

Dated: April 16, 2008.

By order of the Maritime Administrator.

Christine Gurland,

Acting Secretary, Maritime Administration.

[FR Doc. E8-9255 Filed 4-25-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 260X)]

Union Pacific Railroad Company— Abandonment Exemption—In Douglas and Sarpy Counties, NE

On April 8, 2008, 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 to abandon a 3.45-mile portion of its Millard Industrial Lead, extending between milepost 22.85 in Omaha, NE, and milepost 19.4 in La Vista, NE, in Douglas and Sarpy Counties, NE. The line traverses U.S. Postal Service Zip Codes 68128 and 68137 and includes no stations.

The line does not contain any 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 the conditions set forth in *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 July 25, 2008.

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 a \$1,300 filing fee. 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 May 19, 2008. Each trail use request must be accompanied by a \$200 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. 260X), and must be sent to: (1) Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street, SW., Washington, DC 20423-0001; and (2) Gabriel S. Meyer,

Assistant General Attorney, Union Pacific Railroad Company, 1400 Douglas Street, STOP 1580, Omaha, NE 68179. Replies to the UP petition are due on or before May 19, 2008.

Persons seeking further information concerning abandonment procedures may contact the Board's Office of Public Assistance, Governmental Affairs, and Compliance at (202) 245-0230 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) 245-0305. [Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.]

An environmental assessment (EA) (or an 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 <http://www.stb.dot.gov>.

Decided: April 17, 2008.

By the Board, David M. Konschnik,
Director, Office of Proceedings.

Anne K. Quinlan,
Acting Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 35087]

Canadian National Railway Company and Grand Trunk Corporation Control—EJ&E West Company

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board,
Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of the
Final Scope of Study for the
Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

SUMMARY: On October 30, 2007, the Canadian National Railway Company (CN) and Grand Trunk Corporation (collectively CN or the Applicants) filed an application with the Surface Transportation Board (Board or STB) seeking the Board's approval to acquire

control of EJ&E West (EJ&EW) Company, a wholly owned noncarrier subsidiary of the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway Company¹ (EJ&E). In their application, Applicants state that they plan to construct six new rail connections and approximately 19 miles of siding extensions and second mainline track (double track). EJ&E is a Class II railroad that currently operates approximately 200 miles of track in northeastern Illinois and northwestern Indiana.

On November 26, 2007, the Board issued Decision No. 2 announcing that its Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to assess the potential environmental impacts that may result from the proposed acquisition. On December 21, 2007, SEA published a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the **Federal Register** announcing the start of the scoping process and the dates and times of public scoping meetings. This document, as well as a Draft Scope of Study, was served and distributed to approximately 350 stakeholders and 41 federal, state, and local agencies on an environmental distribution list. A press release was issued to 21 Chicago-area newspapers to announce the NOI to the public.

Information about the STB's environmental review of the proposed acquisition was also made available through the Board's Web site, <http://www.stb.dot.gov>. The Board's Web site provides an overview of the proposed acquisition; public comment guidance; links to documents (including the NOI and Draft Scope of Study); links to CN's, and EJ&E's Web sites; and SEA contact information. Additionally, SEA established a toll-free information line (1-800-347-0689) for public comments with a Spanish-language option available. An electronic filing system is also available on the Board's Web site, <http://www.stb.dot.gov>, to receive comments.

To promote participation in a series of 14 public scoping meetings scheduled for January 2008, SEA placed quarter-

¹ Applicants state in their application that EJ&E plans to transfer all of its land, rail, and related assets located west of the centerline of Buchanan Street in Gary (together with the real property and related fixtures associated with the hump and Dixie leads located east of Buchanan Street) to EJ&EW, which at that time would become a rail common carrier. EJ&E would retain its land, rail, and related assets east of the centerline (other than the real property and related fixtures associated with the hump and Dixie leads). It is expected that, if the proposed transaction is approved and Applicants acquire control of EJ&EW, EJ&E would change its name to Gary Railway Company, and EJ&EW would assume the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway Company name. To eliminate confusion, and because EJ&EW would be a temporary entity, the remainder of this document will refer only to "EJ&E."