



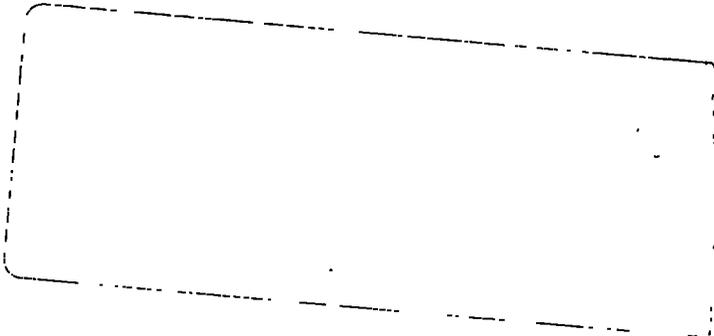
www.cn.ca

December 14, 2010

Ms. Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW,
Washington, DC 20424

Law
Thomas J. Healey
Counsel - Regulatory
17641 S. Ashland Avenue
Homewood, IL 60430-1339
T - 708-332-4381
F - 708-332-4361
tom.healey@cn.ca

228456



Re: Environmental Report, Historic Report and Required Certifications for
Docket No. AB-303 (Sub No. 37X)
Wisconsin Central, Ltd. — Notice of Exemption for Abandonment in Weston,
Marathon County, Wisconsin

Dear Ms. Brown:

Wisconsin Central, Ltd. ("WCL") intends to file a Notice of Exemption for the above-referenced proposed abandonment any time on or after January 14, 2011. Enclosed for the above-referenced Abandonment Exemption are the following documents, which are required by 49 C.F.R. Part 1105:

1. An original and ten copies of the Environmental/Historic Report;
2. An original and ten copies of the transmittal letter that accompanied the reports; and
3. An original and ten copies of a certificate demonstrating compliance with the requirements of 49 C.F.R. Part 1105.

Please stamp and return the duplicate copy of this letter to my attention to indicate that you received the items listed.

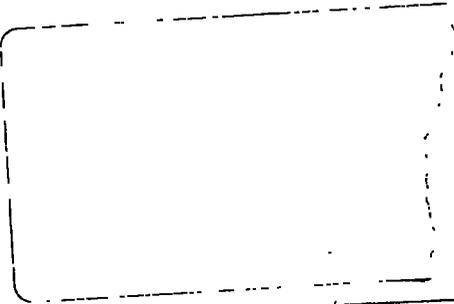
Feel free to call me if you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas J. Healey
Attorney for
Wisconsin Central, Ltd.

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Office of Proceedings
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Public Record

Encls.





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Office of Proceedings

DEC 15 2010

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Law

Thomas J. Healey
Counsel - Regulatory

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Homewood, IL 60430-1339

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F - 708-332-4361
tom.healey@cn.ca



December 14, 2010

Re: Wisconsin Central, Ltd. Notice of Exemption for Abandonment – Weston, Marathon County, Wisconsin - Docket AB-303 (Sub-No. 37X)

To Whom It May Concern:

Any time on or after January 14, 2011, Wisconsin Central, Ltd. ("WCL") expects to file with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") a Notice of Exemption seeking authority to abandon a railroad line located between milepost 17.50 and milepost 18.64, a distance of 1.14 miles, in Weston, Marathon County, Wisconsin. Enclosed is an Environmental Report and a Historic Report describing the proposed action and any expected environmental and historical effects, as well as a map of the affected area.

We are providing this report so that you may review the information that will form the basis for the STB's independent environmental and historical analysis of this proceeding. If any of the information is misleading or incorrect, if you believe that pertinent information is missing, or if you have any questions about the STB's environmental and historic review process, please contact their Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA), at the Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street, SW, Washington, D.C. 20423-0001, (202) 245-0245, and refer to the above docket number.

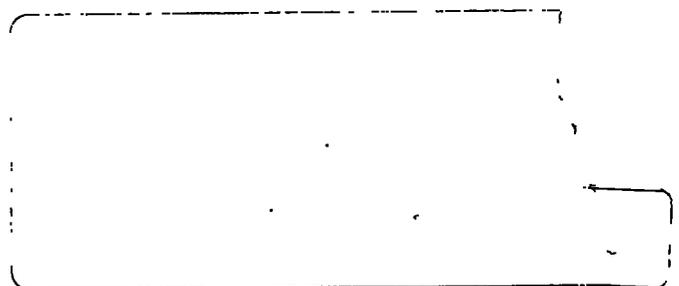
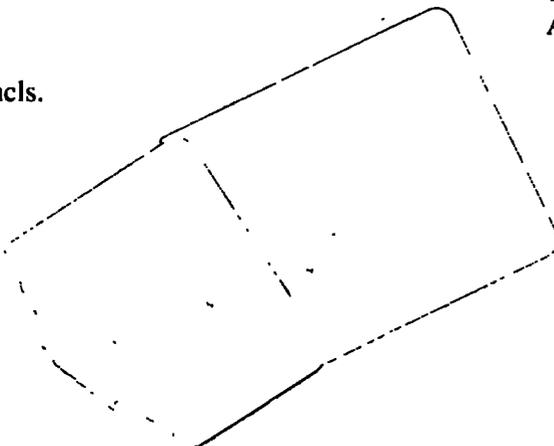
WCL will file the Environmental Report and Historic Report with the STB on or about December 14, 2010. Because the applicable statutes and regulations impose stringent deadlines for processing this action, your written comments to the STB (with a copy to the undersigned) would be appreciated within three weeks. Your comments will be considered by the STB in evaluating the environmental and historical impact of the contemplated action.

