

ENTERED
Office of Chief Counsel
November 13, 2025
Part of
Public Record

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November 13, 2025

Chief of Case Administration
Office of Chief Counsel
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20024

Re: South Carolina Central Railroad Company, LLC – Abandonment Exemption – in
Muscookee County, GA STB Docket No. AB 312 (Sub-No. 6X)

Georgia Southwestern Railroad, Inc. – Discontinuance Exemption – in Muscookee
County, GA STB Docket No. AB 1000 (Sub-No. 5X)

Dear Chief of Case Administration:

Enclosed for filing in the above referenced dockets is a joint notice of exemption filed by
the South Carolina Central Railroad Company, LLC ("SCRF") and the Georgia Southwestern
Railroad, Inc. ("GSWR") pursuant to the class exemption provisions of 49 CFR § 1152.50.

The filing fees for SCRF and GSWR have been paid via pay.gov. If you have any questions
related to this filing, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Justin J. Marks
Counsel to South Carolina Central Railroad
Company, LLC and Georgia Southwestern
Railroad, Inc.

Enclosure

FEE RECEIVED
November 13, 2025
SURFACE
TRANSPORTATION BOARD

FILED
November 13, 2025
SURFACE
TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Before the
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

STB Docket No. AB 312 (Sub-No. 6X)

SOUTH CAROLINA CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY, LLC
- ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION –
IN MUSCOGEE COUNTY, GEORGIA

STB Docket No. AB 1000 (Sub-No. 5X)

GEORGIA SOUTHWESTERN RAILROAD, INC.
-DISCONTINUANCE EXEMPTION –
IN MUSCOGEE COUNTY, GEORGIA

JOINT NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Justin J. Marks
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Eric M. Hocky
Clark Hill PLC
Two Commerce Square
2001 Market St.
Suite 2620
Philadelphia, PA 19103
(215) 640-8523
ehocky@clarkhill.com

*Counsel for South Carolina Central
Railroad Company, LLC and Georgia
Southwestern Railroad, Inc.*

Dated: November 13, 2025

Before the
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

STB Docket No. AB 312 (Sub-No. 6X)

SOUTH CAROLINA CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY, LLC
- ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION –
IN MUSCOGEE COUNTY, GEORGIA

STB Docket No. AB 1000 (Sub-No. 5X)

GEORGIA SOUTHWESTERN RAILROAD, INC.
-DISCONTINUANCE EXEMPTION –
IN MUSCOGEE COUNTY, GEORGIA

JOINT NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

South Carolina Central Railroad Company, LLC (“SCRF”) and Georgia Southwestern Railroad, Inc. (“GSWR”) are jointly filing this Notice of Exemption under the Board’s class exemption procedures at 49 C.F.R. Part 1152, Subpart F, to authorize, respectively, SCRF’s abandonment of a permanent freight easement and for GSWR to discontinue service over approximately 2.17 – miles of rail line to include, the “Dummy Line” extending from Milepost 0.60/ Value Station 91+21 to the end of the line at Value Station 41+60 and the Georgia Power Lead Track extending from Value Station 0+00/59+79 to the end of the line at Value Station 41+61 in Columbus, Muscogee County, Georgia (the “Subject Line”).¹ The Georgia Department of Transportation (“GDOT”) owns the physical assets of the Subject Line² and following consummation of the abandonment, SCRF will release its permanent freight easement to GDOT.

¹ SCRF and GSWR are together referred to herein as “Applicants”.

² *State of Georgia, Department of Transportation – Acquisition Exemption – South Carolina Central Railroad, Inc.*, STB Finance Docket No. 34057 (served Jan. 18, 2002).

No station's exist on the Subject Line. A map of the Subject Line is attached as Exhibit A. No local common carrier service has taken place on the Subject Line since 2016, and there is no overhead traffic.

