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December 30, 2014

Ms. Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423

237354

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
December 30, 2014
Part of
Public Record

Re: STB Docket No. AB-1122X, Ouachita Railroad, Inc.

Dear Ms. Brown:

Pursuant to the Board's exemption procedures for abandonment and discontinuance of service of rail lines with no local business for at least two (2) years, (49 C.F.R. § 1152.50), I am hereby filing this Verified Notice of Exemption, including a Certificate of Service and Publication. Because no service has been provided over the line for more than 10 years, there are no known shippers on the line.

Please file the Notice of Exemption in Docket No. AB-1122X. Payment in the amount of \$3,800 for the filing fee has been submitted.

If you have any questions, I will be pleased to respond.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Richard H. Streeter

Richard H. Streeter

RHS:rs
Attachments

FILED
December 30, 2014
Surface Transportation Board

FEE RECEIVED
December 30, 2014
Surface Transportation Board

Before the
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Docket No. AB-1122X

OUACHITA RAILROAD, INC.
--ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION--
IN UNION COUNTY, AR AND UNION PARISH, LA

VERIFIED NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Ouachita Railroad, Inc. ("Ouachita") submits this Verified Notice of Exemption pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 1152, Subpart F – Exempt Abandonments and Discontinuances of Service and Trackage Rights for an exempt abandonment of service on its line of railroad between railroad milepost 112, approximately 4.7 miles north of the Louisiana/Arkansas border near Junction City, Arkansas, and railroad milepost 125.4 8.7 miles south of the Louisiana/Arkansas border near Lillie, Louisiana, a total distance of 13.4 miles in Union County, Arkansas and Union Parish, Louisiana ("the Line").

Proposed Consummation Date: 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50(d)(2)

The abandonment and discontinuance are proposed to be consummated on or after February 18, 2015 (at least 50 days after filing the Notice of Exemption).

Certification: 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50(b)

Ouachita certifies that no local or overhead traffic has moved over the Line for at least two years. Therefore, there is no need to reroute any traffic. Ouachita further certifies that no formal complaint filed by a user of rail service on the Line (or filed by a state or local governmental entity acting on behalf of

such user) regarding cessation of service over the Line is pending either with the Board of any U.S. District Court, or has been decided in favor of the complainant within the two-year period. Exhibit 1.

Additional Information Required: 49 C.F.R. 1152.22(a)(1)-(4), (7)-(8) and (e)(4)

(a) General.

(a)(1) The railroad's exact name is Ouachita Railroad, Inc.

(a)(2) Ouachita is a common carrier by railroad subject to 49 U.S.C. Subtitle IV, Chapter 105.

(a)(3) Ouachita intends to abandon the portion of its Line from Milepost 112 to the end of the Line at Milepost 125.4, a total distance of 13.4 miles, in Union County, Arkansas and Union County, Louisiana.

(a)(4) A map showing the location of the Line in relation to other rail lines, highways, and major roads in the area is attached as Attachment 1.

(a)(7) The representative to whom correspondence regarding this abandonment and discontinuance should be sent is:

Richard H. Streeter
5255 Partridge Lane, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20016
202-363-2011 (Tel.)
202-363-4899 (FAX)
rhstreeter@gmail.com

(a)(8) Zip Codes. The Line traverses U.S. Postal Service Zip Codes 71749 (AR) and 71256 (LA).

(e)(4) Rural and Community Impact. Because the Lines have been dormant for over ten years, Ouachita anticipates no adverse rural impact from the proposal. Neither will there be any adverse impact on the local community.

Because the Lines have not been used for local rail shipments for over ten years, there will be no effect on regional or local transportation systems and patterns, and there will be no diversion of traffic to other transportation systems or modes resulting from Ouachita's action here. After the proposed abandonment, the closest rail service will be provided by Ouachita over its remaining Line.

It is Ouachita's opinion that portions of the property upon which the Lines are located might be suitable for other public purposes. For example, the Lines' rights-of-way might be suited for use as a recreational trail.

The Lines do not contain federally-granted rights-of-way. As appropriate, Ouachita is willing promptly to make available any information in its possession to anyone so requesting it.

Labor Protection

The interests of railroad employees, if any, will be protected by the conditions discussed in *Oregon Short Line Railroad Co.—Abandonment—Goshen*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979).

Certifications

Attached as Exhibit No. 2 is a Certificate of Service and Publication, pursuant to the notice requirements of 49 C.F.R. §§ 1152.50(d)(1), 1105.11 and 1105.12.

Environmental and Historic Report

A copy of the Transmittal Letter that accompanied Ouachita's combined Environmental and Historic Report ("EHR"), containing the information required by 49 C.F.R. §§ 1105.7(e) and 1105.8 is attached as Exhibit No. 3. A copy of the EHR is being served upon the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis, but is also attached hereto as Attachment 3 to Exhibit No. 2 (Ouachita's Section 1105.11 certification).

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Richard H. Streeter

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Richard H. Streeter
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(202) 363-2011 (Tel.)
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rhstreeter@gmail.com

Dated: December 30, 2014

BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Docket No. AB-1122X
Ouachita RAILROAD, INC. -
ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION -
IN UNION COUNTY, AR AND UNION PARISH, LA

Ouachita Railroad, Inc. (“Ouachita”) submits this Combined Environmental and Historic Report (“EHR”) pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7 and 49 C.F.R. § 1105.8(d), respectively, for an exempt abandonment of a segment of line from Milepost 112 near Junction City, AR to Milepost 125.4 near Lillie, LA, a total distance of 13.4 miles in Union County, Arkansas and Union Parish, Louisiana (the “Line”). The Line traverses U.S. Postal Service Zip Codes 71749 (AR) and 71256 (LA). Ouachita anticipates that it will file a Notice of Exemption to abandon the Line on or after December 30, 2014.

A map of the Line (Attachment No. 1) and Ouachita’s letter to federal, state and local government agencies (Attachment No. 2) are attached to this EHR. Responses received thus far to Ouachita’s letters are also attached.

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT
49 C.F.R. 1105.7(e)

(1) PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES. Describe the proposed action, including commodities transported, the planned disposition (if any) of any rail line and other structures that may be involved, and any possible changes in current operations or maintenance practices. Also describe any reasonable alternatives to the proposed action. Include a readable detailed map and drawings clearly delineating the project.

Responses: Ouachita Railroad, Inc. (“Ouachita”) proposes to abandon approximately 14.2 miles of its rail line between Railroad Milepost 112.0 and

126.2. Due to deteriorated track conditions and no traffic, Ouachita was compelled to suspend all rail services on the Line over ten years ago. No local traffic has moved over the Line since 2004 and there is no overhead traffic. No complaint regarding cessation of service has been filed, is pending, or has been ruled upon in favor of a complainant in the past two years.

Abandonment of the Line will result in the removal of the rail, crossties, and possibly the upper layer of ballast. Ouachita does not intend to disturb any bridges or sub grade or sub grade structures. The rail corridor consists of a remnant of the main line of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad Company (“Rock Island”) that formerly stretched from Little Rock, Arkansas to Eunice, Louisiana. The portion of the line south of Milepost 125.4 to Hodge, Louisiana was abandoned over thirty years ago by the Trustee of the Rock Island. The 100 foot right-of-way is owned in fee by Ouachita.

A map of the Line is attached. *See Attachment 1.*

(2) Transportation System. Describe the effects of the proposed action on regional or local transportation systems and patterns. Estimate the amount of traffic (passenger or freight) that will be diverted to other transportation systems or modes as a result of the proposed action.

Response: Because no traffic uses the Line, the proposed abandonment will have no impact on area transportation systems and patterns.

(3) Land Use.

(i) Based on consultation with local and/or regional planning agencies and/or a review of the official planning documents prepared by such agencies, state whether the proposed action is consistent with existing land use plans. Describe the inconsistencies.

(ii) Based on consultation with the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, state the effect of the proposed action on any prime agricultural land.

(iii) If the action affects land or water uses within a designated coastal zone, include the coastal zone information required by 49 C.F.R. § 1105.9

(iv) If the proposed action is an abandonment, state whether or not the right-of-way is suitable for alternative public use under 49 U.S.C. § 10905 and explain why.

Responses: (i) Ouachita is unaware of any adverse effects on local and existing land use plans. The Southwest Central Arkansas Planning and Development District, as well as the North Delta Regional Planning & Development District have been contacted. To date, no response has been received.

(ii) The Natural Resource Conservation Service (“NRCS”) has been contacted. A response has been received from the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Arkansas stating that the proposed abandonment would be insignificant on the Prime Farmland soil. To date, no response has been received from Louisiana.

