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SERVICE DATE - JULY 30, 2002

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 394X)

THE BURLINGTON NORTHERN AND SANTA FE RAILWAY COMPANY–  
ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION–IN BURKE AND WILLIAMS COUNTIES, ND

Decided: July 29, 2002

The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF) filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F–Exempt Abandonments to abandon and discontinue service over a 60.51-mile line of railroad between milepost 26.59 in Powers Lake, and milepost 87.10 in Grenora, in Burke and Williams Counties, ND. Notice of the exemption was served and published in the Federal Register on July 1, 2002 (67 FR 44261). The exemption is scheduled to become effective on July 31, 2002.

The Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) served an environmental assessment (EA) in this proceeding on July 5, 2002. In the EA, SEA states that the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) has identified 17 geodetic station markers that may be affected by the proposed abandonment. Therefore, SEA recommends that BNSF notify NGS 90 days prior to salvage activities in order to plan for the potential removal of the markers. The recommended condition will be imposed.

As conditioned, this decision will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

It is ordered:

1. This proceeding is reopened.
2. Upon reconsideration, the exemption of the abandonment of the line described above is subject to the condition that BNSF consult with NGS and provide NGS with 90 days' notice prior to salvage activities in order to plan for the potential removal of the geodetic markers.

3. This decision is effective on its service date.

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

Vernon A. Williams  
Secretary