

phases of damage prevention. In particular, pipeline operators need to provide accurate maps of their facilities to one-call centers; these maps must be updated regularly to reflect any changes. When locate requests are received, facility operators need to be sure that their facilities are marked in a timely and accurate manner whether this is done by operator staff or by contract locators. When facility operators are excavating, they need to call for locates of other facilities, observe the markings of those facilities and take care to avoid coming into contact with other lines while digging. RSPA urges pipeline operators to review the procedures identified in this study and to implement them.

The Common Ground Study can be viewed on line at www.commongroundalliance.com.

These best practices have been adopted by many professional associations including the Associated General Contractors, the National Utility Contractors Association, National Utility Locating Contractors Association and others in the damage prevention community. Promotion of these practices is now under the auspices of the Common Ground Alliance (CGA) which represents virtually every segment of the damage prevention community. CGA has also assumed responsibility for promotion of the Dig Safely Campaign launched by DOT in 1999 which identified four key steps in safe excavation:

- Call Before You Dig
- Wait the Required Time in Your State for Operators to Mark Their Facilities
- Observe Marks Indicating the Presence of Facilities When You Dig
- Dig With Care—protect both yourself and the facilities where you are digging.

The National Transportation Safety Board has recommended an important additional step, that excavators should notify the pipeline operator immediately if their work damages a pipeline and that excavators should call 911 immediately if the damage results in a release of natural gas or other hazardous substances or potentially endangers, life, health or property.

II. Advisory Bulletin (ADB-02-01)

To: Owners and Operators of Natural Gas and Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Systems

Subject: Notification to Stress the Importance of Safe Excavation Practices

Advisory: The arrival of warmer weather coincides with a significant increase in construction activity both by professional excavators and home owners and renters. To protect

excavators and private citizens from injury and to guard the integrity of buried pipelines and other underground facilities, OPS reminds all concerned to implement the best practices of the Common Ground Study and the four steps of the Dig Safely Campaign.

—Call Before You Dig

—Wait the Required Time in Your State for Operators to Mark Their Facilities

—Observe Marks Indicating the Presence of Facilities When You Dig

—Dig With Care—protect both yourself and the facilities where you are digging.

We ask pipeline operators to undertake the following steps as part of their damage prevention efforts:

- increasing their vigilance on right-of-way inspections;

- reviewing their own procedures for following up on locate requests;

- ensuring that operator employees and contract employees follow Best Practices; and

- increasing outreach efforts to the excavator community during the spring season.

Issued in Washington, DC, on May 17, 2002.

Stacey L. Gerard,

Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.

[FR Doc. 02-13142 Filed 5-23-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-60-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-598X]

BHP Nevada Railroad Company— Discontinuance of Service Exemption—in Elko and White Pine Counties, NV

BHP Nevada Railroad Company (BHP Nevada) filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR part 1152 Subpart F-*Exempt Abandonments and Discontinuances* to discontinue service over 146 miles of railroad between milepost 0.0 in Cobre and milepost 146.1 in Keystone, in Elko and White Pine Counties, NV. The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Codes 89835, 89301, 89315 and 89318.

BHP Nevada certified that: (1) No local traffic has moved over the line for at least 2 years; (2) there is no overhead traffic on the line; (3) no 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 2-year period; and (4) the requirements at 49 CFR 1105.7 (environmental reports), 49 CFR 1105.8 (historic reports), 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 discontinuance shall be protected under *Oregon Short Line R. Co.—Abandonment—Goshen*, 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 June 25, 2002, unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay and formal expressions of intent to file an OFA under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2)¹ must be filed by June 3, 2002.² Petitions to reopen³ must be filed by June 13, 2002, with: Surface Transportation Board, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423.

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to applicants' representative: Edward D. Greenberg, Galland, Kharasch, Greenberg, Fellman & Swirsky, P.C., Canal Square, 1054 Thirty-First Street, NW., Suite 200, Washington, DC 20007.

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

Board decisions and notices are available on our website at "WWW.STB.DOT.GOV."

Decided: May 15, 2002.

¹ Each offer of financial assistance must be accompanied by the filing fee, which, as of April 8, 2002, is currently set at \$1,100. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

² While applicant initially indicated a proposed consummation date of June 22, 2002, and because applicant failed to publish notice in the newspaper as required, and a new filing date of May 6, 2002, was entered when proof of publication was received. Because the verified notice was not complete until May 6, 2002, and hence was not deemed filed until then, the earliest possible date for consummation is 50 days from May 6, 2002 (June 25, 2002). Applicant's representative has confirmed that the correction consummation date is on or after June 25, 2002.

³ Because this is a discontinuance proceeding and abandonment is not proposed, trail use/rail banking or public use conditions are not appropriate. Likewise, no environmental or historic documentation is required because the circumstances here are similar to those for which exceptions are provided under 49 CFR 1105.6(c)(6) and 1105.8.