(iii) Not Applicable.

(iv) Portions of the right-of-way proposed for abandonment may be suitable for other public purposes. Portions of the right-of-way upon which the Line is located could be used for a pedestrian trail or for public utility occupations.

(4) Energy

(i) Describe the effect of the proposed action on transportation of energy resources.

- (ii) Describe the effect of the proposed action on recyclable commodities.
- (iii) State whether the proposed action will result in an increase or decrease in overall energy efficiency and explain why.
- (iv) If the proposed action will cause diversions from rail to motor carriage of more than:
 - (A) 1,000 rail carloads a year, or
 - (B) an average of 50 rail carloads per mile per year for any part of the affected line, quantify the resulting net change in energy consumption and show the data and methodology used to arrive at the figure given.

Responses: (i) There are no effects on the transportation of energy resources.

(ii) There are no effects on the movement of recyclable commodities, or ozone depleting chemicals moved over the Line.

(iii) The activity and diversion thresholds used to calculate the effect on noise, air quality, or energy consumption will not be exceeded.

(iv)(A)(B) Because no traffic has moved over the Line for over ten years, the abandonment will not cause any diversions from rail-to-motor.

(5) Air. (i) If the proposed action will result in either:

(A) an increase in rail traffic of at least 100% (measured in gross ton miles annually) or an increase of at least eight trains a day on any segment of rail line affected by the proposal, or

(B) an increase in rail yard activity of at least 100% (measured by carload activity), or

(C) an average increase in truck traffic of more than 10% of the average daily traffic or 50 vehicles a day on any affected road segment, quantify the anticipated effect on air emissions. For a proposal under 49 U.S.C. § 10901 (or § 10505) to construct a new line or reinstitute service over a previously abandoned line, only

the eight train a day provision in subsection (5)(i)(A) will apply.

Responses: Ouachita does not anticipate any such effects.

(5) Air. (ii) If the proposed action affects a class 1 or nonattainment area under the Clean Air Act, and will result in either:

(A) an increase in rail traffic of at least 50% (measured in gross ton miles annually) or an increase of at least three trains a day on any segment of rail line, or

(B) an increase in rail yard activity of a least 20% (measured by carload activity), or

(C) an average increase in truck traffic of more than 10% of the average daily traffic or 50 vehicles a day on a given road segment, then state whether any expected increased emissions are within the parameters established by the State Implementation Plan. However, for a rail construction under 49 U.S.C. § 10901 (or 49 U.S.C. § 10505), or a case involving the reinstatement of service over a previously abandoned line, only the three train a day threshold in this item shall apply.

Response: There will be no increase in rail traffic, rail yard activity, or truck traffic as a result of the proposed action.

(5) Air. (iii) If transportation of ozone depleting materials (such as nitrogen oxide and Freon) is contemplated, identify: the materials and quantity; the frequency of service; safety practices (including any speed restrictions); the applicant's safety record (to the extent available) on derailments, accidents and spills; contingency plans to deal with accidental spills; and the likelihood of an accidental release of ozone depleting materials in the event of a collision or derailment.

Response: The proposed action will not involve or affect the transportation of ozone depleting materials.

(6) Noise. If any of the thresholds identified in item (5)(i) of this section are surpassed, state whether the proposed action will cause:

(i) an incremental increase in noise levels of three decibels Ldn or more or

(ii) an increase to a noise level of 65 decibels Ldn or greater. If so, identify sensitive receptors (e.g., schools, libraries, hospitals, residences, retirement communities, and nursing homes) in the project area and quantify the noise increase for these receptors if the thresholds are surpassed.

Response: Not applicable.

(7) Safety.

(i) Describe any effects of the proposed action on public health and safety (including vehicle delay time at railroad grade crossings).

(ii) If hazardous materials are expected to be transported, identify: the materials and quantity; the frequency of service; whether chemicals are being transported that, if mixed, could react to form more hazardous compounds; safety practices (including any speed restrictions); the applicant's safety record (to the extent available) on derailments, accidents and hazardous spills; the contingency plans to deal with accidental spills; and the likelihood of an accidental release of hazardous materials.

(iii) If there are any known hazardous waste sites or sites where there have been known hazardous materials spills on the right-of-way, identify the location of those sites and the types of hazardous materials involved.