This Joint Notice of Exemption is being filed pursuant to the requirements of 49 C.F.R. §1152.50 regarding exemptions for out of service rail lines. In accordance with such requirements, SCRF and GSWR hereby provide the following information in support of their request for an exemption:

- 1) The exact name of Applicants is South Carolina Central Railroad Company, LLC and the Georgia Southwestern Railroad, Inc.
- 2) SCRF owns various lines of railroad subject to 49 U.S.C. Subtitle IV, chapter 105. GSWR is a common carrier by railroad subject to 49 U.S.C. Subtitle IV, chapter 105.
- 3) Relief sought. SCRF and GSWR each seek to use the class exemption at 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50 for SCRF to abandon its permanent freight easement, and for GSWR to discontinue service over, the Subject Line that includes, the "Dummy Line" extending from Milepost 0.60/ Value Station 91+21 to the end of the line at Value Station 41+60 and the Georgia Power Lead Track extending from Value Station 0+00/59+79 to the end of the line at Value Station 41+61 in Columbus, Muscogee County, Georgia.
- 4) A map of the Subject Line is attached hereto as Exhibit A.
- 5) The representative of SCRF and GSWR to whom correspondence should be sent is: Justin J. Marks, Clark Hill PLC, 1001 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Suite 1300 South, Washington, DC 20004; (202) 772-0916; or Eric M. Hocky, Clark Hill, PLC, Two Commerce Square, 2001 Market St., Suite 2620, Philadelphia, PA 19103; (215) 640-8523.
- 6) The Subject Line traverses through United States Postal Service ZIP Code 31901.

- 7) Applicants understand that portions of the Subject Line (some of which traverses a public street) may be suitable for trail use or other public purposes.
- 8) SCRF currently intends to release its permanent freight easement to GDOT. Nevertheless, SCRF acknowledges that it may not consummate an abandonment until the later of the effective date of its abandonment exemption or the removal of any legal impediments and conditions to abandonment that the Board may prescribe.
- 9) Applicants certify that:
 - a) No local traffic has moved over the Subject Line since 2016 and the Subject Line is stub ended, so no overhead traffic exists.
 - b) No formal complaint by a user of rail service on the Subject Line, or a state or local government entity acting on behalf of such user, regarding cessation of service over the Subject Line either is pending with the Board or any U.S. District Court, or has been decided in favor of the complainant within the two year period.
- 10) Although no employees of SCRF or GSWR will be affected by the proposed abandonment of the permanent freight easement and discontinuance of service because SCRF has never provided service over the Subject Line, and GSWR has not provided service over the Subject Line since 2016, SCRF and GSWR recognize that their respective abandonment of, and discontinuance of common carrier service over, the Subject Line will be made subject to the standard employee protective conditions as set forth in *Oregon Short Line Railroad Co.- Abandonment -- Goshen*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979).
- 11) SCRF certifies that it has complied with the notice requirements of 49 C.F.R. §1105.11 by serving an Environmental / Historic Report (“EHR”) on the agencies identified in 49 C.F.R.

§1105.7(b), the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, Georgia's State Historic Preservation Office, on September 15, 2025, more than twenty days prior to this filing.³

- 12) Applicants certify that they have complied with the legal (newspaper) notice requirements of 49 C.F.R. §1105.12. Notice of the proposed abandonment was published in the *Columbus Ledger-Enquirer* on August 15, 2025. A copy of the form of notice and a certificate of publication are attached as Exhibit B.
- 13) Applicants certify that they have complied with the notice requirements of 49 C.F.R. §1152.50(d)(1). A copy of the notice dated September 16, 2025, was sent to the required governmental agencies is attached hereto as Exhibit C.

