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July 28, 2003

Via First Class Mail and Fax (202) 565-9004

Mr. Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

AUG 04 2003

**Part of
Public Record**

Re: Docket AB-303 (Sub No. 18X), Wisconsin Central Ltd. – Abandonment
Exemption – Polk County, Wisconsin – Petition for Extension of Notice of
Interim Trail Use

Dear Secretary Williams:

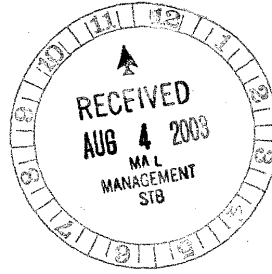
Enclosed please find an original and ten copies of the Joint Motion of Wisconsin Central Ltd. and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Polk County to extend the Notice of Interim Trail Use negotiating period deadline currently in place (August 14, 2003) for the above referenced abandonment by an additional 180 days.

Very truly yours,


Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Counsel

Encl.

cc : Allyn Lepaske



BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

AB-303 (SUB-NO. 18X)

WISCONSIN CENTRAL LTD. -- ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION --
IN POLK COUNTY, WISCONSIN

**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND WISCONSIN CENTRAL LTD. JOINT
PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF NOTICE OF INTERIM TRAIL USE**

BACKGROUND

On November 24, 1997, Wisconsin Central Ltd. (WCL) 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 its line of railroad known as the Dresser-Amery Line, between milepost 47.83 in Dresser and milepost 63.08 (the end of the line) in Amery, a distance of 15.25 miles, in Polk County, WI. The line traverses U.S. Postal Service ZIP codes 54001 and 54009, and includes the stations of Wanderoos at milepost 56.3 and Amery at milepost 62.9.

On September 16, 1997, the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WisDNR) signed a Statement of Willingness to Accept Financial Responsibility pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 1152.29. This statement is for the segment of WCL railroad line between

On February 18, 2000, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation on behalf of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and WCL filed a joint motion for extension of the negotiating period for 180 days. Under service date of March 1, 2000, the Board ordered that the NITU negotiating period is extended to August 29, 2000.

On August 11, 2000, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation on behalf of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and WCL filed a joint motion for extension of the negotiating period for 180 days. Under service date of August 23, 2000, the Board ordered that the NITU negotiating period is extended to February 25, 2001.

On February 9, 2001, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation on behalf of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and WCL filed a joint motion for extension of the negotiating period for 180 days. Under service date of February 27, 2001, the Board ordered that the NITU negotiating period is extended to August 24, 2001.

On August 23, 2001, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation on behalf of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and WCL filed a motion for extension of the negotiating period for 180 days. Under service date of August 29, 2001, the Board ordered that the NITU negotiating period is extended to February 20, 2002.

On January 30, 2002, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation on behalf of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and WCL filed a motion for extension of the negotiating period for 180 days. Under service date of February 19, 2002, the Board ordered that the NITU negotiating period is extended to August 19, 2002.

On August 12, 2002, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation on behalf of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and WCL filed a motion for extension of the negotiating period for 180 days. Under service date of August 15, 2002, the Board ordered that the NITU negotiating period is extended to February 15, 2003.

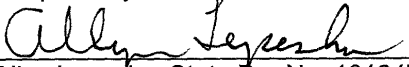
On February 3, 2003, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation on behalf of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and WCL filed a motion for extension of the negotiating period for 180 days. Under service date of February 14, 2003, the Board ordered that the NITU negotiating period is extended to August 14, 2003.

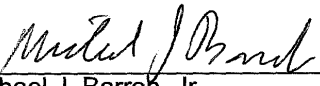
WisDNR made an initial timely offer to WCL. Negotiations are currently continuing in good faith between WisDNR or Polk County and WCL. However, more time is needed to finalize negotiations.

MOTION

Therefore, WisDNR, Polk County and WCL move that the period prescribed to negotiate an interim trail use/rail banking agreement be extended for 180 days.

Respectfully submitted,


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