If there are any questions concerning this proposal, please contact the undersigned directly at (708) 332-4381 or by mail at the above address.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Healey
Attorney for Wisconsin Central, Ltd.

Encls.



Docket No. AB-303 (Sub-No. 37X)

WISCONSIN CENTRAL, LTD.

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION FOR
ABANDONMENT IN WESTON,
MARATHON COUNTY, WISCONSIN

To: Chief, Section of Administration
Surface Transportation Board (STB)
395 E. Street, SW
Washington, DC 20424

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

I hereby certify that on December 14, 2010, 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 Wisconsin Historic Preservation Agency. A service list is attached and incorporated into this certificate as Attachment A. The reports have been sent within the time period specified, as Wisconsin Central, Ltd. intends to file its Notice of Exemption in the above-captioned matter no earlier than January 14, 2011. All appropriate agencies as listed in 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7(e) have been consulted well in advance of preparing the Environmental Report.

Dated this 14th day of Dec., 2010.



Thomas J. Healey
Attorney for Wisconsin Central, Ltd.

Ms. LaDawn Whitehead
US EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

Mr. Michael Friis
Program Manager
Wisconsin Coastal Management Program
Post Office Box 8944
Madison, WI 53708-8944

Mr. Fred Schuster - President
Retired Senior Claims Supervisor
3210 Eau Claire Ave.
Weston, WI 54476

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Water
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Mr. Doug Staller, Manager
Necedah National Wildlife Refuge
W7996 20th Street West
Necedah, WI 54646

Department of the Army Corp of Engineers
1314 Contractors Boulevard
Plover, WI 54467-2608

National Park Service
700 Ray O Vac Dr # 100
Madison, WI 53711-2468

Ms. Melissa Knipfel
Soil Conservationist
Service Center
326 River Drive
Wausau, WI 54403-5451

Wisconsin DNR Service Center
5301 Rib Mt. Drive
Wausau, WI 54401

Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Hill Farms State Transportation Building
4802 Sheboygan Avenue
PO Box 7910
Madison, WI 53707-7910

ATTACHMENT A

4

Wisconsin Historical Society
Division of Historic Preservation
Office of Preservation Planning
816 State Street
Madison, WI 53706

Simon Monroe <Simon.Monroe@noaa.gov>

BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DOCKET NO. AB-303 (SUB-NO. 37X)

WISCONSIN CENTRAL, LTD.
-- NOTICE OF EXEMPTION FOR ABANDONMENT--
IN WESTON, MARATHON COUNTY, WISCONSIN

ENVIRONMENTAL/HISTORIC REPORT

Wisconsin Central, Ltd. ("WCL") submits this Environmental/Historic Report in compliance with the reporting requirements of 49 C.F.R. §§1105.7 and 1105.8. Supporting correspondence and certifications are attached. It is the conclusion of this Report that the proposed abandonment, if implemented, will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT - 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7(e)

1. Proposed Action and Alternatives. WCL seeks to abandon its line of railroad starting at MP 17.50 and ending at MP 18.64, in Weston, Wisconsin (the "Line"). The Line is situated in Marathon County, Wisconsin and extends a total distance of approximately 1.14 miles.

This Environmental Report is submitted in anticipation of WCL's Notice of Exemption to abandon the above-mentioned Line. This line has not been used in over two years. There are no rail customers on this portion of the Line. There is no overhead traffic to be rerouted to other lines.

Following abandonment, WCL intends to salvage rail, ties and track materials from the Line.

No alternatives to the proposed abandonment have been considered. A map showing the location of the Line is attached herein as **Appendix A**.

WCL has contacted and requested comments from the Village of Weston Board of Trustees. See correspondence attached herein as **Appendix B**. The Board has made no comments to date.

2. Transportation System. WCL does not anticipate that existing regional or local transportation systems or patterns will be affected by the proposed abandonment. There is no overhead traffic on the Line, and no passenger trains are operated over the Line.

WCL has contacted and requested comments from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. See correspondence attached herein as **Appendix C**. WisDOT requested that WCL be mindful of any benchmarks, monumentation and mapping information when it performs its salvage activities.

3. Land Use.

(i) WCL does not foresee any inconsistency with regional and/or local land use plans, but has contacted and requested comments from the National Geodetic Advisor. See correspondence attached herein as **Appendix D**. There is 1 geodetic survey marker located in this area. WCL will contact NGS prior to beginning any salvage activities.

(ii) The proposed abandonment lies entirely within the limits of Marathon County, Wisconsin. The Natural Resource Conservation Service has been contacted and comments requested. See correspondence attached herein as **Appendix E**. No comments have been received to date.

(iii) WCL has contacted and comments were requested from the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program. See correspondence attached as **Appendix F**. The WCMP does

not believe this proposed abandonment will impact coastal uses or resources within the coastal zone.

(iv) WCL is not aware of any alternative public use under 49 U.S.C. § 10905 for which the right-of-way of this track would be suitable.

