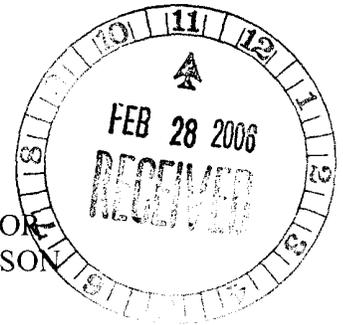


215878

Docket No. AB-43 (Sub-No. 178X)

ILLINOIS CENTRAL
RAILROAD COMPANY

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION FOR
ABANDONMENT IN MADISON
COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI



To: Mr. Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board (STB)
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE WITH 49 C.F.R. PART 1105

I hereby certify that on February 27, 2006, copies of the Environmental Report and Historic Report for the above-captioned proceeding were served on the agencies listed at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7(b), all agencies consulted in preparing the reports, and on the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. A service list is attached and incorporated into this certificate as Attachment A. The reports have been sent within the time period specified, as Illinois Central Railroad Company intends to file its Notice of Exemption in the above-captioned matter no earlier than March 20, 2006. All appropriate agencies as listed in 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7(e) have been consulted well in advance of preparing the Environmental Report.

I also certify that a newspaper notice was published on November 3, 2005, in the *Madison County Journal*, a newspaper of general circulation in Madison County, Mississippi. The notice alerted the public to the proposed abandonment, to possible reuse alternatives, and to procedures for participating in the STB proceeding. A copy of the notice is attached to this certificate as Attachment B.

Dated this 27th day of February, 2006.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Michael J. Barton, Jr.', written over a horizontal line.

Michael J. Barton, Jr.
Attorney for Illinois Central Railroad Company

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

FEB 28 2006

Part of
Public Record

ATTACHMENT A

Mr. William R. Balentine
Director, Office of Intermodal Planning
Mississippi Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 1850
Jackson, MS 39115-1850

Mr. Homer L. Wilkes
State Conservationist
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
100 West Capitol Street, Room 1321
Jackson, MS 39269

Mr. Jerry Brashier
Director of Wetland Permitting
Mississippi Coastal Program
Mississippi Dept of Marine Resources
1141 Bayview Avenue, Suite 101
Biloxi, MS 39530

Mr. Heinz Mueller
NEPA Program Office
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
61 Forsyth Street.
Atlanta, GA 30303

Mr. Christopher A. Alonzo
Director, Environmental Programs
Mississippi Dept. of Wildlife,
Fisheries and Parks
1505 Eastover Drive
Jackson, MS 39211-6322

Ms. Kathy W. L Lunceford
Environmental Coordinator
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
6578 Dogwood view Parkway, Suite A.
Jackson, MS 39213

Ms. Cynthia Rickis-Gordon
Environmental Biologist
Mississippi Natural Heritage Program
Mississippi Museum of Natural Science
2148 Riverside Drive
Jackson, MS 39202-1353

Mr. Jerry Banks
Mississippi Dept. of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 20305
Jackson, MS 39289-1305

Ms. Elizabeth S. Guynes
Chief, Regulatory Branch
U.S. Army Corp of Engineers
Vicksburg District, Operations Division
4155 Clay Street
Vicksburg, MS 39280-3435

Mayor Fred Esco
Mayor of Canton
226 Peace Street
Canton, MS 39046

Mr. Thomas H. Waggener
Review and Compliance Officer
Mississippi Dept. of Archives and History
Historic Preservation Division
P.O. Box 571
Jackson, MS 39205-0571

Mr. Edward J. McKay
Chief Spatial Reference System Division
National Geodetic Survey
Nat'l Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
1315 East West Highway, Room 8813
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282

D. Thomas Ross
Assistant Director, Recreation and Conservation
National Park Service
Department of Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Org. Code 2220
Washington, DC 20240

Ms. Deb Biggers, Director
501 N. West Street, Suite 1301E
Mississippi Dept. of Finance and Administration
Office of Budget and Fund Management
Jackson, MS 39201

Ms. Lisa Ouzts
Legal Division
Mississippi Dept. of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 20305
Jackson, MS 39289-1305

ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY gives notice that on or after November 25, 2005 it intends to file with the Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423, a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F-Exempt Abandonments, permitting the abandonment of a line of railroad that comes off the Grenada Sub at milepost 705.2 and traverses eastward approximately 12,300 feet to the end of track in Canton, Madison County, Mississippi, which line traverses through U.S. Postal Zip Code 39046. The proceeding will be docketed as AB-43 (Sub-No. 178X).

The Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) will generally prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA), which will normally be available 25 days after the filing of the notice of exemption. Comments on environmental and energy matters should be filed no later than 15 days after the EA becomes available to the public and will be addressed in a Board decision. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA or make inquiries regarding environmental matters by writing to the SEA, Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street NW, Washington, DC 20423 or by calling that office at (202) 565-1545.

Appropriate offers of financial assistance to continue rail service can be filed with the Board. Requests for environmental conditions, public use conditions, or rail banking/trails use also can be filed with the Board. An original and 10 copies of any pleading that raises matters other than environmental issues (such as trails use, public use, and offers of financial assistance) must be filed directly with the Board's Office of the Secretary, 1925 K Street NW, Washington, DC 20423-0001 [See 49 CFR 1104.1(a) and 1104.3(a)], and one copy must be served on applicant's representative. [See 49 CFR 1104.12(a)]. Questions regarding offers of financial assistance, public use or trails use may be directed to the Commission's Office of Congressional and Public Services at (202) 565-1592. Copies of any comments or requests for conditions should be served on the applicant's representative: Michael J. Barron, Jr., (312) 252-1511; at Fletcher & Sippel, 29 N. Wacker Drive, Suite 920, Chicago, IL 60606-2832.

**PROOF OF PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
MADISON COUNTY**

PERSONALLY appeared to undersigned notary public in Madison County, Mississippi Prince III, Editor and Publis MADISON COUNTY JOUR weekly newspaper of gener in Madison County, Mississ defined and prescribed in S 13-3-31, of the Mississippi (1972, as amended, who, be sworn, states that the notice copy of which is attached he published in the issues of sa newspaper as follows:

Date 11-3-05

Vol. 24

Date _____

Vol. _____

Date _____

Vol. _____

Date _____

Vol. _____

ATTACHMENT B Signed: _____ Editor and Publis