Responses: (i) The proposed action will have no detrimental effects on public health and safety.

(ii) The proposed action will not affect the transportation of hazardous materials.

(iii) There are no known hazardous materials waste sites or sites where known hazardous material spills have occurred on or along the subject right-of-way.

(8) Biological resources.

(i) Based on consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, state whether the proposed action is likely to adversely affect endangered or threatened species or areas designated as a critical

habitat, and if so, describe the effects.

(ii) State whether wildlife sanctuaries or refuges, National or State parks or forests will be affected, and describe any effects.

Response: (i) The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been contacted. To date, no responses have been received.

(ii) The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been contacted. To date, no responses have been received.

(9) Water.

(i) Based on consultation with State water quality officials, state whether the proposed action is consistent with applicable Federal, State or local water quality standards. Describe any inconsistencies.

(ii) Based on consultation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, state whether permits under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1344) are required for the proposed action and whether any designated wetlands or 100-year flood plains will be affected. Describe the effects.

(iii) State whether permits under Section 402 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1342) are required for the proposed action. (Applicants should contact the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency or the state environmental protection or equivalent agency if they are unsure whether such permits are required.)

Response: (i) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Regional Office, the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality have been contacted. As of this date, no responses have been received.

(ii) The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been contacted. To date, no responses have been received.

(iii) Ouachita does not anticipate that there will be any

requirements for Section 402 permits.

(10) Proposed Mitigation. Describe any actions that are proposed to mitigate adverse environmental impacts, indicating why the proposed mitigation is appropriate.

Response: There are no known adverse environmental impacts.

HISTORIC REPORT
49 C.F.R. § 1105.8(d)

(1) A U.S.G.S. topographic map (or an alternate map drawn to scale and sufficiently detailed to show buildings and other structures in the vicinity of the proposed action) showing the location of the proposed action, and the locations and approximate dimension of railroad structures that are 50 years old or older and are part of the proposed action.

Response: Attached are copies of the map showing relevant Mile Posts. The line to be abandoned has been identified by a heavy black line. (See Attachment 1).

Ouachita does not have information regarding structures that are 50 years old or older that may be eligible for listing in the National Register that are part of the proposed action. The Louisiana State Historic Preservation Officer has confirmed that “[n]o known historic properties will be affected by this undertaking” in Louisiana.

(2) A written description of the right of way (including approximate widths, to the extent known), and the topography and urban and/or rural characteristics of the surrounding area.

Response: The right of way width is generally 100 feet. The line traverses a rural portion of Southern Arkansas and Northern Louisiana and crosses multiple streams and rivers, including the Little Coney Bayou. The topography is generally level to rolling plains.

(3) Good quality photographs (actual photographic prints, not photocopies) of railroad structures on the property that are 50 years old or older and of the immediately surrounding area:

Response: There are no structures other than bridges. Appropriate photographs are attached of the bridges. The Arkansas Historic Preservation

Agency and the State Historic Preservation Office of Louisiana have been contacted. As of this date, no response has been received.

(4) The date(s) of construction of the structure(s) and the date(s) and extent of any major alterations to the extent such information is known:

Response: The portion of the Line located in Arkansas was constructed shortly before 1900 by the Arkansas Southern Railroad. The portion of the line located in Louisiana was constructed around the same time by the Alexandria, Junction City and Shreveport Railroad Company. No other information is known regarding construction or alterations. The Line is currently constructed with 90-pound rail that was placed in service in 1936.

(5) A brief narrative history of carrier operations in the area, and an explanation of what, if any, changes are contemplated as a result of the proposed action:

Response: The segment of line in Arkansas that is to be abandoned was built around 1894 by the Arkansas Southern Railroad, which was incorporated August 29, 1892 by J.S. Cargile and his partners who were El Dorado businessmen. The new line was intended to connect with the St. Louis, Iron Mountain, and Southern line at its El Dorado, Arkansas terminus and then extend to the Arkansas/Louisiana Border at Junction City.

The segment in Louisiana was built by the Alexandria, Junction City and Shreveport Railroad Company, which was incorporated on June 29, 1897 for the purpose of locating, constructing, managing and owning a standard gauge railroad commencing at a point in the town of Junction City Louisiana and extending through Union Parish to Ruston, in Lincoln Parish and ultimately extending through Jackson and Winn Parish to the town of Winnfield. The intent was to connect at the State Line with the line of railroad that extended to the north to El Dorado.