(v) WCL has contacted and requested comments from the Wisconsin DNR. See correspondence attached herein as **Appendix G**. The DNR requested additional information, which was provided in the attached email. To date, no further comments have been made.

4. Energy.

(i) The proposed abandonment will not have any effect on the transportation of energy resources. No energy resource commodities move on the Line, and WCL foresees little or no possibility that such on-line traffic would develop in the future.

(ii) The movement and/or recovery of recyclable commodities will not be adversely affected by this abandonment. No such traffic has been handled on this line for many years (if ever), and WCL foresees little or no possibility that any online recyclable commodity traffic would develop in the future.

(iii) Abandonment will not result in an increase or decrease in overall energy efficiency. There is no freight traffic on the Line and thus there will be no changes in existing transportation patterns or energy usage as a result of the proposed abandonment.

(iv) Not applicable. Abandonment of the Line will not cause the diversion of more than 1,000 rail carloads per year or an average of 50 rail carloads per mile per year to motor carriers.

5. Air.

(i) Not applicable. Abandonment will not result in (A) a minimum increase in rail traffic of 100% or eight trains per day on any segment of rail line, (B) an increase in rail yard activity of at least 100%, or (C) an average increase in truck traffic of more than 10% of the average daily traffic or 50 vehicles per day on any road segment.

(ii) Not applicable. Abandonment of the Line will not result in traffic increases which exceed the thresholds specified in 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7(e)(5)(ii)(A), (B) or (C).

(iii) Not applicable. There are no shipments of ozone-depleting materials on this line, thus nothing will be diverted as a result of this abandonment.

6. Noise. Not applicable. As indicated above, none of the thresholds identified in 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7(e)(5)(i) will be exceeded as a result of the abandonment.

7. Safety.

(i) The proposed action will have no adverse effect upon public health or safety. During any salvage operations on the Line, precautions will be taken to ensure public safety.

(ii) Not applicable. To WCL's knowledge, no hazardous commodities were ever handled on this Line. Accordingly, the proposed abandonment will have no effect on the transportation of hazardous materials.

(iii) To the best of WCL's knowledge, there are no known hazardous waste sites or any hazardous waste materials involved. Therefore, WCL believes that its abandonment will not have any adverse impact on this site.

8. Biological Resources.

(i) The Necedah National Wildlife Refuge has been contacted and we have requested comments. See correspondence attached as **Appendix H**. The Wildlife Refuge does not believe this abandonment will impact the refuge lands.

(ii) The Line does not pass through or adjacent to any wildlife sanctuaries or refuges or any national or state parks or forests and, accordingly, none will be adversely affected. WCL has contacted and requested comments from the National Park Service. See correspondence attached herein as **Appendix I**. The Department has stated the proposed abandonment will not impact the Ice Age NST.

9. Water.

(i) WCL has contacted the US Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, DC to determine whether the proposed abandonment is consistent with applicable federal, state and local water and air quality standards. See correspondence attached hereto as **Appendix J**. There have been no comments to date.

(ii) The Army Corps of Engineers has been contacted to determine if the proposed abandonment requires permits under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. See correspondence attached herein as **Appendix K**. To date, the Corps has not responded to our correspondence.

WCL also believes that removal of the rails will not affect any existing wetlands, if they are present. In addition, abandonment should not impact any 100-year floodplain if no additional fill is placed in any floodplain.

(iii) WCL has contacted the US EPA, Office of Regional Counsel in Chicago. See correspondence attached herein as **Appendix L**. The Department has not responded to our correspondence.

10. Proposed Mitigation. As no adverse impact is anticipated, WCL does not propose any mitigation activities.

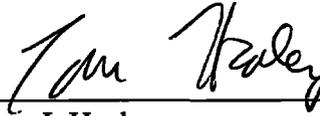
HISTORIC REPORT - 49 C.F.R. § 1105.8(d)

1. Map. A map of the Line is attached hereto as **Appendix A**.
2. Description of Line. WCL seeks to abandon its line rail starting at MP 17.50 and ending at 18.64 in Weston, Wisconsin (the "Line"). The Line is situated in Marathon County, Wisconsin and extends a total distance of 1.14 miles.
3. Photographs. There are no photographs of this line as it does not contain any bridges or structures.
4. Information on Structures. There are no structures located along this portion of the line.
5. History of Operations. This segment of the line was previously part of the Chicago & North-Western Railway Company's Ashland Division extending between Eland and Marshfield, Wisconsin. WCL purchased this segment on May 21, 1997.
6. Engineering Documents. WCL will make available any relevant engineering documents in its possession.
7. Historic Criteria. WCL has contacted and given notice of the proposed abandonment to the Wisconsin Historic Preservation Agency. See correspondence attached as **Appendix M**. The SHPO has informed WCL that they have not noted any resources listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

8. Ground Disturbances. WCL is unaware of any possibility that archaeological resources may be in the area. Access to the line is generally good.

