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September 10, 2002

VIA HAND DELIVERY - RETURN COPY

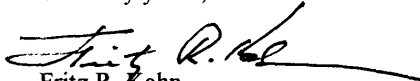
Hon. Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, NW (7th fl.)
Washington, DC 20423-0001

This refers to STB Docket No. AB-448 (Sub-No. 2x), SF&L Railway, Inc.-Abandonment Exemption-In Hancock, McDonough, Fulton and Peoria Counties, IL., and the Verified Petition for Exemption filed by SF&L Railway, Inc., on September 3, 2002.

The Petition inadvertently failed to attach a proposed Federal Register notice, a draft of which is attached.

I apologize for any inconvenience this omission may have occasioned.

Sincerely yours,


Fritz R. Kahn

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DRAFT FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE

STB Docket No. AB-448 (Sub-No. 2X)

VERIFIED PETITION FOR
EXEMPTION TO ABANDON



On September 3, 2002, SF&L Railway, Inc. (SFL) filed with the Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423, a Verified Petition for Exemption for the abandonment of its entire line of railroad, extending between Milepost 194.5 at La Harpe 61450 and Milepost 123.0 at Peoria 61607, a distance of 71.5 miles in Hancock, McDonough, Fulton and Peoria Counties, Illinois. The railroad line traverses U.S. Postal Service Zip Codes 61420, 61475, 61438, 61422, 61459, 61477, 61427, 61520, 61533, and 61547. It connects with the Keokuk Junction Railway Co. at La Harpe and Toledo, Peoria and Western Railway Corporation at Peoria.

The line does not contain federally granted rights-of-way. Any documentation in the railroad's possession will be made available promptly to those requesting it.

As this is a whole-line abandonment, employee protective conditions are not expected to be imposed.

Any offer of financial assistance will be due no later than 10 days after service of a decision granting the petition for exemption.

All interested persons should be aware that following abandonment of rail service and salvage of the line, the line may

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be suitable for other public use, including interim trail use.

Any request for a public use condition and any request for trail use/rail banking will be due no later than 20 days after notice of the filing of the petition for exemption is published in the Federal Register.

Persons seeking further information concerning abandonment procedures may contact the Surface Transportation Board or refer to the full abandonment or discontinuance regulations at 49 C.F.R. 1152. Questions concerning environmental issues may be directed to the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis.

An environmental assessment (EA) prepared by the Section of Environmental Analysis will be served upon all parties or record an upon any agencies or other persons who commented during its preparation. Any other person who would like to obtain a copy of the EA may contact the Section of Environmental Analysis. EAs in these abandonment proceedings normally will be made 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.