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SERVICE DATE – JANUARY 8, 2018

DO

FR-4915-01-P

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

[Docket No. AB 55 (Sub-No. 775X)]

CSX Transportation, Inc.—Abandonment Exemption—in Clark, Floyd, Lawrence, Orange, & Washington Counties, Ind.

CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT), has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 C.F.R. pt. 1152 subpart F—Exempt Abandonments to abandon an approximately 62.3-mile rail line on its Northern Region, Louisville Division, Hoosier Subdivision between milepost 00Q 251.7, near Bedford, and milepost 00Q 314.0, near New Albany, in Clark, Floyd, Lawrence, Orange, and Washington Counties, Ind. (the Line). The Line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Codes 47150, 47172, 47106, 47143, 47165, 47167, 47108, 47452, 47446, and 47421 and serves the stations of Orleans (milepost 00Q 262), Leipsic (milepost 00Q 267), Campbellsburg (milepost 00Q 273), Salem (milepost 00Q 284), Pekin (milepost 00Q 295), and Borden (milepost 00Q 300). CSXT was previously granted authority to discontinue service over the Line.¹

CSXT has certified that: (1) no local freight traffic has moved over the Line for at least two years; (2) any overhead traffic on the Line can be rerouted over other lines; (3) no formal complaint filed by a user of rail service on the Line (or by a state or local government entity acting on behalf of such user) regarding cessation of service over the

¹ CSX Transp., Inc.—Discontinuance of Serv. Exemption—in Clark, Floyd, Lawrence, Orange, & Wash. Ctys., Ind., AB 55 (Sub-No. 698X) (STB served Apr. 7, 2010).

Line either is pending with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) or with any U.S. District Court or has been decided in favor of a complainant within the two-year period; and (4) the requirements at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7(c) (environmental report), 49 C.F.R. § 1105.12 (newspaper publication), and 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50(d)(1) (notice to governmental agencies) have been met.

As a condition to this exemption, any employee adversely affected by the abandonment shall be protected under Oregon Short Line Railroad—Abandonment Portion Goshen Branch Between Firth & Ammon, in Bingham & Bonneville Counties, Idaho, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979). To address whether this condition adequately protects affected employees, a petition for partial revocation under 49 U.S.C. § 10502(d) must be filed.

Provided no formal expression of intent to file an offer of financial assistance (OFA) has been received, this exemption will be effective on February 7, 2018, unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay that do not involve environmental issues,² formal expressions of intent to file an OFA under 49 C.F.R. § 1152.27(c)(2),³ and interim trail use/rail banking requests under 49 C.F.R. § 1152.29 must be filed

² The Board will grant a stay if an informed decision on environmental issues (whether raised by a party or by the Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) in its independent investigation) cannot be made before the exemption's effective date. See Exemption of Out-of-Serv. Rail Lines, 5 I.C.C.2d 377 (1989). Any request for a stay should be filed as soon as possible so that the Board may take appropriate action before the exemption's effective date.

³ Each OFA must be accompanied by the filing fee, which is currently set at \$1,800. See Regulations Governing Fees for Servs. Performed in Connection with Licensing & Related Servs. —2017 Update, EP 542 (Sub-No. 25), slip op. App. C at 20 (STB served July 28, 2017).

by January 18, 2018. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 C.F.R. § 1152.28 must be filed by January 29, 2018, with the Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001.

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to Louis E. Gitomer, Law Offices of Louis E. Gitomer, LLC, 600 Baltimore Avenue, Suite 301, Towson, MD 21204.

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void ab initio.

CSXT has filed a combined environmental and historic report that addresses the effects, if any, of the abandonment on the environment and historic resources. OEA will issue an environmental assessment (EA) by January 12, 2018. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA by writing to OEA (Room 1100, Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423-0001) or by calling OEA at (202) 245-0305. Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Comments on environmental and historic preservation matters must be filed within 15 days after the EA becomes available to the public.

Environmental, historic preservation, public use, or trail use/rail banking conditions will be imposed, where appropriate, in a subsequent decision.

Pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 1152.29(e)(2), CSXT shall file a notice of consummation with the Board to signify that it has exercised the authority granted and fully abandoned the Line. If consummation has not been affected by CSXT's filing of a notice of consummation by January 8, 2019, and there are no legal or regulatory barriers to consummation, the authority to abandon will automatically expire.

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Board decisions and notices are available on our website at WWW.STB.GOV.

Decided: January 3, 2018.

By the Board, Scott M. Zimmerman, Acting Director, Office of Proceedings.