

Issued in Washington, DC on October 14, 2014, under authority delegated in 49 CFR 1.97.

**John A. Gale,**

Director, Office of Standards and Rulemaking.

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[Docket No. AB 55 (Sub-No. 735X)]

#### CSX Transportation, Inc.— Abandonment Exemption—in Vigo County, Ind.

CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT) has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR pt. 1152 subpart F—*Exempt Abandonments* to abandon approximately 1.39 miles of rail line on its Southern Region, Nashville Division, CE & D Subdivision, between the connection to CSXT's mainline at milepost QST 0.03 and the end of the track at the connection with the Indiana Railroad Company at milepost QST 1.42, in Terre Haute, Vigo County, Ind. The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Code 47807.

CSXT has certified that: (1) No local traffic has moved over the line for at least two years; (2) any overhead traffic on the line can be and has been rerouted over other lines; (3) no formal complaint filed by a user of rail service on the line (or by a state or local government entity acting on behalf of such user) regarding cessation of service over the line either is pending with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) or with any U.S. District Court or has been decided in favor of complainant within the two-year period; and (4) the requirements at 49 CFR 1105.7(c) (environmental report), 49 CFR 1105.11 (transmittal letter), 49 CFR 1105.12 (newspaper publication), and 49 CFR 1152.50(d)(1) (notice to governmental agencies) have been met.

As a condition to this exemption, any employee adversely affected by the abandonment shall be protected under *Oregon Short Line Railroad—Abandonment Portion Goshen Branch Between Firth & Ammon, in Bingham & Bonneville Counties, Idaho*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979). To address whether this condition adequately protects affected employees, a petition for partial revocation under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) must be filed.

Provided no formal expression of intent to file an offer of financial assistance (OFA) has been received, this

exemption will be effective on November 19, 2014, unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay that do not involve environmental issues,<sup>1</sup> formal expressions of intent to file an OFA under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2),<sup>2</sup> and trail use/rail banking requests under 49 CFR 1152.29 must be filed by October 30, 2014. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by November 10, 2014, with the Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street SW., Washington, DC 20423-0001.

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to CSXT's representative: Louis E. Gitomer, 600 Baltimore Avenue, Suite 301, Towson, MD 21204.

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*.

CSXT has filed environmental and historic reports that address the effects, if any, of the abandonment on the environment and historic resources. OEA will issue an environmental assessment (EA) by October 24, 2014. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA by writing to OEA (Room 1100, Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423-0001) or by calling OEA at (202) 245-0305. Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Comments on environmental and historic preservation matters must be filed within 15 days after the EA becomes available to the public.

Environmental, historic preservation, public use, or trail use/rail banking conditions will be imposed, where appropriate, in a subsequent decision.

Pursuant to the provisions of 49 CFR 1152.29(e)(2), CSXT shall file a notice of consummation with the Board to signify that it has exercised the authority granted and fully abandoned the line. If consummation has not been effected by CSXT's filing of a notice of consummation by October 20, 2015, and there are no legal or regulatory barriers to consummation, the authority to abandon will automatically expire.

<sup>1</sup> The Board will grant a stay if an informed decision on environmental issues (whether raised by a party or by the Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) in its independent investigation) cannot be made before the exemption's effective date. See *Exemption of Out-of-Serv. Rail Lines*, 5 I.C.C. 2d 377 (1989). Any request for a stay should be filed as soon as possible so that the Board may take appropriate action before the exemption's effective date.

<sup>2</sup> Each OFA must be accompanied by the filing fee, which is currently set at \$1,600. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

Board decisions and notices are available on our Web site at [WWW.STB.DOT.GOV](http://WWW.STB.DOT.GOV).

Decided: October 14, 2014.

By the Board, Rachel D. Campbell, Director, Office of Proceedings.

**Brendetta S. Jones,**

Clearance Clerk.

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[Docket No. AB 290 (Sub-No. 370X)]

#### Norfolk Southern Railway Company— Discontinuance of Service Exemption—in Clermont, Brown and Adams Counties, Ohio

On September 30, 2014, Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSR) filed with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) a petition under 49 U.S.C. 10502 for exemption from the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 10903 to discontinue rail service over approximately 40.7 miles of rail line between milepost CT 32.83 at Williamsburg and milepost CT 73.50 at Plum Run in Clermont, Brown and Adams Counties, Ohio.

NSR states that the line includes the stations of Eastwood, Mt. Oreb, Sardinia, Mowrystown, Macon, Winchester, Seaman, Lawshe, Peebles, and Plum Run, all of which will be discontinued. Williamsburg is currently a station on the line, however, it will not be discontinued because NSR's Clare (Cincinnati)—Williamsburg, Ohio segment immediately to the west of and contiguous with the subject line is currently operated by CCET, LLC. (CCET).<sup>1</sup> The line traverses U.S. Postal Service Zip Codes 45154, 45171, 45176, 45660, 45679, and 45697.

NSR states that the line does not contain any federally granted rights-of-way. Any documentation in NSR's possession will be made available promptly to those requesting it.

The interest of railroad employees will be protected by the conditions set forth in *Oregon Short Line Railroad—Abandonment Portion Goshen Branch Between Firth & Ammon, in Bingham & Bonneville Counties, Idaho*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979).

By issuance of this notice, the Board is instituting an exemption proceeding pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10502(b). A final

<sup>1</sup> CCET was granted authority to lease and operate the rail line in *CCET, LLC—Lease & Operation Exemption—Rail Line of Norfolk Southern Railway*, FD 35810 (STB served April 4, 2014).