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ORIGINAL

Before the
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD



Docket No. AB-448 (Sub-No. 2X)

SF&L RAILWAY, INC.--ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION--
IN HANCOCK, McDONOUGH, FULTON AND PEORIA COUNTIES, IL

REQUEST FOR OFFICIAL NOTICE

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
NOV 26 2002
Part of
Public Record

WILLIAM E. PONCIN
County Courthouse
Macomb, IL 61455

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Attorneys for Protestants

Dated: November 26, 2002

Before the
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD



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REQUEST FOR OFFICIAL NOTICE

McDonough County, City of Macomb, and Joseph C. Szabo,^{1/}
request that the Surface Transportation Board (Board), take
official notice of two pleadings, lodged with the Board on Novem-
ber 20, 2002:^{2/}

Finance Docket No. 34282, Western Illinois Railway
Company--Acquisition Exemption--Toledo, Peoria & Western Railway
Corporation. (ID 206684).

Finance Docket No. 34283, RailAmerica, Inc., et al.--
Corporate Family Reorganization Exemption--Western Illinois
Railway Company. (ID 206686).

The above two recent notices of exemption embrace the same
rail line and service involved in the instant petition for exemp-
tion filed September 3, 2002, by SF&L; and where Toledo, Peoria
and Western Railway Corporation (TP&W) on October 30, 2002,
proposes that it be substituted in the stead of SF&L as the peti-
tioner. However, the two recent notices of exemption would consti-

^{1/} Illinois Legislative Director for United Transportation Union,
with offices at 8 So. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60603.

^{2/} These two notices of exemption have not been listed on the
Board's website as of the close of business today, which is most
unusual in view of the intervening 6-day period, and the practice of
the Office of Proceedings in other matters of a like nature.

tute a significant change in the structure of both the ownership and operation of the line.

It is suggested that these two recent notices of exemption may have a bearing on whether the instant petition for exemption should be dismissed, as contemplated by the Board's October 17, 2002 decision in Finance Docket Nos. 33995-96, and as urged by these petitioners.

Respectfully submitted,

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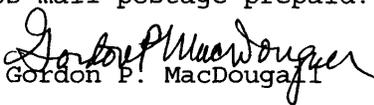
November 26, 2002

Attorneys for Protestants

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify I have served a copy of the foregoing upon all parties of record by first class mail postage-prepaid.

Washington DC


Gordon P. MacDougall