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SERVICE DATE - NOVEMBER 26, 1997

DO

FR-4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-493 (Sub-No. 4X)]¹

Track Tech, Inc.--Abandonment Exemption--in Ward County, ND

On November 6, 1997, Track Tech, Inc. filed with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) a petition under 49 U.S.C. 10502 for exemption from the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 10903 to abandon a line of railroad located generally between Minot, ND (milepost 4.00), and Tatman, ND (milepost 16.70), a distance of 12.70 miles in Ward County, ND. The line traverses U.S. Postal Service ZIP Codes 58701 and 58702.

The line does not contain any federally granted rights-of-way. Any documentation in the railroad's possession will be made available promptly to those requesting it. The interest of railroad employees will be protected by the conditions set forth in Oregon Short Line R. Co.--Abandonment--Goshen, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979).

By issuance of this notice, the Board is instituting an exemption proceeding pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10502(b). A final decision will be issued by February 24, 1998.

Any offer of financial assistance under 49 CFR 1152.27(b)(2) will be due no later than 10 days after service of a decision granting the petition for exemption. Each offer of financial assistance must be accompanied by a \$900 filing fee. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

^{1/} Petitioner acquired this line and 5 others from Burlington Northern Railroad Company in November 1996. Petitioner is also seeking to abandon, or will seek to abandon, the other lines via exemption in STB Docket No. AB-493 (Sub-Nos. 1X, 2X, 3X, 5X, and 6X).

All interested persons should be aware that, following abandonment of rail service and salvage of the line, the line may be suitable for other public use, including interim trail use. Any request for a public use condition under 49 U.S.C. 1152.28 or for trail use/rail banking under 49 CFR 1152.29 will be due no later than December 16, 1997.² Each trail use request must be accompanied by a \$150 filing fee. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(27).

All filings in response to this notice must refer to STB Docket No. AB-493 (Sub-No. 4X) and must be sent to: (1) Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001; and (2) T. Scott Bannister, 1300 Des Moines Building, 405 Sixth Avenue, Des Moines, IA, 50309.

Persons seeking further information concerning abandonment procedures may contact the Board's Office of Public Services at (202) 565-1592 or refer to the full abandonment or discontinuance regulations at 49 CFR part 1152. Questions concerning environmental issues may be directed to the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) at (202) 565-1545. [TDD for the hearing impaired is available at (202) 565-1695.]

An environmental assessment (EA) (or environmental impact statement (EIS), if necessary) prepared by SEA will be served upon all parties of record and upon any agencies or other persons who commented during its preparation. Other interested persons may contact SEA to obtain a copy of the EA (or EIS). EAs in these abandonment proceedings

^{2/} The Minot Park District, Minot, ND, has requested issuance of a public use condition and a notice of interim trail use, it has also submitted a statement of willingness to assume financial responsibility for the right-of-way. This request will be handled in a subsequent decision.

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normally will be available within 60 days of the filing of the petition. The deadline for submission of comments on the EA will generally be within 30 days of its service.

Decided: November 18, 1997.

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

Vernon A. Williams

Secretary