In 1899, the Alexandria, Junction City and Shreveport Railroad Company was consolidated into Arkansas Southern Railroad Company. On October 31, 1905 the Arkansas Southern Railroad Company was consolidated into the Rock Island, Arkansas and Louisiana Railroad Company.

On January 1, 1948, the Rock Island, Arkansas and Louisiana Railroad Company was consolidated into the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad Company. At which point, the consolidated line became part of the Rock Island's main line between Little Rock, Arkansas and Eunice, Louisiana. Following the Rock Island's entry into bankruptcy in 1975, the Bankruptcy Court ordered it liquidated on January 25, 1980.

The foregoing is credited to Matt Millett, *Rock Island Family Tree* at <http://www.rits.org/RITS/history.html>.

In 1983, the segment from Lillie to Hodge, Louisiana was abandoned by the Rock Island's Trustee in Bankruptcy. Thereafter, in 1984, the segment from Lillie to Tinsman, Arkansas, which is located to the north of El Dorado, was sold to East Camden and Highland Railroad ("ECHR") by the Rock Island's Trustee in Bankruptcy. In 1990, ECHR sold the line from El Dorado to Lillie to Ouachita. In 2004, Ouachita moved the last carload of freight over the segment of track that is the subject of this Notice of Exemption.

There are several web sites dedicated to the history of the Rock Island including <http://www.rits.org/RITS/history.html>. This site is maintained by the Rock Island Technical Society.

See also, *A Brief Historical Overview of the Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific Railroad*, also published at <http://www.rits.org/RITS/history.html>.

The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture, *Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railway*; published at <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=5101>.

For additional information, see the various publications mentioned at the end of the foregoing, including:

Hayes, William Edward, *Iron Road to Empire: The History of 100 Years of Progress on the Rock Island Lines*. Newton, IA: CPM LLC, 2000.

Jones, Luke, *A Mighty Good Road,*" Arkansas Business, July 30-August 5, 2012, pp. 1, 13-15.

Nelson, John H. ed, *1922 Rock Island Magazine Reprint*. Newton, IA: CPM LLC, 2000.

Schneider, Gregory L., *Rock Island Requiem: The Collapse of a Might Fine Line*. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2013.

Wood, Stephen E., *"The Development of Arkansas Railroads,"* Arkansas Historical Quarterly 7 (Summer 1948): 103-118 and (Autumn 1948): 155-193.

It is anticipated that following abandonment, the right-of-way will be preserved for interim trail use and rail banking pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 1247(d).

(6) A brief summary of documents in the carrier's possession, such as engineering drawings, that might be useful in documenting a structure that is found to be historic:

Response: Ouachita has no such documents in its possession other than a Valuation map. The various bridges that are located on the Line are of no historic significance as they are common wooden trestles less than ten feet in height that span a series of small creeks and ditches along the right-of-way.

(7) An opinion (based on readily available information in the railroad's possession) as to whether the site and/or structures meet the criteria for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (36 C.F.R. 60.4), and whether there is likelihood of archeological resources or any other previously unknown historic properties in the project area, and the basis for these opinions (including any consultations with the State Historic Preservation Office, local historical societies or universities):

Response: Ouachita does not know of any significance or uniqueness to the Line that would warrant your consideration. To the best of its knowledge, the Line is not associated with any event that has made a contribution to the broad patterns of history and was not associated with the lives of persons significant to its past. Nor does the Line have any features that embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. Nor has the Line yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history. To the extent that certain bridges on the Line (which are the only structures other than rail) may satisfy any of the above-mentioned criteria, they will remain in place following abandonment and be available for future study.

(8) A description (based on readily available information in the railroad's possession) of any known prior subsurface ground disturbances or fill, environmental conditions (naturally occurring or man-made) that might affect the archeological recovery of resources (such as swampy conditions or the presence of toxic wastes), and the surrounding terrain.

Response: Ouachita does not have any such readily available information.

