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Via E-filing

March 23, 2015

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Cynthia Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Surface Transportation Board
Office of Proceedings
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
March 23, 2015
Part of
Public Record

Re: Finance Docket No. 35895, BNSF Railway Company – Lease Exemption – Union Pacific
Railroad Company
Finance Docket No. 35896, Union Pacific Railroad Company – Lease Exemption –
BNSF Railway Company

Dear Ms. Brown:

On March 10th, BNSF Railway Company (“BNSF”) and Union Pacific Railroad Company (“UP”) filed Petitions for Exemption seeking exemptions to lease each other certain track (the “Joint Trackage”) for track and signal maintenance. Currently, the railroads’ maintenance obligations on the Joint Trackage are disjointed with no geographic consistency. The new lease agreement will realign and consolidate maintenance obligations so that each railroad will be responsible for maintaining a contiguous line of track and maintenance can be performed with fewer outages and less impact on shippers.

The railroads have requested expedited treatment of the petitions so that the necessary maintenance can begin as soon as possible. With expedited consideration, BNSF can plan for and deploy maintenance this summer. BNSF has ordered materials and is ready to make the necessary repairs and to begin long-term capital improvement projects. Expedited consideration by the Board will ensure that we can begin work on the line as soon as possible so that the maintenance work can be completed during the 2015 construction season.

BNSF urges the Board to issue a decision exempting the proposed leases from the prior approval requirement as soon as possible. BNSF further requests the Board vacate the requirements of 49 CFR 1121.4(e) and order that the decision be effective immediately upon issuance or as soon thereafter as possible.

Sincerely,

Courtney B. Estes