



Milwaukee, WI

June 22, 2010

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## Wisconsin & Southern Railroad to Begin Welded Rail Project at Milton, WI

The Wisconsin & Southern Railroad Co., based in Milwaukee, WI, has taken delivery of 7 miles of brand new welded rail to be installed on its rail corridor between Milton and Madison, WI. And on Monday, June 21, 2010, Wisconsin & Southern Railroad (WSOR) began unloading their first rail train of the 2009/2010 construction season by unloading the quarter-mile sections of heavy duty welded rail to be installed this summer. Work crews began unloading the new rail near Vincent street in Milton and headed towards Edgerton, where they anticipate this phase of the rail project will terminate. Field welding and rail installation will begin mid-summer and completed in early Fall.

Installing heavy duty welded rail is a critical part of any capital upgrade program in the rail industry. Welded rail allows for years of reduced maintenance costs and makes the track compliant with larger rail cars and heavier locomotives that are now the industry standard. Once finished, this project will improve public safety in Wisconsin Communities along the rail corridor and will provide for a more responsive rail system for area businesses.

*"The rail that exists today between Milton and Madison is old, worn out & deteriorated beyond repair,"* stated Todd Mulrooney, Roadmaster for Wisconsin & Southern Railroad. *"Upgrading this section of track will enable us to operate trains safely and efficiently, including maintaining our current service plan to Rock County businesses,"* he added.

A 2007 derailment in the Town of Fulton, where several rail cars derailed due to flawed rail was a major reason behind this rail upgrade project. Since this derailment, WSOR trains have been traveling at 10 mph, thus *increasing* its carbon footprint on the environment and also making its service plan inefficient. With the old rail out and the new rail in, WSOR trains will now travel between 25 and 40 mph and adjoining landowners can rest easy as WSOR trains will be traveling on new upgraded rail making for safer operating conditions.

Funding for the project came from the State of Wisconsin Department of Transportation, the Wisconsin River Rail Transit Commission, and the Wisconsin & Southern Railroad Co. The railroad corridor between Milton and Madison, WI is owned jointly by the State of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin River Rail Transit Commission and Wisconsin & Southern Railroad is the contractual operator.

The WSOR is a regional railroad operating 700 miles of track throughout south central Wisconsin and northeastern Illinois. The WSOR has terminal offices in Madison, Janesville & Horicon and employs over 200 people.

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