(9) Within 30 days of receipt of the historic report, the State Historic Preservation Officer may request the following additional information regarding specified non-railroad owned properties or groups of properties immediately adjacent to the railroad right-of-way. Photographs of specified properties that can be readily seen from the railroad right-of-way (or other public rights-of-way adjacent to the property) and a written description of any previously discovered

archeological sites, identifying the locations and type of the site (i.e., prehistoric or native American):

Response: Any such request will be promptly answered.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Richard H. Streeter

OUACHITA RAILROAD, INC.
By its Attorney, Richard H. Streeter
5255 Partridge Lane, N.W.
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rhstreeter@gmail.com

Dated this 30th day of December, 2014.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Pursuant to the requirements of 49 C.F.R. § 1105.8(c), the undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of the foregoing Combined Environmental and Historic Report in Docket No. AB-1122X was served by First Class U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, December 9, 2014, on the following parties:

Arkansas State Clearing House
Region 4
400 East Capitol Avenue
Little Rock, AR 72202-2418

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service,

1875 Century Blvd.
NE Suite 400
Atlanta, GA 30345

Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality
5301 Northshore Drive
North Little Rock, AR 72118-5317

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Little Rock District
PO Box 867
Little Rock, AR 72203

Southwest Central Arkansas Planning &
Development District
Conservation Service
600 Bessie St. P.O. Box 767
Magnolia, AR 71753

State Conservationist
Natural Resource
101 East Capitol Ave.
Little Rock, AR 72201

Environmental Protection Agency
Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue
Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75202

National Geodetic Survey
Information Services
NOAAINGS12
1315 E-W Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
Tower Building
323 Center Street
Little Rock, AR 72201

Louisiana Department of 1500
Environment Quality
602 North Fifth Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Louisiana Public Service Commission
Galvez Building
12th Floor
602 North Fifth Street
P.O. Box 91154
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9154

North Delta Regional Planning
& Development District
David Creed, Executive Director
1913 Stubbs Avenue
Monroe, LA 71201

National Park Service
Midwest Region
Recreation Resources Assistance Division
601 Riverside Drive
Omaha, NE 68102-4226

Office of Historic Preservation
Capital Annex Building
1051 North Third Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

National Park Service
Recreation Resources Assistance Division
Southeast Region
100 Alabama Street, SW
1924 Building
Atlanta, GA 30303

Richard H. Streeter

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December 9, 2014

Arkansas State Clearing House
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Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality
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North Little Rock, AR 72118-5317

Southwest Central Arkansas Planning &
Development District
600 Bessie St. P.O. Box 767
Magnolia, AR 71753

Environmental Protection Agency
Region 6
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Dallas, TX 75202

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
1500 Tower Building
323 Center Street
Little Rock, AR 72201

Louisiana Public Service Commission
Galvez Building
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602 North Fifth Street
P.O. Box 91154
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9154

Office of Historic Preservation
Capital Annex Building
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National Park Service
Recreation Resources Assistance Division
Southeast Region
100 Alabama Street, SW
1924 Building
Atlanta, GA 30303

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Region 4
1875 Century Blvd.
NE Suite 400
Atlanta, GA 30345

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Little Rock District
PO Box 867
Little Rock, AR 72203

State Conservationist
Natural Resource Conservation Service
101 East Capitol Ave.
Little Rock, AR 72201

National Geodetic Survey
Information Services
NOAAINGS12
1315 E-W Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282

Louisiana Department of Environment Quality
602 North Fifth Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

North Delta Regional Planning & Development
District
David Creed, Executive Director
1913 Stubbs Avenue
Monroe, LA 71201

National Park Service
Recreation Resources Assistance Division
Midwest Region
601 Riverside Drive
Omaha, NE 68102-4226

Re: Proposed Abandonment of segment of the Ouachita Line between MP 112 near Junction City, AR and MP 125.4 near Lilley, LA, a total distance of 14.2 miles in Union County, AR and Union Parish, LA, STB Docket No. 1122X.

To Whom It May Concern:

Ouachita Railroad, Inc. plans to request authority from the Surface Transportation Board (STB) to abandon and discontinue rail service on the segment of its line between MP 112 near Junction City, AR and MP 125.4 near Lilley, LA, a total distance of 13.4 miles in Union County, AR and Union Parish, LA in Union County, Arkansas and Union Parish, Louisiana. A map of the proposed track abandonment shown in black is attached.

Pursuant to the STB's regulations at 49 C.F.R. Part 1152, and the environmental regulations at 49 C.F.R. Part 1105.7, this is to request your assistance in identifying any potential effects of this action as indicated in the paragraphs below. We do not anticipate any adverse environmental impacts. However, if you identify any adverse environmental impacts, describe any actions that are proposed in order to mitigate the environmental impacts. Please provide us with a written response that can be included in an Environmental Report, which will be sent to the STB.

