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June 1, 2017
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BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

AB-57 (SUB-NO. 61X)
SOO LINE RAILROAD –
ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION
IN RACINE COUNTY, WISCONSIN

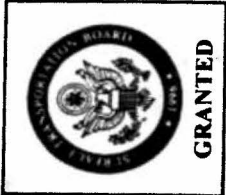
DECISION ID NO.: 45866

DECIDED DATE: 6/8/17

SERVICE DATE: 6/9/17

APPROVED: 

Acting Director

☒ extended to 11/29/17

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (WDNR)
PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF NEGOTIATING PERIOD

BACKGROUND

Soo Line Railroad Company, d/b/a Canadian Pacific (Soo Line) filed with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) a Notice of Exemption under 49 C.F.R. 1152 Subpart F – Exempt Abandonments to abandon an 10.63-mile line of railroad, extending from milepost 7.8 and ending at milepost 18.43, in Racine County, WI. The line traverses through United States Postal Service Zip Codes 53139, 53182, and 53177.

On February 24, 2014, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) executed a Statement of Willingness to Accept Financial Responsibility pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 1152.29. This statement is for the 10.63-mile segment of Soo Line railroad, from milepost 7.8 to milepost 18.43, in Racine County, WI. On February 27, 2014, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) filed a Petition for Interim Trail Use pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 1152.29(a) and 29 C.F.R. § 1152.29(b)(3) to obtain a notice of interim trail use for interim highway, bicycle, pedestrian and other trail purposes and rail banking pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 1247(d) and 49 C.F.R. § 1152.29 for WDNR for the full right-of-way involved in this proceeding. WisDOT and WDNR therein agreed to use or preserve the land corridor and related real property for interim public transportation and

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recreational purposes (including highway, pedestrian and other trail), subject to restoration for railroad purposes.

On March 13, 2014, Soo Line filed a letter with the Board stating its intent to negotiate with WDNR for a possible interim trail use/rail banking agreement.

On service date March 18, 2014, the Board issued an NITU under 49 C.F.R. §1152.29, allowing WDNR 180 days until September 15, 2014 to negotiate a trail use agreement with Soo Line.

On September 16, 2014, WDNR filed a petition on its own behalf requesting that the Board extend the negotiating period for 180 days to continue its appraisal process and begin formal acquisition negotiations with Soo Line. Soo Line filed a letter supporting WDNR's request on September 16, 2014.

On service date September 17, 2014, the Board granted WDNR's petition and extended the negotiation period until March 14, 2015.

On March 4, 2015, WisDOT filed a petition on WDNR's behalf requesting that the Board extend the negotiating period for 180 days to continue its acquisition negotiations with Soo Line. Soo Line filed a letter supporting WDNR's request on March 13, 2015.

On service date March 26, 2015 the Board granted WDNR's petition and extended the negotiation period until September 10, 2015.

On September 2, 2015, WisDOT filed a petition on WDNR's behalf requesting that the Board extend the negotiating period for 180 days to continue its acquisition negotiations with Soo Line. Soo Line filed a letter supporting WDNR's request on September 10, 2015.

On service date September 24, 2015 the Board granted WDNR's petition and extended the negotiation period until December 10, 2015.

On November 25, 2015, WisDOT filed a petition on WDNR's behalf requesting that the Board extend the negotiating period for 180 days to continue its acquisition negotiations with Soo Line. Soo Line filed a letter supporting WDNR's request on November 30, 2015.

On service date December 15, 2016 the Board granted WDNR's petition and extended the negotiation period until June 7, 2016.

On May 17, 2016, WDNR petitioned for the Board to extend the NITU negotiation period for another 180 days to allow WDNR and Soo Line to continue negotiations. A letter from Soo Line consenting to WDNR's request was entered into proceedings on May 19, 2016.

On service date May 31, 2016, the Board granted WDNR's petition and extended the NITU again for 180 days to December 4, 2016 for WDNR and Soo Line to continue negotiations.

On November 29, 2016, WDNR petitioned for the Board to extend the NITU negotiation period for another 180 days to allow WDNR and Soo Line to continue negotiations. A letter from Soo Line also filed November 29, consenting to WDNR's request to extend the timeline.

On service date December 7, 2016, the Board granted WDNR's petition and extended the NITU for 180 days to June 2, 2017.

WDNR now respectfully requests the Board grant an additional 180 day extension for negotiations, which continue in good faith. Since the Board's decision in December, 2016, WDNR has had formal discussions with funding and operating partners and

participated in multiple meetings with the goal to secure commitment for funding to better meet the financial needs of both of the negotiating parties. These discussions have resulted in verbal commitments of funding for the purchase. Further, on May 31, 2017, the Wisconsin state legislative budget committee identified in the Wisconsin budget (effective July 1, 2017) (state) funding specifically to be used toward this acquisition. Soo Line has indicated no issues with filing for an extension and continuing negotiation discussions for this segment from milepost 7.8 to milepost 18.43 in Racine County, Wisconsin.

MOTION

WDNR respectfully requests the Board extend the negotiation period for an additional 180 days to permit the parties to continue negotiating in good faith for the 10.63-mile segment of Soo Line railroad, from milepost 7.8 to milepost 18.43, in Racine County, Wisconsin. This will allow all forms of transportation to be provided in a unified, interconnected, economically-efficient, and environmentally sound manner.

Respectfully submitted,



Brigit E. Brown
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June 1, 2017

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day served copies of this Petition for Extension of Negotiating Period regarding **AB57 (Sub-No. 61X)**, upon all parties of record in this proceeding by electronic mail, pursuant to 49 C.F.R. §1104.12.



Brigit E. Brown
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
June 1, 2017