



Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen

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Docket Operations Facility
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20423

Re: STB Docket No. AB-33(Sub-No. 351X), Union Pacific Railroad Company—Abandonment
Exemption in Weber and Davis Counties, Utah

Comments of the Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen

The Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen (BRS) is filing comments concerning the above-referenced document that was published in the May 22, 2023, Federal Register (Page No. 32814-32815). The BRS is the duly recognized collective bargaining representative for roughly 10,000 signal employees who are responsible for inspection, installation, construction, repair, and maintenance of all signal systems and highway-rail grade crossings on all Class I railroads and various other Carriers in the United States. Our membership has a vested interest in the aforementioned abandonment which could have a negative impact on our members.

Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) has filed a verified Notice of Abandonment to abandon service over a portion of the Hill Field Industrial Lead from milepost 0.6 to milepost 6.8, totaling 6.2 miles. The BRS wishes to formally document our stance on this matter due to a condition related to employee protections provided under Oregon Short Line Railroad—Abandonment Portion Goshen Branch Between Firth & Ammon, in Bingham and Bonneville Counties, Idaho, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979). Those conditions ensure that any adverse effects on employees resulting from the exemption sought by UP will be addressed by the required protective benefits.

The assets currently impacted by this abandonment are two highway grade crossings. The BRS acknowledges the loss associated with these crossings is minimal at this time. However, considering the current circumstances in the rail industry, UP may eliminate a position and merge the affected employee's responsibilities with those of their adjacent counterpart. The BRS wants to record its concerns about this abandonment and its potential impact, to document that any future job eliminations that UP may pursue may be a result of this abandonment.

All parties of record have been served at the address indicated in the STB's Federal Register Notice.

If you have any questions, please contact my office at 540.622.6525.

Sincerely,

Michael S. Baldwin
President