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September 26, 2018

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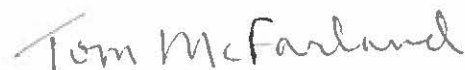
Ms. Cynthia T. Brown, Chief
Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20024

Re: STB Docket No. AB-497 (Sub-No. 7X), *Minnesota Northern Railroad, Inc. --
Abandonment Exemption -- in Norman and Polk Counties, MN*

Dear Ms. Brown:

Hereby forwarded is a copy of an Affidavit of Publication by the Norman County (MN) Index of a Notice of Exemption under 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50 on September 11, 2018. This Affidavit was received after the Notice of Exemption was filed. Please treat the Affidavit as part of the Notice of Exemption.

Very truly yours,



Thomas F. McFarland
*Attorney for Applicant, Minnesota
Northern Railroad, Inc.*

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AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STB Docket Nos. AB-497 (Sub-No. 7X)

MINNESOTA NORTHERN RAILROAD, INC.
—ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION—
IN NORMAN AND POLK COUNTIES, MN

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ABANDON RAIL SERVICE

Minnesota Northern Railroad, Inc. ("MNN") gives notice that on or about, but no earlier than September 10, 2018, they intend to file with the Surface Transportation Board ("Board"), Washington, DC 20423, a Notice of Exemption under 49 C.F.R. 1152 Subpart F - Exempt Abandonments permitting the abandonment of a 5.8 mile line of railroad between Milepost No. 40.2 at the north end of the Marsh River Bridge a short distance south of Shelly, and Milepost No. 46.0 at Second Street in Nielsville, MN in Norman and Polk Counties, Minnesota. The Rail Line traverses USPS Zip Codes 56581, 56588 & 56581. This proceeding is docketed as STB Docket No. AB-497 (Sub-No. 7X), *Minnesota Northern Railroad, Inc. — Abandonment Exemption — In Norman and Polk Counties, MN.*

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) will generally prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA), which will normally be available 25 days after the filing of the notice of exemption. Comments on environmental and energy matters should be filed no later than 15 days after the EA becomes available to the public and will be addressed in a Board decision. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA or make inquiries regarding environmental matters by writing to the Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA), Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423 or by calling that office at 202 927 6211.

Appropriate offers of financial assistance to continue rail service can be filed with the Board. Requests for environmental conditions, public use conditions, or rail banking/trails use also can be filed with the Board. An original and 10 copies of any pleading that raises matters other than environmental issues (such as trails use, public use, and offers of financial assistance) must be filed directly with the Board's Chief, Section of Administration, 395 E Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20423 [See 49 C.F.R. 1104.1(a) and 1104.3(a)], and one copy must be served on applicants' representative [See 49 C.F.R. 1104.12(a)]. Questions regarding offers of financial assistance, public use or trails use may be directed to the Board's Office of Congressional and Public Services at 202 245 0238. Copies of any comments or requests for conditions should be served on the applicant's representative: Thomas F. McFarland, Thomas F. McFarland, P.C., 208 South LaSalle Street, Suite 1686, Chicago, IL 60604-1228, phone 312 236-0204.

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
) ss.
COUNTY OF NORMAN)

Patricia Pfund, being first duly sworn, on oath states as follows:

1. I am the publisher of the Norman County Index, or the publisher's designated agent. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this Affidavit, which is made pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §331A.07.

2. The newspaper has complied with all of the requirements to constitute a qualified newspaper under Minnesota law, including those requirements found in Minnesota Statutes §331A.02.

3. The dates of the month and the year and day of the week upon which the public notice, attached/copied below, was published in the newspaper are as follows:

published on September 11, 2018

4. The publisher's lowest classified rate paid by commercial users for comparable space, as determined pursuant to §331A.06, is as follows: \$12.00 per inch

5. The newspaper's known office of issue is located in Norman County. The newspaper complies with the conditions described in §580.033, subd. 1, clause (1) or (2). If the newspaper's known office of issue is located in a county adjoining the county where the mortgaged premises or some part of the mortgaged premises described in the notice are located, a substantial portion of the newspaper's circulation is in the latter county.

FURTHER YOUR AFFIANT SAITH NOT.

Patricia Pfund

Subscribed and sworn to before me on
this 11th day of September 2018.

Ross Pfund
Notary Public

