

Voting Conference, January 19, 2005

**Statement of Frankie McNair
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**Lake Superior & Ishpeming Railroad Company–Abandonment
Exemption–in Marquette County, MI
STB Docket No. AB-68 (Sub-No. 4X)**

Good Morning Chairman Nober, Vice Chairman Buttrey, and Commissioner Mulvey.

Lake Superior & Ishpeming Railroad Company (Lake Superior) initially filed a petition for exemption under section 10502 from the prior approval requirements of section 10903 to abandon a line of railroad known as the Republic Subdivision, in Marquette County, MI. The Subdivision is comprised of three segments totaling 24.98 miles. Canadian National Railway Company holds a two-thirds ownership interest in Segment One and has trackage rights over Segment Two, which is owned by Lake Superior. After the Board found that the initial petition could not be processed as filed and rejected it, Lake Superior sought an exemption to abandon Segment Three only. Segment Three extends approximately 8.9 miles from Humboldt Jct. to the end of the line at Republic Mine.

The draft decision before you grants Lake Superior’s unopposed petition for exemption to abandon Segment Three of the Republic Subdivision. The grant is subject to trail use, public use, four environmental conditions, and standard employee protective conditions.

We would be happy to address any questions you might have.

Thank you.