DeRoche, Weiner, Brodsky, Sidman & Kider, 1350 New York Avenue, NW., Suite 800, Washington, DC 20005–4797.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joseph H. Dettmar, (202) 927–5660. [TDD for the hearing impaired: (202) 927–5721.]

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Additional information is contained in the Board's decision. To purchase a copy of the full decision, write to, call, or pick up in person from: DC News & Data, Inc., Room 2229, 1201 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20423. Telephone: (202) 289–4357/4359. [Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through TDD services (202) 927–5721.]

Decided: March 14, 1996.

By the Board, Chairman Morgan, Vice Chairman Simmons, and Commissioner Owen.

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96–7420 Filed 3–26–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915–00–P

[Docket No. AB–57 (Sub-No. 36X)] [1]

Soo Line Railroad Company—Abandonment Exemption—in Stearns and Morrison Counties, MN

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board.

ACTION: Notice of exemption.

SUMMARY: The Board, under 49 U.S.C. 10505, exempts from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 10903–04 the abandonment by Soo Line Railroad Company (Soo) of the remaining 60.22 miles of its Brooten Line between milepost 104.00 near Brooten and milepost 164.22 near Genola (end of line), in Stearns and Morrison Counties, MN, subject to standard labor protective conditions, environmental conditions, and a public use condition.

DATES: Provided no formal expression of intent to file an offer of financial assistance has been received, this exemption will be effective on April 26, 1996. Formal expressions of intent to file an offer [2] of financial assistance under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2) must be filed by April 8, 1996; petitions to stay must be filed by April 11, 1996; requests for a public use condition must be filed by April 16, 1996; and petitions to reopen must be filed by April 22, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Send pleadings referring to Docket No. AB–57 (Sub-No. 36X) to: (1) Office of the Secretary, Case Control Branch, Surface Transportation Board, 1201 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20423, and (2) Larry D. Starns, 1000 Soo Line Building, 105 South 5th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55402.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joseph H. Dettmar, (202) 927–5660. [TDD for the hearing impaired: (202) 927–5721.]

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Additional information is contained in the Board's decision. To purchase a copy of the full decision, write to, call, or pick up in person from: DC News & Data, Inc., Room 2229, 1201 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20423. Telephone: (202) 289–4357/4359. [Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through TDD services (202) 927–5271.]

Decided: March 13, 1996.

By the Board, Chairman Morgan, Vice Chairman Simmons, and Commissioner Owen.

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96–7419 Filed 3–26–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915–00–P

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[2] *See Exempt. of Rail Abandonment—Offers of Finan. Assist.*, 4 I.C.C.2d 164 (1987).

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: As part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on this information collection. This request for comment is being made pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Public Law 104–13; 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Comments should address the accuracy of the burden estimates and ways to minimize the burden including the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology, as well as other relevant aspects of the information collection.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposal for the collection of information should be received on or before May 28, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Gladys Lane, Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (00SB), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420. All comments will become a matter of public record and will be summarized in the request for Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval. This document solicits comments concerning the following information collection:

OMB Control Number: 2900–0444.

Title and Form Number: VAAR Subpart 819.70, Veteran-Owned and Operated Small Business, (Exceptions to SF 18 and SF 129).

Type of Review: Reinstatement without change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired.

Need and Uses: The information will be used by VA to identify veteran-owned business to ensure eligible veteran-owned firms are given an opportunity to participate in VA solicitations for goods and services. Without this information there would be no way to properly monitor this program.

Current Actions: Public Law 93–237, amended the Small Business Act by directing the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to give ''special consideration'' to veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces in all SBA programs. In September 1983, VA adopted the ''special consideration'' philosophy and directed all VA contracting activities to take affirmative action to solicit and assist Vietnam Era and disabled veteran-owned small businesses to participate in VA acquisition process. This established VA Vietnam Era and Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business Outreach Program. In October 1983, VA received OMB approval to modify SF 18, Request for Quotations, and SF 129, Solicitation Mailing List Application, to include Vietnam Era and disabled veteran-owned information. On April 5, 1990, the Secretary approved an initiative to expand the Vietnam Era and disabled veteran-owned small business program to include all veteran-owned small