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THOMAS F. McFARLAND

January 14, 2005

By e-mail

Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
Case Control Unit, Suite 713
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: Docket No. AB-792X, *Railroad Switching Service of Missouri, Inc. --
Abandonment Exemption -- Entire Rail Line in St. Louis, St. Louis County, MO*

Dear Mr. Williams:

Hereby transmitted is a revised Federal Register notice in the above proceeding that complies with the requirements of 49 C.F.R. § 1152.60(c). This replaces the notice that was filed as Appendix 5 in the Petition for Exemption from 49 U.S.C. § 10903 filed on January 12, 2005.

Very truly yours,

/s/
Thomas F. McFarland
Attorney for Petitioner

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cc: Ms. Terry Guy, *by fax to 202-565-9002*

DRAFT FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE PER 49 C.F.R. 1152.60(c)

STB No. AB-792X, *Railroad Switching Service of Missouri, Inc. -- Abandonment Exemption -- Entire Rail Line In St. Louis, St. Louis County, MO*

Notice of Petition for Exemption to Abandon Service

On January 12, 2005, RAILROAD SWITCHING SERVICE OF MISSOURI, INC. (Railroad) filed with the Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC, a Petition for Exemption from 49 U.S.C. 10903 for abandonment of a line of railroad extending between a point of connection with Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NS) at or near Broad Street (Milepost 0) to terminus at the publishing facility of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch (“the Post-Dispatch”), a daily St. Louis newspaper, at 900 North Tucker Boulevard (Milepost 1.89), all in St. Louis, MO. The proposed abandonment would affect a portion of St. Louis, Missouri having a U.S. Postal Service zip code of 63101. The line for which the abandonment exemption request was filed includes the station of St. Louis, MO.

The rail line does not contain federally granted rights-of-way. Any documentation in the railroad’s possession will be made available promptly to those requesting it.

The interest of railroad employees would be protected by imposition of conditions to approval of abandonment imposed in *Oregon Short Line R. Co. - Abandonment - Goshen*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979).

Any offer of financial assistance will be due no later than 10 days after service of a decision granting the petition for exemption.

All interested persons should be aware that following abandonment of rail service and salvage of the line, the line may be suitable for other public use, including interim trail use.

Any request for a public use condition and any request for trail use/rail banking will be due no later than 20 days after notice of the filing of the petition for exemption is published in the Federal Register.

Persons seeking further information concerning abandonment procedures may contact the Surface Transportation Board or refer to the full abandonment or discontinuance regulations at 49 C.F.R. part 1152. Questions concerning environmental issues may be directed to the Board’s Section of Environmental Analysis.

An environmental assessment (EA) (or environmental impact statement (EIS), if necessary) prepared by the Section of Environmental Analysis will be served upon all parties of record and upon any agencies or other persons who commented during its preparation. Any other persons who would like to obtain a copy of the EA (or EIS) may contact the Section of Environmental Analysis. EAs in these abandonment proceedings normally will be made available within 60 days of the filing of the petition. The deadline for submission of comments on the EA will generally be within 30 days of its service.