

36409
DO

SERVICE DATE – LATE RELEASE NOVEMBER 15, 2005

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Docket No. AB-490 (Sub-No. 1X)

GREENVILLE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION –
ABANDONMENT AND DISCONTINUANCE EXEMPTION – IN GREENVILLE
COUNTY, SC

Decided: November 15, 2005

By petition filed on June 24, 2005, Greenville County Economic Development Corporation (GCEDC) sought an exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502 from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 10903 to abandon approximately 11.8 miles of rail line, extending from milepost 0.0 in Greenville, SC, to milepost 11.8 in Travelers Rest, SC (Northern Segment), and to discontinue service over 3.29 miles of rail line, extending from milepost AJK 585.34 in East Greenville, SC, to milepost AJK 588.63 in Greenville (Southern Segment), Greenville County, SC. Notice of the filing was served and published in the Federal Register on July 14, 2005. In a decision served on October 12, 2005, the petition for exemption was granted, subject to environmental, public use, and trail use conditions.

On October 3, 2005, Western Carolina Railway Service Corporation (WCRSC) timely filed an offer of financial assistance (OFA) to purchase the entire Northern Segment. By decision served on October 27, 2005, WCRSC was found financially responsible and the effective date of the exemption authorizing abandonment of the Northern Segment was postponed to permit the OFA process to proceed. The decision also made any request to establish the terms and conditions of the purchase of the Northern Segment due by November 16, 2005.

On November 10, 2005, GCEDC and WCRSC jointly filed a petition for extension of the November 16 deadline. The petitioners state that they have met to discuss the OFA and believe that they need additional time to explore potential options and solutions that would accommodate their needs and the needs of the Greenville community. The petitioners ask that the Board extend the due date for a request to set terms and conditions for an additional 90 days, until February 14, 2006. The requested extension is reasonable and will be granted. Accordingly, the deadline for the parties to request the Board to establish terms and conditions for a purchase will be extended to February 14, 2006.

It is ordered:

1. The request to extend the time period for either party to request the Board to establish the terms and conditions of a purchase is granted.
2. If WCRSC and GCEDC cannot agree on a purchase price, either party may request the Board to establish the terms and conditions of a purchase on or before February 14, 2006. If no agreement is reached and no request is submitted by that date, the Board will serve a decision vacating this decision and allowing the abandonment exemption to become effective.
3. This decision is effective on its service date.

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

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary