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January 28, 2005

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VIA U.P.S. OVERNIGHT

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

**Re: Proposed Abandonment of the Ankeny Subdivision from M. P. 34f.1 near Slater to the end of the line at M. P. 353.5 near Woodward (Equation 346.4 = 346.6), a distance of 12.2 miles in Boone and Dallas Counties, Iowa;
STB Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 187X)**

Dear Mr. Williams:

The Union Pacific Railroad Company ("UP") has received the attached request from the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation ("INHF") dated January 27, 2005 for an additional 180-day extension in which to complete negotiations for the acquisition under the provisions pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 1247(d) and 49 C.F.R. § 1152.29 regarding that portion of the UP's right-of-way known as the Ankeny Subdivision from Milepost 341.1 near Slater to the end of the line at Milepost 353.5 near Woodward (Equation 346.3 = 346.6), a distance of 12.2 miles in Boone and Dallas Counties, Iowa.

Therefore, UP is willing to continue to negotiate with the INHF concerning the acquisition of the subject property for trail use and supports the INHF's request for an extension of the negotiation period to and including July 10, 2005. A copy of the INHF's request is attached hereto as Exhibit A and hereby made a part hereof.

Enclosed with this original are ten (10) copies of this filing for use by the Board.

Sincerely yours,

Attachments

- cc: John Peterson
Iowa State Governor's Office
- Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

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

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January 27, 2005

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

BEFORE THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

RE: Union Pacific Railroad Abandonment, Boone and Dallas Counties in Iowa;
 Docket # AB-33 (Sub-No. 187X) from Mile post 341.1 near Slater to
 milepost 353.5 near Woodward

Motion to Extend the Time Period for Negotiation of an
 Interim Trail Use/Railbanking Agreement

On behalf of the Boone and Dallas County Conservation Boards (county government agencies) the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF) hereby moves the Surface Transportation Board (STB or Board) to extend the time period for negotiation of a mutually acceptable interim trail use/railbanking agreement in this proceeding up and including July 10, 2005.

The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation has been negotiating with the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) and the parties need more time in which to complete the appraisals and finalize the trail use agreement.

To successfully preserve this corridor for interim trail use and railbanking under section 8(d) of the National Trails System Act, 16 U.S.C. 1247 (d), it is necessary for the negotiation period under the NITU to be extended up to and including July 10, 2005. See Policy Statement on Rails to Trails Conversions, Ex Parte No. 274 (Sub. No. 13b) (ICC served Feb. 5, 1990) (extensions of time



promote the establishment of trails and railbanking consistent with the National Trails System Act).

Since the issuance of the NITU, UPRR at all points has maintained intent to transfer the line intact for interim trail use. The railroad has not sold, or offered for sale, any parcels of land that would interfere with interim trail use and railbanking of the portion of the corridor that is covered by the NITU (Mile post 341.1 near Slater and milepost 353.5 near Woodward). The line remains intact and throughout the period, the railroad has been negotiating with INHF for the transfer or sale of the corridor intact. Accordingly, the Board retains jurisdiction to extend the NITU to continue bona fide and active negotiations for interim trail use of the line.

In similar instances, this Board has reopened proceedings to permit the issuance of orders implementing section 8(d) for rail lines. The STB's authority to extend a NITU was upheld in Birt v. STB, 90 F.3d 580 (D.C. Cir. 1996). Here the parties merely seek an extension in the period for negotiation provided in a previously issued NITU. Such an extension will promote and further the purposes of the Trails Act.

For the reasons stated, INHF on behalf of the Boone and Dallas County Conservation Boards requests that an extension of the NITU negotiation period be granted through July 10, 2005.

Respectfully Submitted,



Mark C. Ackelson
President, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that today January 27, 2005, I have served a true and accurate copy of the foregoing motion on the following party via first-class mail, postage pre-paid and via FAX to 312-777-2065.

Mack H. Shumate, Jr.
Union Pacific Railroad
101 N. Wacker Dr. Rm 1920
Chicago, Il 60606-1718



Mark C. Ackelson, President
Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

cc:
Mike Wallace
Dallas County Conservation Department
1477 K Ave.
Perry, Iowa 50220

Tom Foster
Boone County Conservation Department
610 H Ave
Ogden, Iowa 50212