

necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; the accuracy of the Department's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Authority: The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995; 44 U.S.C. chapter 35, as amended; and 49 CFR 1.48.

Issued in Washington, DC, on July 25, 2012.

Chou-Lin Chen,

Office Director, Office of Traffic Records and Analysis.

[FR Doc. 2012-20750 Filed 8-22-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-59-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[Docket No. AB 33 (Sub-No. 304X)]

Union Pacific Railroad Company— Abandonment Exemption—in Pocahontas County, IA

Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR part 1152 subpart F—*Exempt Abandonments* to abandon a 1.95 mile line of railroad on the Royal Industrial Lead, extending from milepost 475.15 to milepost 477.10 near Laurens, in Pocahontas County, Iowa (the Line). The Line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Code 50554.

UP has certified that: (1) No local traffic has moved over the Line for at least two years; (2) no overhead traffic has moved over the Line for at least two years; (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 September 22, 2012, unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay that do not involve environmental issues,¹ formal expressions of intent to file an OFA under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2),² and trail use/rail banking requests under 49 CFR 1152.29 must be filed by September 4, 2012. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by September 12, 2012, 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 UP's representative: Mack H. Shumate, Jr., Senior General Attorney, 101 North Wacker Drive, #1920, Chicago, IL 60606.

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

UP has filed a combined environmental and historic report that addresses the effects, if any, of the abandonment on the environment and historic resources. OEA will issue an environmental assessment (EA) by August 28, 2012. 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.

¹ 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.

² Each OFA must be accompanied by the filing fee. Effective August 26, 2012, the filing fee for an OFA increases from \$1,500 to \$1,600. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25), *Regulations Governing Fees for Services Performed in Connection with Licensing & Related Services—2012 Update*, EP 542 (Sub-No. 19) (STB served July 27, 2012).

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), UP 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 UP's filing of a notice of consummation by August 23, 2013, and there are no legal or regulatory barriers to consummation, the authority to abandon will automatically expire.

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

Decided: August 20, 2012.

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

Derrick A. Gardner,

Clearance Clerk.

[FR Doc. 2012-20729 Filed 8-22-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[Docket No. FD 35658]

Mineral Range, Inc.—Acquisition and Operation Exemption—Rail Line of Lake Superior & Ishpeming Railroad Company

Mineral Range, Inc. (MRI), a noncarrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.31 to acquire from Lake Superior & Ishpeming Railroad Company (LSI) and to operate over: (1) 12.06 miles of rail line between milepost 73.60 at or near Landing Junction and milepost 85.66 at or near Humboldt Junction in Marquette County, Mich. (Segment 1); and (2) 1.90 miles of railbanked railroad right-of-way between milepost 85.66 at or near Humboldt Junction and milepost 87.56 at or near Humboldt in Marquette County, Mich. (Segment 2).

On January 19, 2005, a decision and notice of interim trail use or abandonment (NITU) was served in *Lake Superior & Ishpeming Railroad—Abandonment Exemption—In Marquette County, Mich.*, AB 68 (Sub-No. 4X), establishing a 180-day period under the National Trails System Act, 16 U.S.C. 1247(d), for LSI to negotiate an interim trail use/rail banking agreement for a segment of rail line extending from Humboldt Junction (milepost 85.66) to the end of the line at Republic Mine (milepost 94.5), a distance of approximately 8.9 miles that includes Segment 2. Trail negotiations