[Remainder of Page Intentionally Left Blank]

³ GSWR is not required to prepare and file an environmental and historic report in connection with its proposed discontinuance of service. *See* 49 C.F.R. §1105.6(c) and §1105.8(b). *See also Blacklands Railroad, Inc. – Discontinuance Exemption – In Rusk County, Tex.*, STB Docket No. AB 1108X (served April 3, 2013); *CSX Transportation, Inc. – Discontinuance of Service Exemption - In Raleigh County, W. Va.*, STB Docket No. AB 55 (Sub-No. 725X) (served September 11, 2012); *Norfolk Southern Railway Company – Discontinuance of Service Exemption – In St. Joseph and LaPorte Counties, IN*, STB Docket No. AB-290 (Sub-No. 307X) (served June 18, 2008).

CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, the Board should find that SCRF's proposed abandonment and the GSWR proposed discontinuance satisfies the exemption requirements of 49 C.F.R. §1152.50, and should issue the appropriate notice.

Respectfully submitted,



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Eric M. Hocky
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Two Commerce Square
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Philadelphia, PA 19103
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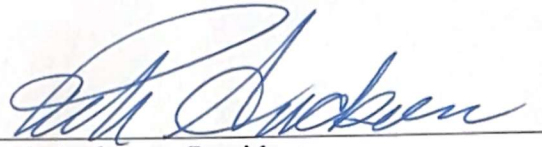
*Counsel for South Carolina Central
Railroad Company, LLC and Georgia
Southwestern Railroad, Inc.*

Dated: November 13, 2025

VERIFICATION

I hereby verify on behalf of Georgia Southwestern Railroad, Inc., under penalty of perjury, that the statements relevant to the Georgia Southwestern Railroad, Inc. Notice of Exempt Discontinuance are true and correct and hereby certify that SCRF has complied with the requirements of 49 C.F.R. §§1152.50(d)(1). Further, I certify that I am qualified and authorized to file this Verification.

Executed on November 13, 2025

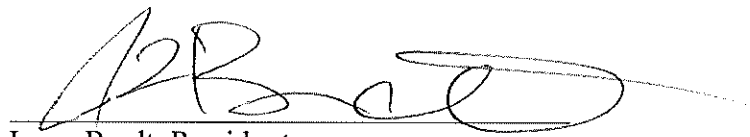
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rob Anderson", is written over a horizontal line.

Rob Anderson, President

VERIFICATION

I hereby verify on behalf of the South Carolina Central Railroad Company, LLC ("SCRF"), under penalty of perjury, that the statements relevant to the SCRF's Notice of Exempt Abandonment (49 C.F.R. §1152.50(b)) are true and correct and hereby certify that SCRF has complied with the requirements of 49 C.F.R. §§1152.50(d)(1), 1105.11 and 1105.12. Further, I certify that I am qualified and authorized to file this Verification.

