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231692

January 16, 2012

VIA E-FILE

The Honorable Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, S.W., Room #100
Washington, DC 20423-0001

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Office of Proceedings

JAN 17 2012

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Public Record

**Request for Interim Trail Use Under Notice of Exemption Covering the
Line of Railroad from M.P. 1.7 near Raceland to M.P. 14.2 near Jay, a
distance of 12.5 miles in Lafourche Parish, Louisiana (the "Line")**

**Re: Docket No. AB-33 (Sub No. 277X), Union Pacific Railroad Company –
Abandonment Exemption – In Lafourche Parish, LA**

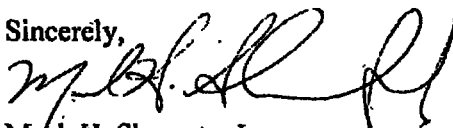
**Docket No. AB-318 (Sub No. 7X), Louisiana & Delta Railroad, Inc. –
Discontinuance of Service Exemption – In Lafourche Parish, LA**

Dear Ms. Brown:

Union Pacific Railroad Company ("Union Pacific") has received a request from Lafourche Parish, Louisiana dated November 17, 2011 seeking interim trail use and rail banking under the provisions of 16 U.S.C. § 1247(d) and 49 C.F.R. § 1152.29 regarding that portion of the Union Pacific's right-of-way known as the Lockport Branch, as defined above, a distance of 12.5 miles in Lafourche Parish, Louisiana.

The Union Pacific is willing to negotiate with Lafourche Parish concerning the acquisition of the subject property for trail use and supports the Parish's request for the standard 180-day negotiation period. A copy of Lafourche Parish's request is attached hereto as Exhibit A and hereby made a part hereof.

Sincerely,


Mack H. Shumate, Jr.

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EXHIBIT A

231341

P.O. Drawer 5548 • Thibodaux, LA 70302 • Telephone 985 446.8427
Thibodaux 800.834.8832 Fax 985 446.8459 • Raceland 800.794.3160 Fax 985.537.7707
www.lafourchegov.org

Charlotte A. Randolph, Parish President

November 17, 2011

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Mr. Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

FILE FEE WAIVED

RE: Union Pacific Railroad Company
Abandonment in Lafourche Parish, Louisiana,
STB Docket Nos. AB-318 (Sub-No. 7X) and
AB-33 (Sub-No. 277X)

Dear Mr. Williams:

This request is filed on behalf of Lafourche Parish Government which is a political subdivision of the State of Louisiana, which is hereinafter referred to as 'proponent'.

While not taking a position on the merits of this abandonment, proponent requests issuance of a Public Use Condition as well as a Certificate or Notice of Interim Trail Use rather than an outright abandonment authorization between Raceland and Jay (Milepost 1.7 near Raceland and Milepost 14.2, near Jay, a distance of 12.5 miles), located in Lafourche Parish, Louisiana.

A. Public Use Condition

Proponent requests the STB to find that this property is suitable for other public use, specifically trail use, and to place the following conditions on the abandonment:

1. An order prohibiting the carrier from disposing of the corridor, other than the tracks, ties and signal equipment, except of public use on reasonable terms. The justification for this condition is that the corridor would make an excellent recreational trail and conversion of the property to trail use is in accordance with local plans. In addition, the corridor provides important wildlife habitat and greenspace and its preservation as a recreational trail is consistent with that end. The time period sought is 180 days from the effective date of the abandonment authorization. Proponent needs this much time because we are in the process of information and completing a trail plan.
2. An order barring removal or destruction of potential trail-related structures such as bridges, trestles, culverts and tunnels. The justification for this condition is that these structures have

Charlotte A. Randolph	Parish President	Matt Matherne	District 5
Jerry Jones	District 1	Lindel Toups	District 6
Michael Delatte	District 2	Phillip Gonnix	District 7
Louis Richard	District 3	Rodney Doucet	District 8
Joseph "Joe" Fertitta	District 4	Daniel Lorraine	District 9

considerable value for recreational trail purposes. The time period requested is 180 days from the effective date of the abandonment authorization for the same reason as indicated above.

B. Interim Trail Use

The railroad right-of-way in this proceeding is suitable for railbanking. In addition to the public use conditions sought above, Proposer also makes the following request:

STATEMENT OF WILLINGNESS TO ASSUME FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

In order to establish interim trail use and railbanking under section 8(d) of the National Trails System Act, 16 U.S.C. §1246(d), and 49 C.F.R. §115.29, Lafourche Parish Government is willing to assume full responsibility for management of, for any legal liability arising out of the transfer or use of (unless the user is immune from liability, in which case it need only indemnify the railroad against any potential liability), and for the payment of any and all taxes that may be levied or assessed against the right-of-way owned by Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) and operated by Louisiana Delta Railroad, Inc. (LDRI). The property, known as "a Portion of the Lockport Branch," extends from railroad Milepost 1.7 near Raceland and Milepost 1.2, near Bayou, a distance of 0.5 miles, located in Lafourche Parish, Louisiana. The right-of-way is part of a line of railroad proposed for abandonment in STB Docket Nos. AB 318 (Sub-No. 1A) and AB 318 (Sub-No. 77A).

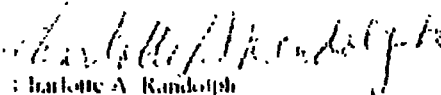
A map depicting the right-of-way is attached.

Lafourche Parish Government acknowledges that use of the right-of-way is subject to the user's continuing to meet its responsibilities described above, and subject to possible future reconstruction and reactivation of the right-of-way for rail service.

By my signature below, I certify service upon Union Pacific Railroad Company, 101 North Wacker Drive, Room 1920, Chicago, Illinois 60606-1418, Ann Mack H. Shumate, Jr., Senior General Attorney, by U.S. Mail postage prepaid, first class, on October 22, 2011.

November 17, 2011

Respectfully submitted,



Charlotte A. Randolph
Parish President

On behalf of Lafourche Parish Government

CAR:cc

