

SERVICE DATE – APRIL 1, 2025

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

Docket No. AB 1337

THE COMMUTER RAIL DIVISION OF THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION
AUTHORITY AND THE NORTHEAST ILLINOIS REGIONAL COMMUTER
TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY D/B/A METRA—ADVERSE ABANDONMENT—
OMNITRAX/CHICAGO RAIL LINK

Decided: April 1, 2025

By petition filed on December 11, 2023, the Commuter Rail Division of the Regional Transportation Authority and the Northeast Illinois Regional Commuter Railroad Corporation (collectively, Metra) seek exemptions from certain statutory provisions and waivers of certain regulatory requirements regarding a proposed application for a third-party, or “adverse,” abandonment of an approximately 3,246-foot portion of the rail line owned by OmniTRAX/Chicago Rail Link (CRL) that comprises part of the Root Street Wye in Chicago, Ill.¹

CRL, with Metra’s concurrence, filed a motion on February 22, 2024, to hold this proceeding in abeyance pending negotiations between the parties. The Board granted the motion on February 27, 2024, and directed the parties to file a status report every 120 days. The Board received a status report on June 26, 2024, but the parties have not filed one since.

Metra and CRL will be ordered to file a status report by April 8, 2025. Future status reports will be due every 120 days thereafter.

It is ordered:

1. Metra and CRL must file a status report by April 8, 2025. Future status reports are due every 120 days thereafter.
2. This decision is effective on its service date.

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

¹ Metra states that it would seek adverse abandonment of the portion of the Root Street Wye that is located at the level of East 40th Street on Chicago’s South Side extending from South Princeton Avenue on the west side to Metra’s Rock Island Branch at the I-90 Expressway on the east side. (Pet. 2.) Metra clarifies in its petition that it also determined that Norfolk Southern Railway (NS) owns a portion of the Root Street Wye, but that Metra is not seeking any relief with respect to the NS-owned portion at this time. (*Id.* at n.1.)