approximately 0.48 miles in the City of Ashland, in Ashland County.

MOTION

Therefore, ASH and WCL move that the period prescribed to negotiate an interim trail use/rail banking agreement be extended for 180 days for the rail corridor between milepost 435.35 on Ashland's Lake Superior lakefront, traveling southwest along the lakefront 2,552 feet to a point where it connects with a private spur that used to serve C. Reiss Coal Company, a total of approximately 0.48 miles in the City of Ashland, in Ashland County.

Respectfully submitted,


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