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October 11, 2017

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VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Ms. Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W., Room 1034
Washington, DC 20423-0001

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
October 11, 2017
Part of
Public Record

Re: **Docket No. AB-43 (Sub-No. 154X)**
Illinois Central Railroad Company – Abandonment
Exemption-- In St. Tammany Parish, La.

Dear Ms. Brown:

By decision served in the above-captioned proceeding on July 2, 1992, Illinois Central Railroad Company ("IC") was granted authority to abandon a line of railroad (the "Line") extending between milepost 38.25 at Colt and milepost 67.39 at Covington, in St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana, a total distance of approximately 29.14 miles. The Line became the subject of a Notice of Interim Trails Use ("NITU"), whereunder the St. Tammany Parish Government ("STPG" – f/k/a the St. Tammany Parish Police Jury), a political subdivision of the State of Louisiana and the governing authority of St. Tammany Parish, successfully negotiated terms for rail banking the Line in accordance with 49 C.F.R. § 1152.29.

Recently, STPG requested and secured from the Board a partial vacation of the subject NITU to exclude from the scope of rail banking a portion of the Line (the "Segment") in St. Tammany Parish extending between milepost 65.0 near Claiborne Hill and milepost 67.39 in Covington. In a decision served on August 11, 2017, the Board granted STPG's request for partial vacation by issuance of a replacement NITU covering the remaining portion of the Line extending between milepost 38.25 and milepost 65.0. That decision reinstated IC's exemption authority to abandon the Segment, subject to the reinstatement a condition set forth in the aforementioned July 2, 1992 decision requiring completion of the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act prior to abandonment consummation.

In a decision served on October 3, 2017, the Board reopened this proceeding based on recent input from the Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation ("SHPO") that the SHPO does not object to the abandonment of the Segment based upon its determination that no known historic properties would be affected thereby. Upon reopening, the Board modified the

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Section 106 condition set forth in the July 2, 1992 decision, such that it would apply to the portion of IC's Line extending between milepost 38.25 and milepost 65.0 only. In so doing, the Board's October 3, 2017 decision states that, "Given this modification of the Section 106 condition, no barriers to consummation remain as to the [Segment]."

In keeping with the objectives behind the issuance of a replacement NITU, IC hereby provides notice that it has exercised its reinstated exemption authority and has consummated its abandonment of the Segment as of October 11, 2017.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this matter. Thank you for your assistance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R. A. Wimbish". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Robert A. Wimbish

Attorney for Illinois Central Railroad Company

cc: Matthew Cohen, Esq. (St. Tammany Parish)
All parties of record