Executed on November 13, 2025

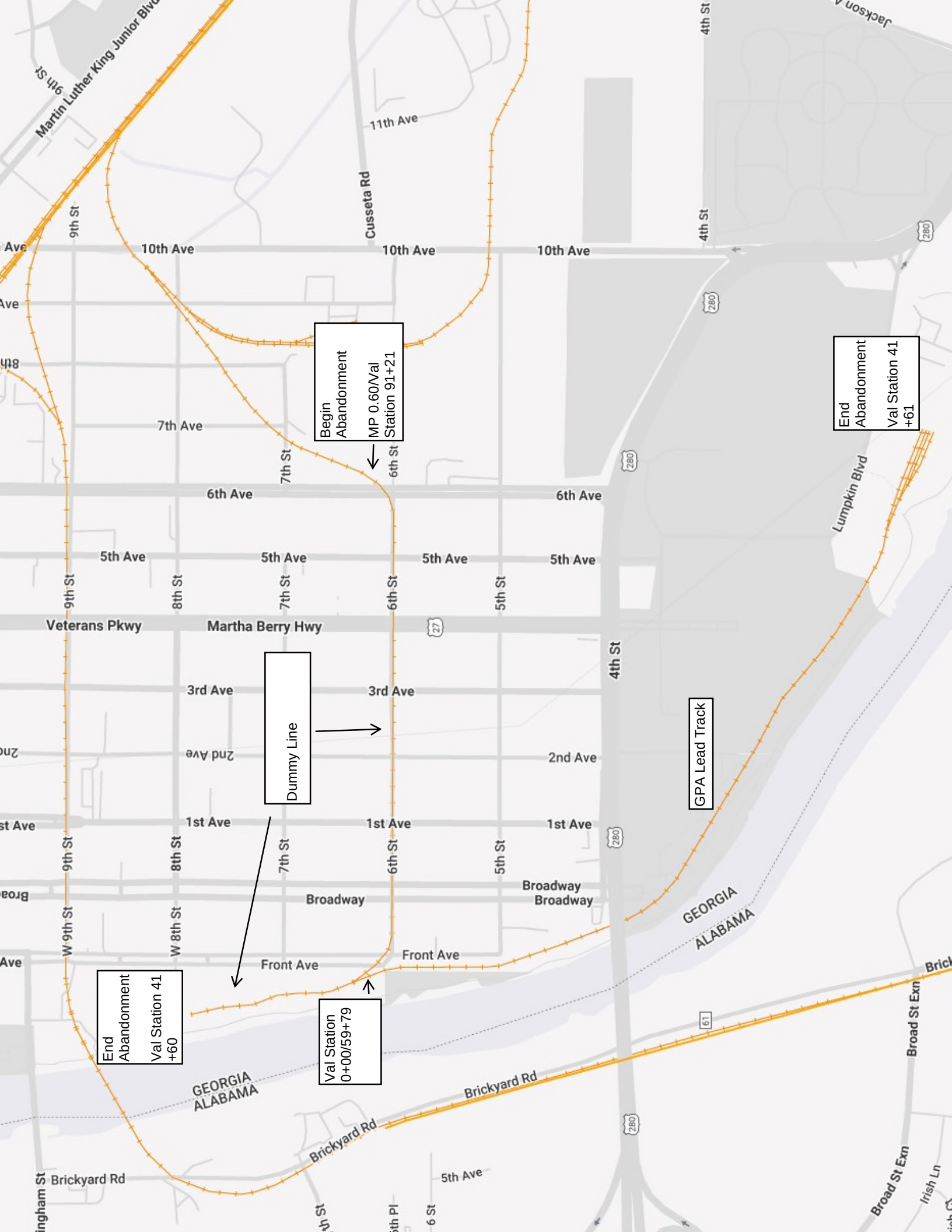


Jason Bradt, President

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

EXHIBIT A

MAP



NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

EXHIBIT B

NEWSPAPER NOTICE

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

Account #	Order Number	Identification	Order PO	Cols	Depth
	IPL0263626	Legal Ad - IPL0263626		2.0	92.0L

ATTENTION: Justin Marks
1001 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.
Washington, DC 20004
jmarks@clarkhill.com

To whom it may concern:

This is to certify the legal advertisement in the above stated case has been published in the Columbus Ledger-Enquirer, legal organ of Muscogee County on

1.0 insertion(s) published on:
08/15/25 Digital

Re-Notice of Joint Intent to Abandon and Discontinue Rail Service

South Carolina Central Railroad Company, LLC (SCRF) and the Georgia Southwestern Railroad, Inc. (GSWR) give notice that on or after October 3, 2025, SCRF intends to file with the Surface Transportation Board (STB), Washington, DC, a notice of exemption under 49 CFR part 1152, subpart F - Exempt Abandonments and Discontinuances permitting the abandonment of a permanent freight easement over a 2.17-mile line of railroad (the Line) to include, the "Dummy Line" extending from Milepost 0.60/ Value Station 91+21 to the end of the line at Value Station 41+60 and the Georgia Power Lead Track extending from Value Station 0+00/59+79 to the end of the line at Value Station 41+61. In addition, jointly with SCRF's abandonment filing, GSWR intends to file a notice of exemption under 49 CFR part 1152, subpart F, to authorize the discontinuance of GSWR's common carrier operations over the Line. The Line traverses through United States Postal Service ZIP Code 31901 in Columbus, Muscogee County, Georgia. The SCRF abandonment and GSWR discontinuance exemption proceedings will be docketed as No. AB 312 (Sub-No. 6X) and AB 1000 (Sub-No. 5X), respectively.

The STB's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) will generally prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) in connection with SCRF's proposed abandonment of the Line, which will normally be available 25 days after the filing of the abandonment notice of exemption. An EA is generally not required for a discontinuance notice of exemption, as GSWR intends to file. Comments on environmental and energy matters bearing on the EA associated with SCRF's abandonment notice of exemption should be filed no later than 15 days after the EA becomes available to the public and will be addressed in an STB decision. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA or make inquiries regarding environmental matters by writing to OEA, Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC or by calling OEA at (202) 245-0291.

Appropriate offers of financial assistance to continue rail service can be filed with the STB. Requests for environmental conditions, public use conditions, or rail banking/trails use also can be filed with the STB. Any pleading that raises matters other than environmental issues (such as trails use, public use, and offers of financial assistance where applicable) must be filed directly with the STB's Office of Proceedings either via e-filing or addressed to 395 E. Street S.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001 [See 49 CFR 1104.1(a) and 1104.3(a)], and one copy must be served on applicants' representative [See 49 CFR 1104.12(a)]. Questions regarding offers of financial assistance, public use or trails use may be directed to the STB's Office of Public Assistance, Governmental Affairs, and Compliance at (202) 245-0238. Copies of any comments or requests for conditions should be served on the applicant's representative: Justin J. Marks, Clark Hill PLC, 1001 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W. Suite 1300 South, Washington, DC 20004; jmarks@clarkhill.com.

IPL0263626
Aug 15 2025

[Print Tearsheet Link](#)

[Marketplace Link](#)

Sherry Chasteen

Sworn to and subscribed before me on

Aug 15, 2025, 10:13 AM ED



Online Notary Public. This notarial act involved the use of online audio/video communication technology. Notarization facilitated by SIGNIXI

Re-Notice of Joint Intent to Abandon and Discontinue Rail Service

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IPL0263626

Aug 15 2025

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

EXHIBIT C

10-DAY NOTICE LETTERS

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September 16, 2025

U.S. Department of the Interior -
National Park Service
RTCA Program
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Office of Chief of Forest Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20250-1111

United States Department of the Army
Military Surface Deployment and Distribution
Command
Transportation Engineering Agency
ATTN: SDTE-SA (Railroads for National Defense)
1 Soldier Way, Building 1900W
Scott AFB, IL 62225

Georgia Public Service Commission
244 Washington Street, SW
Atlanta GA, 30334-9052
gapsc@psc.ga.gov

Re: South Carolina Central Railroad Company, LLC – Abandonment Exemption – in
Muscogee County, GA STB Docket No. AB 312 (Sub-No. 6X)

Georgia Southwestern Railroad, Inc. – Discontinuance Exemption – in Muscogee
County, GA STB Docket No. AB 1000 (Sub-No. 5X)

To Whom it May Concern:

This letter is being sent to you pursuant to the requirements of 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50(d), to advise you that the South Carolina Central Railroad Company, LLC ("SCRF") intends to abandon a permanent freight easement, and the Georgia Southwestern Railroad, Inc. ("GSWR") intends to discontinue common carrier operations over, a line of railroad described below. SCRF and GSWR jointly will file notices with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") pursuant to the class exemption provisions of 49 CFR § 1152.50 in the above-referenced STB dockets.

