

LAW OFFICES
FRITZ R. KAHN, P.C.
EIGHTH FLOOR
1920 N STREET NW
WASHINGTON DC 20036-1601

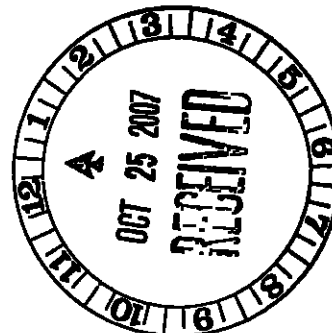
(202) 263-4152
FAX (202) 331-8330
e-mail: fritzr@worldnet.att.net

220541

October 25, 2007

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Hon. Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423



Re: STB Docket No. AB-471X, South Kansas and Oklahoma Railroad, Inc.--
Abandonment Exemption--In Sumner County, KS

STB Docket No. AB-471 (Sub-No. 1X), South Kansas and Oklahoma
Railroad, Inc.--Abandonment Exemption--In Neosho and
Wilson Counties, KS

STB Docket No. AB-471 (Sub-No. 3X), South Kansas and Oklahoma
Railroad, Inc.--Abandonment Exemption--In Cherokee and
Allen Counties, KS

STB Docket No. AB-853 (Sub-No. 1X), Kansas & Oklahoma
Railroad, Inc.--Abandonment Exemption--In Hodgeman, Comanche,
Kiowa and Pratt Counties, KS

Dear Secretary Williams

The Notices of Intent to Terminate Rails Use of American Trails Association, Inc., filed yesterday, failed to have attached to them the relevant Decision and Notice of Interim Trails Use or Abandonment. Eleven copies of each are enclosed.

I apologize for the omission and any inconvenience it may have occasioned

Sincerely yours,


Fritz R. Kahn

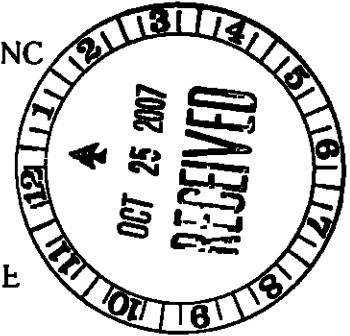
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OCT 25 2007
Part of
Public Record

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
WASHINGTON, DC

STB Docket No. AB-471X

SOUTH KANSAS AND OKLAHOMA RAILROAD, INC.
-- ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION --
IN SUMNER COUNTY, KS

NOTICE OF INTENT TO TERMINATE TRAIL USE
OF
AMERICAN TRAILS ASSOCIATION, INC.



American Trails Association, Inc. ("ATA"), pursuant to 49 C.F.R. 1152.29(d)(2), gives notice of its intent to terminate trail use of the right-of-way acquired by ATA between Milepost 257.2 at Oxford and Milepost 268.4, a distance of 9.2 miles in Sumner County, Kansas.

1. A copy of the Decision and Notice of Interim Trail Use or Abandonment, served April 1, 1997, is attached.
2. ATA asks that the Decision and Notice of Interim Trail Use or Abandonment be vacated as of November 5, 2007.

3. Copies of the Board's Decision should be sent, as follows

- a. The abandoning railroad

South Kansas and Oklahoma Railroad, Inc
315 West 3rd Street
Pittsburg, KS 66762

b The trail operator

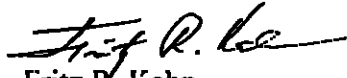
American Trails Association, Inc
P O. Box 26421
Salt Lake City, UT 84126

WHEREFORE, the trail operator, American Trails Association, Inc., asks that it be relieved of its obligations under the Trails Act with respect to the above-described rights-of-way

Respectfully submitted.

AMERICAN TRAILS ASSOCIATION, INC.