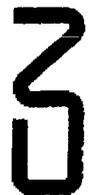
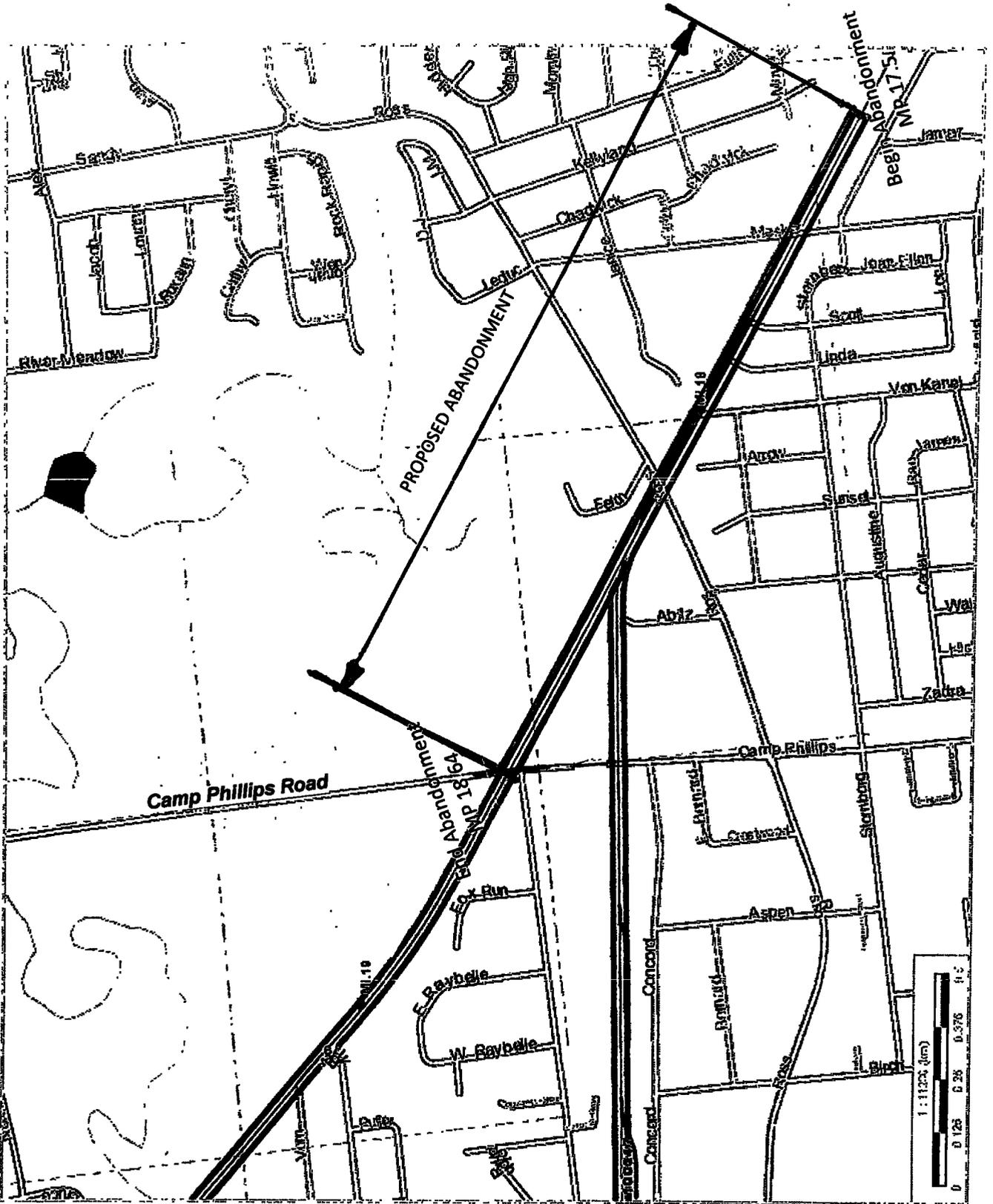
Dated: December 14, 2010

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas J. Healey
Attorney for the Wisconsin Central, Ltd.
17641 South Ashland Avenue
Homewood, IL 60430-1345
Telephone: 708-332-4381
Fax: 708-332-4361

Weston, WI
Docket AB 303-37X



APPENDIX A



Law

Thomas J. Healey
Counsel - Regulatory
17641 S. Ashland Avenue
Homewood, IL 60430-1339

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F - 708-332-4361
tom.healey@cn.ca

November 8, 2010

Mr. Fred Schuster - President
Retired Senior Claims Supervisor
3210 Eau Claire Ave.
Weston, WI 54476

Re: Wisconsin Central Ltd. Proposed Abandonment in Weston, Marathon County, Wisconsin
AB-303 (Sub-No. 37X)

Dear Mr. Schuster:

Wisconsin Central Ltd. ("WCL") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon approximately 1.14 miles of railroad line starting at MP 17.5 and ending at MP 18.64 in Marathon County, Weston, Wisconsin. For your convenience, we have attached a map for your reference. WCL is advising you of the proposed action so you may assist us in identifying any potential effects of the proposed action on, among other things, the following:

1. Water quality;
2. Designated wetlands;
3. 100-year-old flood plains;
4. Endangered or threatened species;
5. Critical habitats;
6. Wildlife sanctuaries or refuges;
7. National or state parks or forests;
8. Coastal zone management;
9. Soil and natural resource conservation;
10. Agricultural land;
11. Regional and/or local use plans; and
12. The need for permits under Sections 402 or 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Because of the nature of the proposed action, we foresee no adverse effects. Nevertheless, we would appreciate your review and any comments you may wish to offer. We would appreciate a written response as soon as possible so that we may include it in the environmental report, which we will file with the STB. We intend on filing the Environmental Report in four weeks.

Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

Thomas J. Healey
Counsel for Wisconsin Central Ltd.

Encl.

APPENDIX B

14



Law

Thomas J. Healey
Counsel - Regulatory
17641 S. Ashland Avenue
Homewood, IL 60430-1339

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tom.healey@cn.ca

November 8, 2010

Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Hill Farms State Transportation Building
4802 Sheboygan Avenue
PO Box 7910
Madison, WI 53707-7910

Re: Wisconsin Central Ltd. Proposed Abandonment in Weston, Marathon County, Wisconsin
AB-303 (Sub-No. 37X)

Dear Sir or Madam:

Wisconsin Central Ltd. ("WCL") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon approximately 1.14 miles of railroad line starting at MP 17.5 and ending at MP 18.64 in Marathon County, Weston, Wisconsin. For your convenience, we have attached a map for your reference. WCL is advising you of the proposed action so you may assist us in identifying any potential effects of the proposed action on, among other things, the following:

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Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

Thomas J. Healey
Counsel for Wisconsin Central Ltd.

Encl.

APPENDIX C

15



Office of General Counsel
 4802 Sheboygan Ave., Rm. 115B
 P O Box 7910
 Madison, WI 53707-7910

Jim Doyle, Governor
 Frank J. Busalacchi, Secretary
 Internet: www.dot.wisconsin.gov
 Telephone: 608-266-8810
 Facsimile (FAX): 608-267-6734
 E-mail: ogc.exec@dot.state.wi.us

December 3, 2010

Thomas Healey, Counsel
 Wisconsin Central Ltd.
 17641 South Ashland Avenue
 Homewood, IL 60430

**Re: Wisconsin Central Ltd. Proposed Abandonment in Weston, Marathon County,
 Wisconsin AB-303 (Sub-No.37x)**

Dear Mr. Healey,

This letter is a response to your letter dated November 8, 2010 and received November 17, 2010, notifying the Wisconsin Department of Transportation about proposed abandonment Docket No. AB 303 (Sub.-No. 37X). At your request, the Docket was reviewed for potential effects of the proposed abandonment of approximately 1.14 miles of railroad line, starting at 17.5 and ending at MP 18.64 in Marathon County, Weston, Wisconsin. Below are WisDOT's findings and recommendations:

WisDOT encourages the preservation of this transportation corridor consistent with existing land use plans, protecting the corridor for future transportation needs if the line is abandoned.

If the line is abandoned, Wisconsin Central Ltd. must comply with the *WisDOT Abandoned Railroad Line Salvage and Clean-up Policy/Standards/Procedures* when performing abandonment and related activities. Please contact me if you need a copy. Additionally, surveying benchmarks, monumentation and mapping information for the segment need to be protected.

Upon abandonment, the railroad must remove any rail, ties and ballast at the crossings of the state highways. The railroad is required to obtain a permit from the WisDOT Regional Maintenance section to work on highway right-of-way. The railroad will be responsible for traffic management during abandonment activities. The roadway shall be restored in like kind. Before crossings are removed across other streets and roadways, the railroad must contact the maintaining authority to coordinate work with them.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Chung
 Attorney

pc: Sheri Walz
 Stephen Kienitz
 Richard Steffes
 Brigit Brown



Law

Thomas J. Healey
Counsel - Regulatory
17641 S. Ashland Avenue
Homewood, IL 60430-1339

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F - 708-332-4361
tom.healey@cn.ca

November 8, 2010

National Geodetic Survey Information Services
SSMC-3, #9202
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282

Re: Wisconsin Central Ltd. Proposed Abandonment in Weston, Marathon County, Wisconsin
AB-303 (Sub-No. 37X)

Dear Sir or Madam:

Wisconsin Central Ltd. ("WCL") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon approximately 1.14 miles of railroad line starting at MP 17.5 and ending at MP 18.64 in Marathon County, Weston, Wisconsin. For your convenience, we have attached a map for your reference. WCL is advising you of the proposed action so you may assist us in identifying any potential effects of the proposed action on, among other things, the following:

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12. The need for permits under Sections 402 or 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Because of the nature of the proposed action, we foresee no adverse effects. Nevertheless, we would appreciate your review and any comments you may wish to offer. We would appreciate a written response as soon as possible so that we may include it in the environmental report, which we will file with the STB. We intend on filing the Environmental Report in four weeks.

Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,


Thomas J. Healey
Counsel for Wisconsin Central Ltd.

Encl.



To: Rebecca Bott/BOTT01/IL/CNR/CA,
 Cc:
 Bcc:
 Subject: Fw: [NGS Response, STB Docket AB-303 (SUB NO. 37X)]

— Forwarded by Tom Healey/HEALEY03/IL/CNR/CA on 11/09/2010 02:30 PM —



Simon Monroe
 <Simon.Monroe@noaa.gov>
 11/09/2010 11:09 AM

To tom.healey@cn.ca
 cc Surface Transportation Board <sea@stb.dot.gov>, Surveyorlady@yahoo.com, Gilbert Mitchell <Gilbert.Mitchell@noaa.gov>, John.Ellingson@noaa.gov, Simon Monroe <Simon.Monroe@noaa.gov>
 Subject [NGS Response, STB Docket AB-303 (SUB NO. 37X)]

Thank you for sharing your railroad abandonment environmental report for Weston, Marathon County, WISCONSIN.