LOCAL AND/OR REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCIES. State whether the proposed action is consistent with existing land use plans. Describe any inconsistencies.

U.S. SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE. State the effect of the proposed action on any prime agricultural land.

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE (And State Game and Parks Commission). If Addressed]. State (1) whether the proposed action is likely to adversely affect endangered or threatened species or areas designated as a critical habitat, and if so, describe the effects, and, (2) whether wildlife sanctuaries or refuges, National or State parks or forests will be affected, and describe any effects.

STATE WATER QUALITY OFFICIALS. State whether the proposed action is consistent with applicable Federal, State or Local water quality standards. Describe any inconsistencies.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS. State (1) whether permits under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1344) are required for the proposed action and (2) whether any designated wetlands or 100-year flood plains will be affected. Describe the effects.

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY AND STATE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (OR EQUIVALENT AGENCY). (1) Identify any potential effects on the surrounding area, (2) identify the location of hazardous waste sites and known hazardous material spills on the right-of-way and list the types of hazardous materials involved, and (3) state whether permits under Section 402 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1342) are required for the proposed action.

Thank you for your assistance. Please send your reply to the undersigned.

Yours truly,


Richard H. Streeter
Law Office of Richard H. Streeter
5255 Partridge Lane, NW
Washington, D.C. 20016
(202) 363-2011
rhstreeter@gmail.com
Attorney for Ouachita Railroad, Inc.

RHS:rs
Enclosure

RICHARD H. STREETER

ATTORNEY AT LAW

5255 Partridge Lane, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20016

tele: 202-363-2011 fax: 202-363-4899

rhstreeter@gmail.com

December 9, 2014

Arkansas State Clearing House
400 East Capital Avenue
Little Rock, AR 72202-2418

Re: Ouachita Railroad, Inc., Notice of Exempt Abandonment, STB Docket No. AB 1122X

On December 30, 2014, in my capacity as counsel for the Ouachita Railroad, Inc, I expect to be filing with the Surface Transportation Board a Notice of Exempt Abandonment seeking authority to abandon 13.4 miles of a line of railroad located in Arkansas and Louisiana that extends from MP 112 near Junction City, AR to MP 125.4 near Lillie, LA. Attached is a combined Environmental and Historic describing the proposed actions and any expected environmental and/or historic effects, as well as a map of the affected area.

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Your comments will be considered by the Board in evaluating the environmental and/or historic preservation impacts of the contemplated action. If there are any questions concerning this proposal, please contact Ouachita's representative directly. Ouachita's representative in this matter is Richard H. Streeter who may be contacted by telephone at (202) 363-2011 or by mail at Law Office of Richard H. Streeter, 5255 Partridge Lane, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20016.

Yours truly,

Richard H. Streeter
Counsel for Ouachita Railroad, Inc.

RICHARD H. STREETER

ATTORNEY AT LAW

5255 Partridge Lane, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20016

tele: 202-363-2011 fax: 202-363-4899

rhstreeter@gmail.com

December 9, 2014

Environmental Protection Agency
Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue
Suite 1200
Dallas, Texas 75202

Re: Ouachita Railroad, Inc., Notice of Exempt Abandonment, STB Docket No. AB 1122X

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Yours truly,

Richard H. Streeter
Counsel for Ouachita Railroad, Inc.

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ATTORNEY AT LAW

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Washington, D.C. 20016

tele: 202-363-2011 fax: 202-363-4899

rhstreeter@gmail.com

December 9, 2014

West Central Arkansas Planning & Development District
835 Central Avenue, Suite 201/P.O. Box 21100
Hot Springs, AR 71901

Re: Ouachita Railroad, Inc., Notice of Exempt Abandonment, STB Docket No. AB 1122X

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Yours truly,

Richard H. Streeter
Counsel for Ouachita Railroad, Inc.

RICHARD H. STREETER

ATTORNEY AT LAW
5255 Partridge Lane, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20016
tele: 202-363-2011 fax: 202-363-4899
rhstreeter@gmail.com

December 9, 2014

Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality
5301 Northshore Drive
North Little Rock, AR 72118-5317

Attn: Jason Hooks

Re: Ouachita Railroad, Inc., Notice of Exempt Abandonment, STB Docket No. AB 1122X

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Yours truly,

Richard H. Streeter
Counsel for Ouachita Railroad, Inc.

