

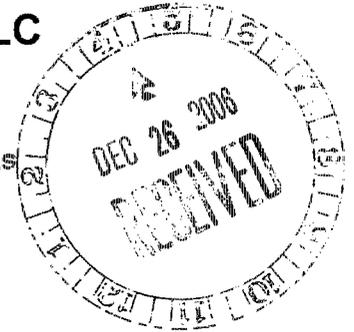
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December 26, 2006

218345

Honorable Vernon A. Williams
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub. No. 408X); BNSF Railway Company—Abandonment Exemption—in Hamilton and Merrick Counties, NE

Dear Secretary Williams:

On March 2, 2004, BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F—Exempt Abandonments to abandon a 15.60-mile line of railroad between BNSF milepost 1.90, near Aurora, and milepost 17.50, near Central City, in Hamilton and Merrick Counties, NE. The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Codes 68818; 68854, and 68826.

By decision served March 22, 2004, the STB granted the exemption authority to abandon effective April 21, 2004. Within that same decision, the STB stated that the abandonment was to be consummated as of March 22, 2005.

By decision and notice of interim trail use or abandonment served on May 26, 2004 (May 26 decision), the proceeding was reopened to permit interim trail use and public use negotiations between Nebraska Trails Foundation, Inc. (NTFI), the Central City Community Trails Committee of Central City, NE (CCCTC), and BNSF, for BNSF's line segment between milepost 4.37, near Aurora, and milepost 17.50, near Central City, NE. The May 26 decision also granted BNSF's request to amend its notice of exemption to remove a 2.47-mile line segment from the scope of its abandonment, from milepost 1.90 to milepost 4.37.

By decision served December 20, 2004, the trail use negotiating period under the NITU was extended to January 26, 2005. The NITU issued to NTFI expired on January 26, 2005, without an agreement being reached.

By decision served June 28, 2006, the Board granted BNSF's request for an extension of time to exercise abandonment authority until December 31, 2006.

By decision served November 6, 2006, the Board granted NTFI's request to extend the NITU negotiating period for the portion of the right-of-way between milepost 9.63, near Marquette, to milepost 17.50, near Central City, until January 31, 2007.

This letter is to advise the Board that BNSF is railbanking the subject Line from milepost 9.63 to milepost 17.50. Additionally, this letter is to advise the Board that BNSF is consummating a

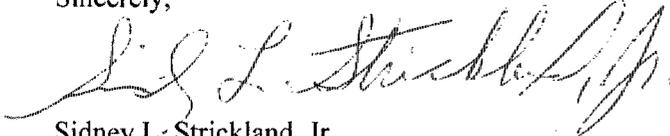
discontinuance only, and not an abandonment of the subject Line from milepost 4.37 to milepost 9.63, effective as of the date of this letter.

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 enclosed for the Board's use and distribution.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 338-1325.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "S. L. Strickland, Jr.", written in black ink.

Sidney L. Strickland, Jr.
SLS/ew

cc: Nebraska Public Service Commission
Nebraska Department of Roads
Christa Dean, SEA, STB
Jake Deboever
John Sims