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SERVICE DATE – SEPTEMBER 28, 2022

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

Docket No. FD 36501

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY—CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION
EXEMPTION—IN MARICOPA COUNTY, ARIZ.

Decided: September 28, 2022

On June 30, 2022, Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) filed a petition under 49 U.S.C. § 10502 for exemption from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. § 10901 for UP to construct and operate a new rail line in Maricopa County, Ariz. (the Line). UP states that the Line would connect the Pecos Advanced Manufacturing Zone (PAMZ) to the UP main line just west of the project area, running six miles through the PAMZ with a terminus at the border between Maricopa County and Pinal County, Ariz. (Pet. 2.) UP explains that the Line would provide rail service to Commercial Metals Company, as well as an alternate mode of freight transportation to future shippers. (*Id.*) According to UP, the project to construct the Line, on which UP has collaborated with the City of Mesa, is expected to provide a variety of public benefits by shifting the transportation of materials from public roadways to rail and fostering local economic growth. (*Id.* at 3-4.)

The petition for exemption raises issues that require consideration by the Board. By this decision, the Board is instituting a proceeding under 49 U.S.C. § 10502(b). The issues presented by the petition will be addressed in a subsequent decision.

UP requests that the Board issue a decision on the petition for exemption expeditiously upon completion of the environmental review. The Board will endeavor to issue its decision as promptly as possible after completion of the environmental review process required under the National Environmental Policy Act.

It is ordered:

1. Under 49 U.S.C. § 10502(b), a proceeding is instituted.
2. This decision is effective on its date of service.

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