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SERVICE DATE - AUGUST 4, 1997

DO

FR-4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33425]

I & M Rail Link, LLC--Trackage Rights Exemption--The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company

The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF) will agree to grant limited overhead trackage rights to I & M Rail Link, LLC (IMRL), between milepost 429.7 in the vicinity of Division Street, St. Paul, MN, and milepost 11.6 in the vicinity of the Shoreham Yard Switch, Minneapolis, MN. The trackage includes both the route between the above-referenced mileposts via BNSF's St. Paul Sub-Division, a total of 11.9 miles, and the route between those same mileposts via BNSF's Midway Sub-Division, a total of 11.4 miles. IMRL's use of a particular route will be determined by BNSF.

The transaction was expected to be consummated on or after the July 29, 1997 effective date of the exemption.

The purpose of this transaction, in the interest of operating economies and improving service, is to permit IMRL to handle traffic to and from the Soo Line Railroad Company's Shoreham Yard at Minneapolis, and to pick up and deliver interchange traffic to BNSF at either Dayton's Bluff or Northtown Yard.

As a condition to this exemption, any employees affected by the trackage rights will be protected by the conditions imposed in Norfolk and Western Ry. Co.--Trackage Rights--

BN, 354 I.C.C. 605 (1978), as modified in Mendocino Coast Ry., Inc.--Lease and Operate, 360 I.C.C. 653 (1980).

This notice is filed under 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(7). If the notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void ab initio. Petitions to revoke the exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) may be filed at any time. The filing of a petition to revoke will not stay the transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 33425, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001 and served on: H. Gerry Anderson, Weiner, Brodsky, Sidman & Kider, P.C., 1350 New York Avenue, N.W., Suite 800, Washington, DC 20005-4797.

Decided: July 28, 1997.

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

Vernon A. Williams

Secretary