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SERVICE DATE - DECEMBER 17, 1997

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Docket No. AB-535X

WEST CENTRAL OHIO PORT AUTHORITY--ABANDONMENT
EXEMPTION--IN CLARK COUNTY, OH

Decided: December 15, 1997

West Central Ohio Port Authority (Westco) filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F--Exempt Abandonments to abandon a 5.6-mile line of railroad between milepost 123.86 at or near Glen Echo and milepost 129.46 at the north edge of Warder Street in Springfield, Clark County, OH. The notice was served and published in Federal Register on November 18, 1997 (62 FR 61583). The exemption is scheduled to become effective on December 18, 1997.

The Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) has issued an environmental assessment (EA) in this proceeding, served December 1, 1997. In the EA, SEA indicates that the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) has identified four geodetic station markers that may be affected by the abandonment. NGS states that it must be notified 90 days in advance of any activities that would disturb or destroy the four geodetic station markers identified by NGS. Therefore, SEA recommends that a condition be imposed requiring Westco to consult with the NGS and provide NGS with 90 days' notice prior to disturbing or destroying any geodetic markers.

SEA also stated that the Ohio Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has indicated that the northern portion of the line traverses part of the Mad River Valley, an area considered archaeologically sensitive. The SHPO requests additional information from Westco. Therefore, SEA recommends that a condition be imposed requiring Westco to retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the historic integrity of all sites and structures on the line until completion of the 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 470f.

The recommended conditions will be imposed.

This decision will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or conservation of energy resources.

It is ordered:

1. This proceeding is reopened.

STB Docket No. AB-535X

2. Upon reconsideration, the exemption of the abandonment of the line described above is subject to the condition that Westco shall: (a) consult with the NGS and provide NGS with 90 days' notice prior to disturbing or destroying any geodetic markers; and (b) retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the historic integrity of all sites and structures on the right-of-way that are 50 years old or older until completion of the section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 470f.

3. This decision is effective on its service date.

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

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary