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ORIGINAL

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THOMAS F. McFARLAND

March 21, 2003



Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
Case Control Unit, Suite 713
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: STB Docket No. AB-850X, *St. Croix Valley Railroad Company -- Abandonment and Discontinuance of Service Exemption -- between Hinckley and Mora, in Pine and Kanabec Counties, MN*

Dear Mr. Williams:

In conjunction with a Petition for Exemption in the above proceeding filed in behalf of St. Croix Valley Railroad Company on March 19, 2003, I am enclosing copies of affidavits of publication of notices of publication in newspapers of general circulation in the counties in which the rail line is located, i.e., Kanabec County Times, March 20, 2003, and Pine County Courier on March 6, 2003.

Ten copies accompany the original of this transmission. Service is being made on all parties served with a copy of the Petition.

Very truly yours,

Tom McFarland

Thomas F. McFarland
*Attorney for St. Croix Valley
Railroad Company*

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cc: All parties served with Petition

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

MAR 27 2003

Part of
Public Record

Affidavit of Publication

STATE OF MINNESOTA,

County of Kanabec

Wade V. Weber, being duly sworn, on oath says that he is the publisher or authorized agent and employee of the publisher of the newspaper known as KANABEC COUNTY TIMES, and has full knowledge of the facts which are stated below:

(A) The newspaper has complied with all of the requirements constituting qualification as a qualified newspaper, as provided by Minnesota Statute 331A.02, 331A.07, and other applicable laws, as amended.

(B) THE PRINTED: Notice/Railroad Abandonment

which is attached was cut from the columns of said newspaper, and was printed and published once each week, for one successive week(s); it was first published on Thursday, the 20th day of Mar., 2003, and was thereafter printed and published on every Thursday to and including Thursday the 20th day of Mar., 2003 and printed below is a copy of the lower case alphabet from A to Z, both inclusive, which is hereby acknowledged as being the size and kind of type used in the composition and publication of the notice:

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

BY: _____

TITLE: PUBLISHER Wade V. Weber

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this 20th day of Mar., 2003.

Maureen M. Griner

Notary Public

My commission expires January 31, 2005 Notary Public, Kanabec County, MN

RATE INFORMATION

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| 1) Lowest classified rate paid by paid by commercial users for comparable space | \$6.75 per inch |
| 2) Maximum rate allowed by law for the above matter | \$6.75 per inch |
| 3) Rate actually charged for the above matter | \$6.75 per inch |



NOTICE

St. Croix Valley Railroad Company gives notice that on or about March 19, 2003, it intends to file with the Surface Transportation Board (STB), Washington, DC 20423, a petition for exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502(a) and 49 C.F.R. § 11121, et seq., from the requirements of 49 U.S.C. 10903, for abandonment of its rail freight easement between Milepost No. 58.3 at Mora Junction (Brook Park) and Milepost No. 47.6 at Mora, a distance of 10.7 miles, and for discontinuance of rail service pursuant to trackage rights over a rail line of The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF) between Hinckley and Mora Junction (Brook Park), a distance of 8.2 miles, in Pine and Kanabec counties, Minnesota. Stations on the line are located at points having the following USPS ZIP codes: Hinckley, MN 55037, Mora, MN 55051 and Brook Park, MN 55007. The proceeding has been docketed as No. AB-850X.

The STB's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) will generally prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA), which will normally be available 60 days after the filing of the petition for abandonment exemption. Comments on environmental and energy matters should be filed no later than 30 days after the EA becomes available to the public and will be addressed in a Board decision. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA or make inquiries regarding environmental matters by writing to SEA, Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423 or by calling SEA at 202-927-8211. Appropriate offers of financial assistance to continue rail service can be filed with the Board. Requests for environmental conditions, public use conditions, or rail banking/trails use also can be filed with the Board. An original and 10 copies of any pleading that raises matters other than environmental issues (such as trails use, public use, and offers of financial assistance) must be filed directly with the Board's Office of the Secretary, 1925 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20423 [See 49 CFR 1104.1(a) and 1104.3(a)], and one copy must be served on applicants' representative [See 49 CFR 1104.12(a)]. Questions regarding offers of financial assistance, public use or trails use may be directed to the Board's Office of Congressional and Public Services at 202-565-1594. Copies of any comments or requests for conditions should be served on the applicant's representative Thomas F. McFarland, Thomas F. McFarland, P.C., 208 South LaSalle Street, Suite 1890, Chicago, IL 60604, (312) 236-0204. Published in Kanabec County Times March 20, 2003
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NEWSPAPER
NOTICE

St. Croix Valley Railroad Company gives notice that on or about March 19, 2003, it intends to file with the Surface Transportation Board (STB), Washington, DC 20423, a petition for exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502(a) and 49 C.F.R. § 11121, et seq., from the requirements of 49 U.S.C. 10903, for abandonment of its rail freight easement between Milepost No. 58.3 at Mora Junction (Brook Park) and Milepost No. 47.6 at Mora, a distance of 10.7 miles, and for discontinuance of rail service pursuant to trackage rights over a rail line of The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF) between Hinckley and Mora Junction (Brook Park), a distance of 8.2 miles, in Pine and Kanabec Counties, Minnesota. Stations on the line are located at points having the following USPS ZIP codes: Hinckley, MN 55037, Mora, MN 55051 and Brook Park, MN 55007. The proceeding has been docketed as No. AB-850X.

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An original and 10 copies of any pleading that raises matters other than environmental issues (such as trails use, public use, and offers of financial assistance) must be filed directly with the Board's Office of the Secretary, 1925 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20423 [See 49 CFR 1104.1(a) and 1104.3(a)], and one copy must be served on applicants' representative [See 49 CFR 1104.12(a)]. Questions regarding offers of financial assistance, public use or trails use may be directed to the Board's Office of Congressional and Public Services at 202-565-1594. Copies of any comments or requests for conditions should be served on the applicant's representative Thomas F. McFarland, Thomas F. McFarland, P.C., 208 South LaSalle Street, Suite 1890, Chicago, IL 60604, (312) 236-0204.

(March 6, 2003)

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF MINNESOTA)

) ss.

COUNTY OF PINE)

Jeanne Larson, being duly sworn on oath, says that she is the publisher or authorized agent and employee of the publisher of the newspaper known as the Pine County Courier and has full knowledge of the facts that are stated below:

(A) The newspaper has complied with all of the requirements constituting qualification as a qualified newspaper, as provided by Minnesota Statute 331A.02, 331A.07, and other applicable laws, as amended.

(B) The printed NOTICE that is attached was cut from the columns of said newspaper and was printed and published once each week for ONE successive week(s); it was first published on Thursday, the 6TH day of MARCH 2003 and was thereafter printed and published on Thursday, the 6TH day of MARCH 2003; and printed below is a copy of the lowercase alphabet from A to Z, both inclusive, which is hereby acknowledged as being the size and kind of type used in the composition and publication of the notice:

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

BY: Jeanne Larson

Publisher's Representative

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this 6TH day of MARCH 2003.

Mary E Dewey

Notary Public

RATE INFORMATION:

- (1) Lowest classified rate paid by commercial users for comparable space: \$.20/word, \$.928/inch.
- (2) Maximum rate allowed by law for the above matter: \$.768/line, \$.752/inch.
- (3) Rate actually charged for the above matter: \$.768/line, \$.752/inch.

