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SERVICE DATE – JUNE 4, 2024

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

Docket No. AB 33 (Sub-No. 350X)

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY—ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION—
IN ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MO.

Decided: June 3, 2024

Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 C.F.R. part 1152 subpart F—Exempt Abandonments to abandon a 0.55-mile portion of the Rock Island Old Passenger Main extending from milepost 11.58 to milepost 11.03, near Olivette, in St. Louis County, Mo. (the Line).¹ Notice of the exemption was served and published in the Federal Register on May 6, 2024 (89 Fed. Reg. 37,275). The exemption is scheduled to become effective on June 5, 2024.

The Board’s Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) served a Draft Environmental Assessment (Draft EA) on May 10, 2024, recommending that one condition be imposed on any decision granting abandonment authority. In the Draft EA, OEA stated that the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District (MSD) commented that it had no objections to the proposed abandonment as long as MSD’s easement/agreement rights are retained to allow access to sewer resources in the area. Accordingly, OEA recommended a condition requiring UP to consult with MSD prior to salvage, or consummation of the abandonment if salvage does not occur, regarding MSD’s concerns about the rights/easements.

OEA issued its Final Environmental Assessment (Final EA) on May 31, 2024, indicating that no new comments were received and OEA therefore continues to recommend that the condition recommended in the Draft EA be imposed. However, OEA also recommends that the condition should be modified to include the words “abandonment-related” before the word “salvage.” Based on OEA’s analysis and recommendation, the condition recommended in the Final EA will be imposed.

This decision, and the proposed abandonment if implemented as conditioned, will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

¹ In the same jointly filed verified notice, Missouri Eastern Railroad, LLC, sought to discontinue service over the Line. See Mo. E. R.R.—Discontinuance of Serv. Exemption—in St. Louis Cnty., Mo., AB 1338X (STB served May 6, 2024).

It is ordered:

1. This proceeding is reopened.
2. The notice served and published in the Federal Register on May 6, 2024, exempting the abandonment of the Line described above is subject to the condition that UP shall consult with MSD prior to abandonment-related salvage, or consummation of the abandonment if abandonment-related salvage does not occur, regarding MSD's concerns about rights/easements.
3. This decision is effective on its service date.

By the Board, Mai T. Dinh, Director, Office of Proceedings.