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SERVICE DATE - LATE RELEASE NOVEMBER 27, 1996

FR-4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

[STB Finance Docket No. 33295]

Wisconsin Central Ltd.--Trackage Rights Exemption--Commuter Rail Division of the Regional Transportation Authority

Commuter Rail Division of the Regional Transportation Authority (METRA) has agreed to grant non-exclusive trackage rights to Wisconsin Central Ltd. (WCL), a class II railroad, over 6.0 miles of railroad between milepost 12.6 at Franklin Park to milepost 6.6 at Cragin, in Cook County, IL. The transaction was scheduled to be consummated on November 11, 1996.

The trackage rights is solely for the purpose of moving loaded and empty cars in through freight service.¹

As a condition to this exemption, any employees affected by the trackage rights will be protected by the conditions imposed in Norfolk and Western Ry. Co.--Trackage 354 I.C.C. 605 (1978). as modified in Mendocino Coast Ry., Inc. - Lease and Operate, 360 I.C.C. 653 (1980).

This notice if filed false or misleading information, the exemption is void ab initio. Petitions to revoke the exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) may be filed at any time. The filing of a petition to revoke will not automatically stay the transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to S.B. Finance Docket No. 33295, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Branch, 1201 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20423. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on Janet H. Gilbert, Esq., Wisconsin Central Ltd., 6250 N. River Road, Suite No. 9000, Rosemont, IL 60018.

Decided: November 19, 1996.

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

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary

¹ The parties have agreed that except for emergencies or until further review, WCL is restricted in the number and length of trains it can operate over the line each day.