

50807
DO

SERVICE DATE – JUNE 9, 2021

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

Docket No. AB 1305X

NORTH COAST RAILROAD AUTHORITY
—ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION—
IN MENDOCINO, TRINITY, AND HUMBOLDT COUNTIES, CAL.

Decided: June 9, 2021

On May 14, 2021, North Coast Railroad Authority (NCRA) filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 C.F.R. part 1152 subpart F—Exempt Abandonments and Discontinuances of Service to abandon 175.84 miles of rail line from milepost 139.5 at Commercial Street in Willits, to milepost 284.1 near Eureka, including appurtenant branch lines extending to milepost 267.72 near Carlotta, milepost 295.57 near Korblex, milepost 300.5 near Samoa, and milepost 301.8 near Korbel, in Mendocino, Trinity, and Humboldt Counties, Cal. (the Line).¹

The proposed abandonment encompasses the Arcata & Mad River subsidiary, which, according to NCRA, extends from milepost 295.57 near Korblex to milepost 301.8 near Korbel, a distance of approximately 6.23 miles. (Verified Notice 1 n.1.) The verified notice, however, expresses uncertainty about the Board’s jurisdiction over that portion of the Line. (Id. at 1 n.1, Ex. B.) To permit consideration of that question, this proceeding will be held in abeyance pending further Board order.

It is ordered:

1. This proceeding is held in abeyance until further Board order.
2. The decision is effective on its service date.

By the Board, Scott M. Zimmerman, Acting Director, Office of Proceedings.

¹ In a separate docket, NCRA has filed a petition seeking exemptions from certain statutory provisions and waivers of certain regulatory requirements regarding a proposed third-party, or “adverse,” application for discontinuance over a portion of the Line. See N. Coast R.R. Auth.—Adverse Discontinuance of Lease & Operating Auth.—Nw. Pac. Ry., Docket No. AB 1313.