Approximately 01 geodetic survey marks may be located in the area described.

If marks will be disturbed by the abandonment, [THE RAILROAD] shall consult with the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) at least 90 days prior to beginning salvage activities that will disturb, or destroy any geodetic station

marks are described on the attached file. Additional advice is provided at

<http://geodesy.noaa.gov/marks/railroads/>

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 Simon Monroe
 Geodetic Services Division
 National Geodetic Survey
 NOAA - N/NGS12 - RM. 9202
 1315 East/West Highway
 Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282
 Phone: 301-713-3242



Law

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November 8, 2010

Ms. Melissa Knipfel
Soil Conservationist
Service Center
326 River Drive
Wausau, WI 54403-5451

Re: Wisconsin Central Ltd. Proposed Abandonment in Weston, Marathon County, Wisconsin
AB-303 (Sub-No. 37X)

Dear Ms. Knipfel:

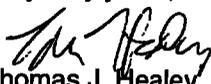
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Because of the nature of the proposed action, we foresee no adverse effects. Nevertheless, we would appreciate your review and any comments you may wish to offer. We would appreciate a written response as soon as possible so that we may include it in the environmental report, which we will file with the STB. We intend on filing the Environmental Report in four weeks.

Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,


Thomas J. Healey
Counsel for Wisconsin Central Ltd.

Encl.



Law

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Counsel - Regulatory
17641 S. Ashland Avenue
Homewood, IL 60430-1339

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tom.healey@cn.ca

November 8, 2010

Mr. Michael Friis
Program Manager
Wisconsin Coastal Management Program
Post Office Box 8944
Madison, WI 53708-8944

Re: Wisconsin Central Ltd. Proposed Abandonment in Weston, Marathon County, Wisconsin
AB-303 (Sub-No. 37X)

Dear Mr. Friis:

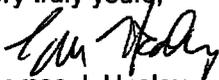
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Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,


Thomas J. Healey
Counsel for Wisconsin Central Ltd.

Encl.



**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF
ADMINISTRATION**

**JIM DOYLE
GOVERNOR**

**DANIEL J. SCHOOFF
SECRETARY**

Division of Intergovernmental Relations
Post Office Box 8944
Madison, WI 53708-8944
Voice (608) 266-0288
Fax (608) 267-6917

November 18, 2010

Mr. Thomas J. Healey
Counsel for Wisconsin Central Ltd
11641 S. Ashland Avenue
Homewood, IL 60430-1329

**RE: Wisconsin Central Ltd Proposed Railroad Abandonment
in Weston, Marathon County, Wisconsin
Docket No. AB 303 (Sub No. 37X)**

Dear Mr. Healey:

The Wisconsin Coastal Management Program (WCMP) has received your letter on behalf of the Wisconsin Central Ltd's, documenting its intent on filing an Environmental Report with the Surface Transportation Board for the above referenced proposed abandonment within four weeks.

Through its Federal Consistency authority, the WCMP reviews federally-affiliated projects that are likely to have impacts on coastal uses and resources within the coastal zone, defined as the fifteen counties adjacent to Lake Superior, Green Bay and Lake Michigan.

The WCMP does not have any comments and will not conduct a federal consistency review. This letter does not waive the proposed project from requiring any other necessary federal, state or local permits or authorizations.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (608) 267-2125.

Sincerely,

Anne Iwata
Program and Planning Analyst
Wisconsin Coastal Management Program



Law

Thomas J. Healey
Counsel - Regulatory
17641 S. Ashland Avenue
Homewood, IL 60430-1339

www.cn.ca

T - 708-332-4381
F - 708-332-4361
tom.healey@cn.ca

November 8, 2010

Wisconsin DNR Service Center
5301 Rib Mt. Drive
Wausau, WI 54401

Re: Wisconsin Central Ltd. Proposed Abandonment in Weston, Marathon County, Wisconsin
AB-303 (Sub-No. 37X)

Dear Sir or Madam:

Wisconsin Central Ltd. ("WCL") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon approximately 1.14 miles of railroad line starting at MP 17.5 and ending at MP 18.64 in Marathon County, Weston, Wisconsin. For your convenience, we have attached a map for your reference. WCL is advising you of the proposed action so you may assist us in identifying any potential effects of the proposed action on, among other things, the following:

1. Water quality;
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4. Endangered or threatened species;
5. Critical habitats;
6. Wildlife sanctuaries or refuges;
7. National or state parks or forests;
8. Coastal zone management;
9. Soil and natural resource conservation;
10. Agricultural land;
11. Regional and/or local use plans; and
12. The need for permits under Sections 402 or 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Because of the nature of the proposed action, we foresee no adverse effects. Nevertheless, we would appreciate your review and any comments you may wish to offer. We would appreciate a written response as soon as possible so that we may include it in the environmental report, which we will file with the STB. We intend on filing the Environmental Report in four weeks.

Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

Thomas J. Healey
Counsel for Wisconsin Central Ltd.

Encl.

Re: CN proposed abandonment 

Tom Healey to: Patrick, Keith A - DNR

11/11/2010 09:07 AM

Cc: "Johnson, Bradley A - DNR", "eric.m.norton@usace.army.mil",
"sweinkauf@westonwisconsin.org", Rebecca Bott

Mr. Patrick:

Thanks for your note. You ask a series of good questions, which hopefully I can answer.