SCRF and GSWR will each concurrently invoke the STB's class exemption procedures for SCRF to abandon its permanent freight easement, and for GSWR to discontinue common carrier operations over, approximately 2.17 - miles of track to include, the "Dummy Line" extending from Milepost 0.60/ Value Station 91+21 to the end of the line at Value Station 41+60 and the Georgia Power Lead Track extending from Value Station 0+00/59+79 to the end of the line at Value Station 41+61.

The Line traverses through United States Postal Service ZIP Code 31901. A map of the Line is enclosed.

September 16, 2025
Page 2

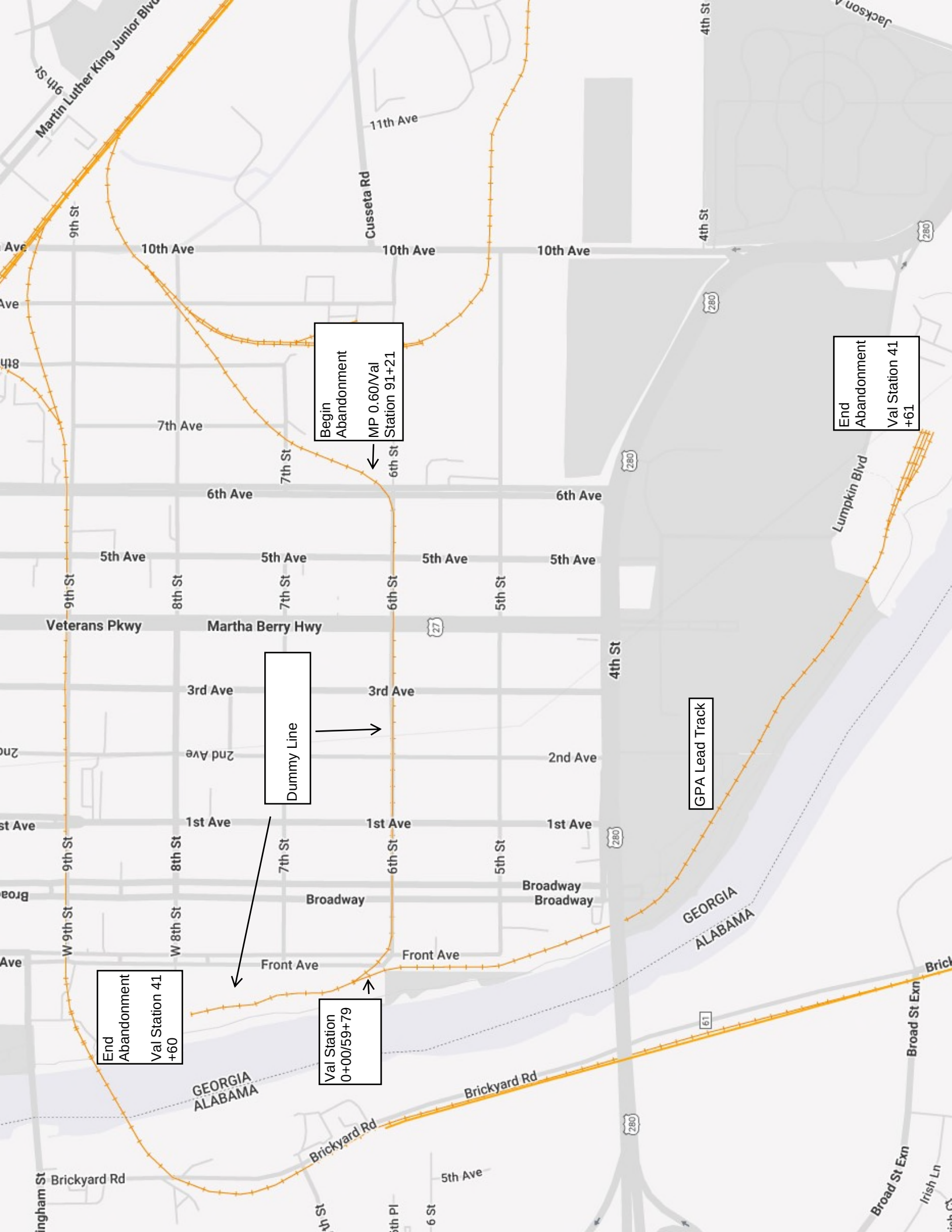
Based upon information in their possession, SCRF and GSWR do not believe that the Line contains federally-granted rights of way. Any documentation in the possession of SCRF or GSWR related to the issue of federally-granted rights of way for the Line will be made available to those requesting it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Justin J. Marks". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Justin J. Marks
*Counsel to South Carolina Central Railroad
Company, LLC and Georgia Southwestern
Railroad, Inc.*

