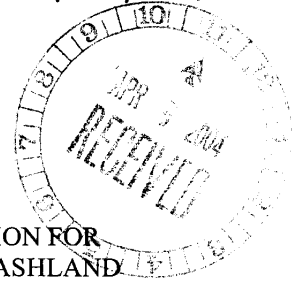


210489



Docket No. AB-303 (Sub-No. 26X)

WISCONSIN CENTRAL LTD.

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION FOR
ABANDONMENT IN ASHLAND
COUNTY, WISCONSIN

To: Mr. Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board (STB)
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

RECEIVED
STB
APR 5 2004

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE WITH 49 C.F.R. PART 1105

I hereby certify that on March 31, 2004, copies of the Environmental Report and Historic Report for the above-captioned proceeding were served on the agencies listed at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7(b), all agencies consulted in preparing the reports, and on the Wisconsin Historical Society. A service list is attached and incorporated into this certificate as Attachment A. The reports have been sent within the time period specified, as Wisconsin Central Ltd. intends to file its Notice of Exemption in the above-captioned matter no earlier than April 20, 2004. All appropriate agencies as listed in 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7(e) have been consulted well in advance of preparing the Environmental Report.

I also certify that a newspaper notice was published on May 2, 2003, in *The Daily Press*, a newspaper of general circulation in Ashland County, Wisconsin. The notices alerted the public to the proposed abandonment, to possible reuse alternatives, and to procedures for participating in the STB proceeding. A copy of the notice is attached to this certificate as Attachment B.

Dated this 31st day of March, 2004.

x Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Counsel for Wisconsin Central Ltd.

Robert Whiting
Chief, Regulatory Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
190 Fifth Street East
St. Paul, MN 55101-1638

Thomas Kieweg
Ashland County Administrator
Room 301 - Courthouse
201 W. Main St.
Ashland, WI 54806-1652

Ken Lindquist
Ashland County Board Chairman
Room 301 - Courthouse
201 W. Main St.
Ashland, WI 54806-1652

David Frasher
City Administrator
City of Ashland
City Hall
601 Main Street West
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Janet M. Smith
Field Supervisor
U.S. Dept. of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
2661 Scott Tower Drive
New Franken, WI 54311-8331

Thomas V. Skinner
Regional Administrator
US EPA, Region 5
Mail Code B-19J
77 West Jackson Blvd.
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Patricia S. Leavenworth
State Conservationist
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
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Dea Larsen Converse
Wisconsin Coastal Zone Management Program
Wisconsin Dept. of Administration
P.O. Box 8944
Madison, WI 53708-8944

William H. Smith
Regional Director
Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources
810 West Maple Street
Spooner, WI 54801

R. E. Steffes
Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources
101 S. Webster Street
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Madison, WI 53707

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Office of General Counsel
Wisconsin Dept. of Transportation
4802 Sheboygan Ave. Rm. 115B
P.O. Box 7910
Madison, WI 53707-7910

Richard A. Bernstein
Div. Of Historic Preservation
Wisconsin Historical Society
816 State Street
Madison, WI 53706-1482

Edward J. McKay
Chief, Spatial Reference System Division
National Geodetic Survey
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Room 8813
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Nathaniel E. Robinson
Administrator
Bureau of Intergovernmental Relations
Wisconsin Dept. of Administration
101 E. Wilson Street, 6th floor
Madison, WI 53702

Thomas Ross, Division Chief
National Recreation and Conservation Assistance
Div.
National Park Service - Room 490
800 N. Capitol Street, N.E.
Washington, DC 20002

William D. Shaddox
Chief, Land Resources Division
National Park Service
Room 540
800 N. Capitol Street, N.E.
Washington, DC 20002

LEGAL NOTICE

WISCONSIN CENTRAL LTD. gives notice that on or after June 11, 2003, it intends to file with the Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423, a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F - Exempt Abandonments, permitting the abandonment of an approximately 0.48 mile line of railroad starting from a point at milepost 435.35 on Ashland's lakefront, and traveling southwest along the lakefront 2,552 feet to a point where it connects with a private spur that used to serve C. Reiss Coal Company, in Ashland, Ashland County, Wisconsin, which line traverses through U.S. Postal Zip Code 54806. The proceeding will be docketed as AB-303 (Sub-No. 26X). Please disregard all prior newspaper notices that used this docket number.

The Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) will generally prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA), which will normally be available 25 days after the filing of the notice of exemption. Comments on environmental and energy matters should be filed no later than 15 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 the SEA, Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street NW, Washington, DC 20423 or by calling that office at (202) 565-1545.

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 20423-0001 [See 49 CFR 1104.1(a) and 1104.3(a)], and one copy must be served on applicant's representative [See 49 CFR 1104.12(a)]. Questions regarding offers of financial assistance, public use or trails use may be directed to the Commission's Office of Congressional and Public Services at (202) 565-1592. Copies of any comments or requests for conditions should be served on the applicant's representative: Michael J. Barron, Jr., (312) 755-7954 at 455 North Cityfront Plaza Drive, 20th Floor, Chicago, IL 60611-5317.

May 2—1T Fri.

Affidavit of Publication

STATE OF WISCONSIN }

ss.

County of Ashland,

Jeff Swiston

being duly sworn

on oath as Marketing Director of

THE DAILY PRESS, a daily newspaper published at Ashland, Ashland County and State of Wisconsin, says that the annexed printed copy of Wisconsin Central Notice

which forms a part of this affidavit, was published in said newspaper on the following dates Friday May 2, 2003

and further, that the said printed notice so annexed was taken from the said DAILY PRESS, the newspaper in which the same was published.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 5th day of

May, A.D., 2003

Commission Expires
10-24-2004