abandonment shall be protected under Oregon Short Line R. Co.—Abandonment—Goshen, 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 August 30, 1998, unless stays are pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay that do not involve environmental issues, formal expressions of intent to file an OFA under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2), and trail use/rail banking requests under 49 CFR 1152.29 must be filed by August 10, 1998. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by August 20, 1998, with the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423.

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to the applicant’s representative: Charles M. Rosenberger, Senior Counsel, CSX Transportation, Inc., 500 Water Street J150, Jacksonville, FL 32202.

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

CSXT has filed an environmental report which addresses the abandonment’s effects, if any, on the environment and historic resources. The Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) will issue an environmental assessment (EA) by August 5, 1998. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA by writing to the SEA (Room 500, Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423) or by calling SEA, at (202) 565-1545. 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 the provisions of 49 CFR 1152.29(e)(2), CSXT shall file a notice of consumption with the Board to signify that it has exercised the authority granted and fully abandoned the line. If consumption has not been effected by CSXT’s filing of a notice of consumption by July 31, 1999, and there are no legal or regulatory barriers to consumption, the authority to abandon will automatically expire.

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


By the Board, David M. Konschnik, Director, Office of Proceedings.

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Carol B. Epstein, Assistant General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, 202/619-6981, and the address is Room 700, U.S. Information Agency, 301 4th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20547-0001.


Les Jin,
General Counsel.

1 The Board will grant a stay if an informed decision on environmental issues (whether raised by a party or by the Board’s Section of Environmental Analysis in its independent investigation) cannot be made before the exemption’s effective date. See Exemption of Out-of-Service Rail Lines, 51 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.

2 Each offer of financial assistance must be accompanied by the filing fee, which currently is set at $1000. See 49 CFR 1002.2(25).