

SIDNEY STRICKLAND AND ASSOCIATES, PLLC

3050 K ST. N.W., SUITE 101
WASHINGTON, DC 20007-5108
TELEPHONE: 202-338-1325
FAX: 202-295-3854

290391

SIDNEY L. STRICKLAND, JR.
SIDNEY.STRICKLAND@STRICKLANDPLLCCOM

October 3, 2007 ENTERED
Office of Proceedings



The Honorable Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

OCT 11 2007

Part of
Public Record

**Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub. No. 431X); BNSF Railway Company—
Abandonment Exemption—in Knox and Fulton Counties, IL**

On July 17, 2006, BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F—Exempt Abandonments and Discontinuances of Services to: (1) abandon a 1-mile line of railroad between milepost 51.58 and milepost 52.58 near Farmington, in Fulton County, IL; and (2) discontinue service over a 4.69-mile line of railroad between milepost 46.89 near Yates City, and milepost 51.58 near Farmington, in Knox County, IL, a total distance of 5.69 miles. The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Codes 61531 and 61572.

By decision served August 4, 2006, the STB granted the exemption authority to abandon effective September 5, 2006. Within that same decision, the STB stated that the abandonment was to be consummated as of August 4, 2007.

On December 1, 2006, BNSF filed a letter stating that it will not consummate abandonment of that portion of the line between milepost 52.20 and milepost 52.58, because it has agreed to lease that portion of the line to Keokuk Junction Railway Co. d/b/a Peoria & Western Railway. See Keokuk Junction Railway Co., d/b/a Peoria & Western Railway—Lease and Operation Exemption—BNSF Railway Company, STB Finance Docket No. 34918 (STB served Sept. 1, 2006).

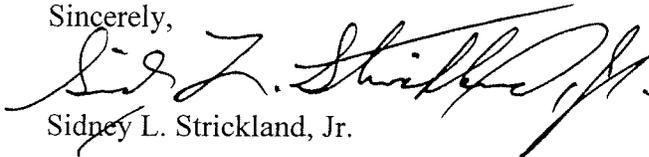
By decision served August 3, 2007, the STB granted BNSF's request for an extension of time to file a notice of consummation until October 4, 2007.

This letter is to advise the Board that, as of the date of this letter, BNSF is: (1) consummating abandonment of that portion of the subject line between milepost 51.58 and milepost 52.20; and (2) is consummating discontinuance of that portion of the line between 46.89 and milepost 51.58. BNSF plans to utilize that portion of the line between milepost 46.89 and milepost 51.58 for car storage upon consummation.

Please acknowledge receipt of this letter by date-stamping the enclosed copy of this letter and returning it to me in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sidney L. Strickland, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Sidney L. Strickland, Jr.

cc: Illinois Commerce Commission
Illinois Department of Transportation
Victoria Rutson, Chief, SEA
Peter Rickershauser
Jake P. DeBoever
Jerome Johnson
Susan Odom
Steve Kuzma
Dalen Wintermute
Rail Services Update