Enclosure



CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this date a copy of the foregoing Joint Notice of Exemption was served on the persons shown on the attached list by email or first-class mail, postage prepaid.

Nelson Velazquez Gotay, Soil Scientist U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service Georgia State Office 355 E. Hancock Ave Athens, GA 30601-2775 Nelson.velazquezgotay@usda.gov	Kevin J. McOmber, PE, Regional Administrator Office of the Regional Administrator US EPA Region 4 Atlanta Federal Center 61 Forsyth Street SW Atlanta, GA 30303-8960 McOmber.kevin@epa.gov
United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service Office of the Chief 1400 Independence Ave., SW Room 5105-A Washington, DC 20250	U.S. Army Corp of Engineers South Atlantic Division, Savannah District 100 W Oglethorpe Ave Savannah, GA 31401-3604 Savannah District cesas-cco@usace.army.mil Mobile District CESAM-PA@usace.army.mil
National Park Service 1849 C Street, NW Washington, DC 20240	Darrell Echols, Acting Regional Director Region 2 South Atlantic-Gulf National Park Service 100 Alabama Street, SW 1924 Building Atlanta, GA 30303
United States Fish & Wildlife Service Southeast Region 4 1875 Century Boulevard Suite 400 Atlanta, GA 30345	National Geodetic Survey rrae@noaa.gov
Georgia Department of Natural Resources Coastal Resources Division One Conservation Way Suite 300 Brunswick, GA 31520-8687 kelie.moore@dnr.ga.gov	J. Tilden Bembry Georgia Environmental Protection Division Water Protection Branch 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE Suite 1456, East Tower Atlanta, GA 30334 askepd@gaepd.org Tilden.bembry@dnr.ga.gov

Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division 2 Martin Luther King J. Dr. Suite 1252 Atlanta, VA 30334 william.lucas@dnr.ga.gov	Georgia Department of Transportation Intermodal Division Clement Solomon, Director One Georgia Center 600 West Peachtree St NW, 6th Floor Atlanta, GA 30308
The Hon. B.H. “Skip” Henderson III Executive Assistant: Kimberly Tharp Tharp.kimberly@columbusga.org	City Manager’s Office Brittney Lyles Lyles.brittney@columbusga.org Columbus Consolidated Government Pamela Hodge Phodge@columbusga.org R. Vance Beck, P.E. Beck.ronald@columbusga.org
Georgia Department of Community Affairs Historic Preservation Division Margot McLaughlin, Environmental Review Historian Margot.mclaughlin@dca.ga.gov Noah Bryant, Compliance Review Archaeologist Noah.Bryant@dca.ga.gov	U.S. Department of the Interior - National Park Service RTCA Program 1849 C Street, NW Washington, DC 20240
Office of Chief of Forest Service U.S. Department of Agriculture 1400 Independence Ave., SW Washington, DC 20250-1111	United States Department of the Army Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command Transportation Engineering Agency ATTN: SDTE-SA (Railroads for National Defense) 1 Soldier Way, Building 1900W Scott AFB, IL 62225
Georgia Public Service Commission 244 Washington Street, SW Atlanta GA, 30334-9052 gapscc@psc.ga.gov	

Justin J. Marks

Justin J. Marks

Dated: November 13, 2025