By its attorney,

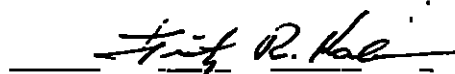

Fritz R. Kahn
Fritz R. Kahn, P.C.
1920 N Street, NW (8th fl.)
Washington, DC 20036
Tel.: (202) 263-4152

Dated: October 24, 2007

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I this day have served a copy of the foregoing Notice upon each of the parties by facsimile transmitting and mailing, by prepaid first-class postage, copies thereof to their representatives

Dated at Washington, DC, this 24th day of October 2007


Fritz R. Kahn

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DO

SERVICE DATE - APRIL 1, 1997

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION AND NOTICE OF INTERIM TRAIL USE OR ABANDONMENT

STB Docket No. AB-471X

SOUTH KANSAS AND OKLAHOMA RAILROAD, INC.--ABANDONMENT
EXEMPTION--IN SUMNER COUNTY, KS

Decided: March 27, 1997

South Kansas and Oklahoma Railroad, Inc. (SKO) filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F--~~Exempt Abandonments~~ to abandon a 9.2-mile portion of its line of railroad between milepost 257.2, at Oxford, and milepost 268.4, near Wellington, in Sumner County, KS. Notice of the exemption was served and published in the Federal Register on January 9, 1997 (62 FR 1358). The exemption became effective on February 8, 1997.

By decision served February 7, 1997, the proceeding was reopened at the request of the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis and the exemption was made subject to the conditions that SKO shall: (a) consult with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Bureau of Water, prior to salvaging the right-of-way and (b) consult with the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) and provide NGS with 90 days' notice prior to disturbing geodetic markers.

On March 12, 1997, the American Trails Association, Inc. (ATA) filed a request for a notice of interim trail use/rail banking (NITU) under the National Trails System Act, 16 U.S.C. 1247(d), and 49 CFR 1152.29. ATA submitted a statement indicating its willingness to assume full financial responsibility for management of, and liability for payment of taxes for, the right-of-way, as required by 49 CFR 1152.29, and acknowledged that the use of the right-of-way as a trail is subject to future reactivation for rail service.

In a letter filed March 25, 1997, SKO confirmed that it had not fully consummated the abandonment of the line and agreed to negotiate interim trail use.

Trail use requests are accepted as long as the Board retains jurisdiction over the involved railroad right-of-way¹ and the carrier is willing to enter into negotiations. Inasmuch as SKO has not consummated the abandonment and has indicated a willingness to negotiate, a NITU will be issued under 49 CFR 1152.29. The parties may negotiate an agreement during the 180-day period following service of this decision. If the parties reach a mutually acceptable final agreement, further approval by the Board is unnecessary. If no agreement is reached within 180 days, SKO may fully abandon the line. See 49 CFR 1152.29(d)(1). Use of the right-of-way for trail purposes is subject to restoration for railroad purposes.

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

¹ See Rail Abandonment--Supplemental Trails Act Procedures, 4 I.C.C.2d 152, 157-58 (1987); Soo Line Railroad Company--Exemption--Abandonment in Waukesha County, WI, Docket No. AB-57 (Sub-No. 23X) (ICC served May 14, 1987); and Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad Company--Abandonment--In Pettis and Henry Counties, MO, Docket No. AB-102 (Sub-No. 16) (ICC served Apr. 26, 1991).

It is ordered:

- 1 This proceeding is reopened.
2. Upon reconsideration, the notice of exemption served and published in the Federal Register on January 9, 1997, exempting the abandonment of the line described above, as modified by decision served February 7, 1997, is further modified to the extent necessary to implement interim trail use/rail banking as set forth below, for a period of 180 days from the service date of this decision.
- 3 If an interim trail use/rail banking agreement is reached, it must require the trail user to assume, for the term of the agreement, full responsibility for management of, for any legal liability arising out of the transfer or use of (unless the user is immune from liability, in which case it need only indemnify the railroad against any potential liability), and for the payment of any and all taxes that may be levied or assessed against the right-of-way.
- 4 Interim trail use/rail banking is subject to the future restoration of rail service and to the user's continuing to meet the financial obligations for the right-of-way.
5. If interim trail use is implemented, and subsequently the user intends to terminate trail use, it must send the Board a copy of this decision and notice and request that it be vacated on a specific date.
6. If an agreement for interim trail use/rail banking is reached by the 180th day after service of this decision and notice, interim trail use may be implemented. If no agreement is reached by the 180th day, SKO may fully abandon the line.
7. This decision is effective on the service date.

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

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary