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SERVICE DATE – MAY 30, 2008

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Docket No. AB-303 (Sub-No. 29X)

WISCONSIN CENTRAL LTD.—ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION—
IN FOREST COUNTY, WI

Decided: May 29, 2008

By decision and notice of interim trail use or abandonment (NITU) served on December 13, 2005, a 180-day period was authorized for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, acting through the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (collectively, the State), to negotiate an interim trail use/rail banking agreement with Wisconsin Central Ltd. (WCL) for a 4.62-mile line of railroad from milepost 235.84 on the Pembine Sub (formerly milepost 249.38 on the old Shawano Sub), near Crandon, to the end of the track at milepost 231.22 on the Pembine Sub (formerly milepost 254.00 on the old Shawano Sub), in Forest County, WI. The negotiating period under the NITU was extended by decisions served on June 8, 2006, December 8, 2006, June 6, 2007, and December 3, 2007. The latest extension is scheduled to expire on May 31, 2008.

On May 16, 2008, the State filed a request to extend the NITU negotiating period for an additional 180 days. However, by letter filed on May 20, 2008, WCL informed the Board that WCL, at the end of December 2007, closed a conveyance of its rail line to the State of Wisconsin under the provisions of the National Trails System Act, 16 U.S.C. 1247(d).

In a letter filed on May 21, 2008, the State indicates that, because the conveyance of the rail line is complete, the State withdraws its request for an extension of the negotiating period under the NITU. Given the situation, a withdrawal of the State's extension request is reasonable and will be permitted.

This action will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

It is ordered:

1. The State's withdrawal of its extension request is granted.

2. This decision is effective on its service date.

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

Anne K. Quinlan
Acting Secretary