

## Chapter 8

### From Railroads to Rights-of-Way

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#### Synopsis

<b>§ 8.01.</b>	<b>History of Railroads .....</b>	<b>249</b>
<b>§ 8.02.</b>	<b>Title First, Last and Always.....</b>	<b>251</b>
	[1] — Sources of Rights.....	252
	[2] — Reasonable Use By Railroads .....	252
	[3] — Federal Government as Source .....	254
	[4] — Local Government and Private Rights as Source .....	254
	[a] — Analysis Based in Time .....	255
	[5] — Analysis at Law; Determinations in Condemnation.....	255
	[a] — Example A .....	256
	[b] — Example B.....	257
<b>§ 8.03.</b>	<b>Notices to Vacate .....</b>	<b>258</b>
	[1] — Who Pays When Rights Compete? .....	259
<b>§ 8.04.</b>	<b>Operational Standards Regarding Railroad Rights.....</b>	<b>260</b>
<b>§ 8.05.</b>	<b>Conclusion.....</b>	<b>261</b>

#### **§ 8.01. History of Railroads.**

Beginning in the 1820s, railroads started to mark their territories across the United States. As such, some original rail lines predate almost all land rights held by utilities or infrastructure companies. On May 10, 1869, the “Golden Spike” was driven to join the Central Pacific and Union Pacific railroads to form the First Transcontinental Railroad at Promontory Point, Utah. This railroad connected eastern rail lines with the Pacific rail lines and was constructed by three private companies, not the government. Railroads had a monopoly on transportation by default until 1908 when Henry Ford first mass-produced automobiles.