"Abandonment" is the legal process undertaken by railroads through the Surface Transportation Board to remove the railroad's common carrier obligation to provide rail service on a section of track. Completion of the process provides the railroad with permission to remove its track (rail, ties, and spikes), along with other track materials, from the property. As a general matter, the railroads only remove items with salvage value, such as rail and ties, and leave embankments and drainage structures in place. In this instance, unless a party approached us about removing any existing embankments, we currently plan to leave them intact after removing the track structure.

I hope that answers your questions. If not, please let me know what else I might help with.

Tom Healey
Counsel - Regulatory
CN
708.332.4381

"Patrick, Keith A - DNR"

Tom,

11/10/2010 02:58:26 PM



"Patrick, Keith A - DNR"
<Keith.Patrick@Wisconsin.gov>
v>

11/10/2010 02:58 PM

To "tom.healey@cn.ca" <tom.healey@cn.ca>

cc "Johnson, Bradley A - DNR"
<BradleyA.Johnson@Wisconsin.gov>,
"eric.m.norton@usace.army.mil"
<eric.m.norton@usace.army.mil>,
"sweinkauf@westonwisconsin.org"
<sweinkauf@westonwisconsin.org>

Subject CN proposed abandonment

Tom,

I recently received your letter (see attached). Your letter indicates you plan on abandoning a section of railroad. What exactly will that consist of? Will you be removing the railroad grade? Will you be leaving it in place? Please clarify what the overall plans are for this section of railroad grade once it is "abandoned"?

Keith A. Patrick

Water Management Specialist
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
5301 Rib Mountain Drive
Wausau, WI 54401

(☎) phone: (715) 241-7502

(☎) fax: (715) 355-5253

(✉) e-mail: keith.patrick@wisconsin.gov

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/fhp/waterway/>



Law

Thomas J. Healey
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tom.healey@cn.ca

November 8, 2010

Mr. Doug Staller, Manager
Necedah National Wildlife Refuge
W7996 20th Street West
Necedah, WI 54646

Re: Wisconsin Central Ltd. Proposed Abandonment in Weston, Marathon County, Wisconsin
AB-303 (Sub-No. 37X)

Dear Mr. Staller:

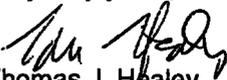
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Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,


Thomas J. Healey
Counsel for Wisconsin Central Ltd.

Encl.

Re: Proposed abandonment in western Marathon County WI Wisconsin Central Ltd. 

Tom Healey to: Doug_Staller

11/12/2010 08:03 AM

Cc: Rebecca Bott

Mr. Staller:

Thanks for your timely response.

Tom

Doug Staller

Mr. Healey,

11/12/2010 08:00:18 AM



Doug_Staller@fws.gov

11/12/2010 08:00 AM

To tom.healey@cn.ca

cc

Subject Proposed abandonment in western Marathon County WI Wisconsin Central Ltd.

Mr. Healey,

We foresee no potetnial impact of the proposed action on Necedah National Wildlife Refuge lands. If there is any further information you need from me, please do not hesitate to contact me at the numbers below.

Doug Staller
Refuge Manager
Necedah National Wildlife Refuge
608 565 4400
608 853 2486 cell

"A stream cannot rise higher than its source"
T. Roosevelt on Leadership



Law

Thomas J. Healey
Counsel - Regulatory
17641 S. Ashland Avenue
Homewood, IL 60430-1339

www.cn.ca

T - 708-332-4381
F - 708-332-4361
tom.healey@cn.ca

November 8, 2010

National Park Service
700 Ray O Vac Dr # 100
Madison, WI 53711-2468

Re: Wisconsin Central Ltd. Proposed Abandonment in Weston, Marathon County, Wisconsin
AB-303 (Sub-No. 37X)

Dear Sir or Madam:

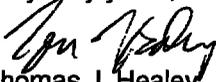
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Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,


Thomas J. Healey
Counsel for Wisconsin Central Ltd.

Encl.



United States Department of the Interior



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Ice Age & North Country
National Scenic Trails
700 Rayovac Drive, Suite 100
Madison, Wisconsin 53711-2468

IN REPLY REFER TO:
L7621 (IATR)

November 12, 2010

Mr. Thomas J. Healey
Counsel for Wisconsin Central, Ltd.
17641 South Ashland Avenue
Homewood, Illinois 60430-1339

Dear Mr. Healey:

Thank you for contacting us about the proposed abandonment of 1.14 miles of Wisconsin Central, Ltd., railroad line in Weston, Marathon County, Wisconsin.

This office is the administrative headquarters for the Ice Age National Scenic Trail (NST) which meanders for approximately 1,200 miles through Wisconsin, generally following the terminal moraines and other glacial landscape features left by the last period of continental glaciation 10,000-15,000 years ago. The Ice Age NST passes through the easternmost part of Marathon County, several miles east of the cities of Weston and Wausau. Therefore, the abandonment should have no impact or influence on the Ice Age NST.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments. If you have any questions about our comments, please contact Pam Schuler, our Ice Age NST Manager, at 608-441-5610 or pam_schuler@nps.gov.