By the Board, David M. Konschnik,
Director, Office of Proceedings.
Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.
[FR Doc. 02-12819 Filed 5-23-02; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-101 (Sub-No. 17X)]

Duluth, Missabe and Iron Range Railway Company—Abandonment Exemption—in St. Louis County, MN

On May 7, 2002, Duluth, Missabe and Iron Range Railway Company (DM&IR) 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 abandon a 2-mile portion of the line known as the Sliver Branch, between milepost S-0.0 and milepost S-2.0, in the City of Virginia in St. Louis County, MN. The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Code 55792.

The line does not contain any federally granted rights-of-way. Any documentation in DM&IR'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 R. Co.—Abandonment—Goshen*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979).

By issuing this notice, the Board is instituting an exemption proceeding pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10502(b). A final decision will be issued by August 23, 2002.

Any offer of financial assistance (OFA) under 49 CFR 1152.27(b)(2) will be due no later than 10 days after service of a decision granting the petition for exemption. Each OFA must be accompanied by the filing fee, which is currently set at \$1,100. *See* 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

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 under 49 CFR 1152.28 or for trail use/rail banking under 49 CFR 1152.29 will be due no later than June 13, 2002. Each trail use request must be accompanied by a \$150 filing fee. *See* 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(27).

All filings in response to this notice must refer to STB Docket No. AB-101 (Sub-No. 17X) and must be sent to: (1) Surface Transportation Board, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, NW.,

Washington, DC 20423-0001; and (2) Thomas R. Ogoreuc, 135 Jamison Lane, Monroeville, PA 15146. Replies to the DM&IR petition are due on or before June 13, 2002.

Persons seeking further information concerning abandonment procedures may contact the Board's Office of Public Services at (202) 565-1592 or refer to the full abandonment or discontinuance regulations at 49 CFR part 1152. Questions concerning environmental issues may be directed to the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) at (202) 565-1552. [TDD for the hearing impaired is available at 1-800-877-8339.]

An environmental assessment (EA) (or environmental impact statement (EIS), if necessary) prepared by SEA will be served upon all parties of record and upon any agencies or other persons who commented during its preparation. Other interested persons may contact SEA to obtain a copy of the EA (or EIS). 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.

Board decisions and notices are available on our Web site at "www.stb.dot.gov."

Decided: May 21, 2002.

By the Board, David M. Konschnik,
Director, Office of Proceedings.
Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.
[FR Doc. 02-13157 Filed 5-23-02; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 167X)]

Union Pacific Railroad Company— Abandonment and Discontinuance Exemption—in Cook County, IL

On May 7, 2002, Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) 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. 10903-05¹ to abandon an 8.06-mile portion of a line of railroad, known as the Skokie Industrial Lead (the line), extending from milepost 12.60 south of Oakton Street to the north side of Dempster Street at milepost 13.64

(South Segment) and to discontinue service over a 1.04-mile portion of the line from milepost 13.64 to milepost 21.70 near Northfield (North Segment), a total distance of 9.10 miles, in Cook County, IL.² The line traverses U.S. Postal Service Zip Codes 60076 and 60077 and includes no stations.

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

The interest of railroad employees will be protected by *Oregon Short Line R. Co.—Abandonment—Goshen*, 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 decision will be issued by August 23, 2002.

Any OFA under 49 CFR 1152.27(b)(2) will be due no later than 10 days after service of a decision granting the petition for exemption. Each OFA must be accompanied by the filing fee, which currently is set at \$1,100. *See* 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

All interested persons should be aware that, following abandonment of rail service and salvage of the South Segment of the line, it may be suitable for other public use, including interim trail use. Any request for a public use condition under 49 CFR 1152.28 or for trail use/rail banking under 49 CFR 1152.29 will be due no later than June 13, 2002.³ Each trail use request must be accompanied by a \$150 filing fee. *See* 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(27).

All filings in response to this notice must refer to STB Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 167X) and must be sent to: (1) Surface Transportation Board, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20423-0001; and (2) Mack H. Shumate, Jr., Senior General Attorney, 101 North Wacker Drive, Suite 1920, Chicago, IL 60606. Replies to the UP petition are due on or before June 13, 2002.

² In *Union Pacific Railroad Company—Discontinuance of Service—In Cook County, IL*, STB Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 167) (STB served Mar. 28, 2001) (*Waiver Decision*), UP was granted a waiver from certain regulations requiring the filing of specific information in a discontinuance of service application. UP has elected instead to file this petition for exemption seeking to abandon the South Segment and to discontinue service on the North Segment. UP seeks to use the waiver only for the North Segment.

³ Because UP seeks to discontinue rail service over the North Segment of the line and not to abandon that segment, the trail use/rail banking and public use conditions are not applicable. *See Waiver Decision*. Therefore, a public use condition and trail use/rail banking may be requested only for the South Segment of the line (milepost 12.60 to milepost 13.64).

¹ UP seeks exemptions from the offer of financial assistance (OFA) provisions of 49 U.S.C. 10904 and the public use provisions of 49 U.S.C. 10905. These exemption requests will be addressed in the final decision.