Sincerely,

Thomas L. Gilbert
Superintendent



Law

Thomas J. Healey
Counsel - Regulatory
17641 S. Ashland Avenue
Homewood, IL 60430-1339

www.cn.ca

T - 708-332-4381
F - 708-332-4361
tom.healey@cn.ca

November 8, 2010

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Water
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Wisconsin Central Ltd. Proposed Abandonment in Weston, Marathon County, Wisconsin
AB-303 (Sub-No. 37X)

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Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

Thomas J. Healey
Counsel for Wisconsin Central Ltd.

Encl.



Law

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Homewood, IL 60430-1339

www.cn.ca

T - 708-332-4381
F - 708-332-4361
tom.healey@cn.ca

November 8, 2010

Department of the Army Corp of Engineers
1314 Contractors Boulevard
Plover, WI 54467-2608

Re: Wisconsin Central Ltd. Proposed Abandonment in Weston, Marathon County, Wisconsin
AB-303 (Sub-No. 37X)

Dear Sir or Madam:

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Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

Thomas J. Healey
Counsel for Wisconsin Central Ltd.

Encl.



Law

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F - 708-332-4361
tom.healey@cn.ca

November 8, 2010

Ms. LaDawn Whitehead
US EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

Re: Wisconsin Central Ltd. Proposed Abandonment in Weston, Marathon County, Wisconsin
AB-303 (Sub-No. 37X)

Dear Ms. Whitehead:

Wisconsin Central Ltd. ("WCL") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon approximately 1.14 miles of railroad line starting at MP 17.5 and ending at MP 18.64 in Marathon County, Weston, Wisconsin. For your convenience, we have attached a map for your reference. WCL is advising you of the proposed action so you may assist us in identifying any potential effects of the proposed action on, among other things, the following:

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Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

Thomas J. Healey
Counsel for Wisconsin Central Ltd.

Encl.

pg 1/2

REQUEST FOR SHPO COMMENT AND CONSULTATION ON A FEDERAL UNDERTAKING

Submit one copy with each undertaking for which our comment is requested. Please print or type.
Return to:

Wisconsin Historical Society, Division of Historic Preservation, Office of Preservation Planning, 816 State Street, Madison, WI 53706

RECEIVED

NOV 10 2010

Please Check All Boxes and Include All of the Following Information, as Applicable.

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

DIV HIST PRES

- This is a new submittal.
- This is supplemental information relating to Case #: _____, and title: _____
- This project is being undertaken pursuant to the terms and conditions of a programmatic or other interagency agreement. The title of the agreement is _____
- a. Federal Agency Jurisdiction (Agency providing funds, assistance, license, permit): Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street, SW, Washington, DC 20423.
- b. Federal Agency Contact Person: Cynthia Brown, Chief Section of Administration Phone: 202-245-0245
- c. Project Contact Person: Thomas Healey; Phone: 708-332-4381
- d. Return Address: Wisconsin Central Ltd., c/o CN, 17641 S. Ashland Ave., Homewood, Illinois 60430.
- e. Email Address: tom.healey@cn.ca
- f. Project Name: Wisconsin Central, Ltd. Proposed Abandonment in Marathon County, Weston, WI, AB-303 (Sub-No. 37X).
- g. Project Street Address: N/A - Rail Line Abandonment - Marathon County, Weston, Wisconsin.
- h. County: Marathon City: Weston, Zip Code: 54474
- i. Project Location: Township _____, Range _____, E/W (circle one), Section _____, Quarter Sections _____
- j. Project Narrative Description — Wisconsin Central, Ltd. ("WCL") plans to file a Notice of Exemption for an abandonment with the STB for approval to abandon 1.14 miles of railroad line starting at milepost 17.50 and ending at milepost 18.64. After the STB's final decision, WCL intends to salvage rail, ties and track materials from the line. With this proposed abandonment, WCL will also remove one crossing.
- k. Area of Potential Effect (APE). Attach Copy of U.S.G.S. 7.5 Minute Topographic Quadrangle showing APE. — See Attached Exhibit A

RECEIVED

NOV 10 2010

DIV HIST PRES

II. IDENTIFICATION OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

- Historic Properties are located within the project APE per 36 CFR 800.4. Attach supporting materials.
- X Historic Properties are not located within the project APE per 36 CFR 800.4. Attach supporting materials.
There are no buildings, structures, or bridges located along this portion of the rail line.
Therefore, no historic properties will be affected with this abandonment.

III. FINDINGS

- X No historic properties will be affected (i.e., none is present or there are historic properties present but the project will have no effect upon them). Attach necessary documentation, as described at 36 CFR 800.11.
- The proposed undertaking will have no adverse effect on one or more historic properties located within the project APE under 36 CFR 800.5. Attach necessary documentation, as described at 36 CFR 800.11.
- The proposed undertaking will result in an adverse effect to one or more historic properties and the applicant, or other federally authorized representative, will consult with the SHPO and other consulting parties to resolve the adverse effect per 36 CFR 800.6. Attach supporting documentation as described at 36 CFR 800.11 with a proposed plan to resolve adverse effect(s).

Authorized Signature: Tom Healey Date: 11-4-10

Type or print name: Tom Healey

IV. STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE COMMENTS

10-1363/MR
PS 2/2

- Agree with the finding in section III above.
- Object to the finding for reasons indicated in attached letter.
- Cannot review until information is sent as follows: _____

Authorized Signature: Shawn Ben Date: 11/18/10

HP-05-07 (8/15/03)