RICHARD H. STREETER

ATTORNEY AT LAW
5255 Partridge Lane, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20016
tele: 202-363-2011 fax: 202-363-4899
rhstreeter@gmail.com

December 9 2014

Louisiana Public Service Commission
Galvez Building
12th Floor
602 North Fifth Street
P.O. Box 91154
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9154

Re: Ouachita Railroad, Inc., Notice of Exempt Abandonment, STB Docket No. AB 1122X

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Yours truly,

Richard H. Streeter
Counsel for Ouachita Railroad, Inc.

RICHARD H. STREETER

ATTORNEY AT LAW
5255 Partridge Lane, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20016
tele: 202-363-2011 fax: 202-363-4899
rhstreeter@gmail.com

December 9, 2014

National Geodetic Survey
Geodetic Services Division
Information Services
NOAAINGS12
1315 E-W Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282

Re: Ouachita Railroad, Inc., Notice of Exempt Abandonment, STB Docket No. AB 1122X

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Yours truly,

Richard H. Streeter
Counsel for Ouachita Railroad, Inc.

RICHARD H. STREETER

ATTORNEY AT LAW
5255 Partridge Lane, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20016
tele: 202-363-2011 fax: 202-363-4899
rhstreeter@gmail.com

December 9, 2014

State Conservationist
Natural Resource Conservation Service
101 East Capitol Ave.
Little Rock, AR 72201

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Richard H. Streeter
Counsel for Ouachita Railroad, Inc.

RICHARD H. STREETER

ATTORNEY AT LAW

5255 Partridge Lane, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20016

tele: 202-363-2011 fax: 202-363-4899

rhstreeter@gmail.com

December 9, 2014

National Park Service
Midwest Region
120 Russell Labs
1630 Linden Drive
Madison, WI 53706

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Richard H. Streeter
Counsel for Ouachita Railroad, Inc.

RICHARD H. STREETER

ATTORNEY AT LAW
5255 Partridge Lane, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20016
tele: 202-363-2011 fax: 202-363-4899
rhstreeter@gmail.com

December 9, 2014

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Little Rock District
PO Box 867
Little Rock, AR 72203

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Richard H. Streeter
Counsel for Ouachita Railroad, Inc.

RICHARD H. STREETER

ATTORNEY AT LAW
5255 Partridge Lane, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20016
tele: 202-363-2011 fax: 202-363-4899
rhstreeter@gmail.com

December 9, 2014

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Region 4
1875 Century Blvd.
NE Suite 400
Atlanta, GA 30345

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Richard H. Streeter
Counsel for Ouachita Railroad, Inc.

RICHARD H. STREETER

ATTORNEY AT LAW
5255 Partridge Lane, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20016
tele: 202-363-2011 fax: 202-363-4899
rhstreeter@gmail.com

December 9, 2014

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
1500 Tower Building
323 Center Street
Little Rock, AR 72201

Re: Ouachita Railroad, Inc., Notice of Exempt Abandonment, STB Docket No. AB 1122X

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Richard H. Streeter
Counsel for Ouachita Railroad, Inc.

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Washington, D.C. 20016
tele: 202-363-2011 fax: 202-363-4899
rhstreeter@gmail.com

December 9, 2014

Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
602 North Fifth Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

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Richard H. Streeter
Counsel for Ouachita Railroad, Inc.

RICHARD H. STREETER

ATTORNEY AT LAW

5255 Partridge Lane, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20016

tele: 202-363-2011 fax: 202-363-4899

rhstreeter@gmail.com

December 9, 2014

Office of Historic Preservation
Capital Annex Building
1051 North Third Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

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ATTORNEY AT LAW

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Washington, D.C. 20016

tele: 202-363-2011 fax: 202-363-4899

rhstreeter@gmail.com

December 9, 2014

A. J. Smith, President
Union County Parish
P.O. Box 723
Farmersville, LA 71241

Re: Ouachita Railroad, Inc., Notice of Exempt Abandonment, STB Docket No. AB 1122X

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Yours truly,

Richard H. Streeter
Counsel for Ouachita Railroad, Inc.



DEC 18 2014

Richard H. Streeter
Counsel for Ouachita Railroad, Inc.
5255 Partridge Lane, N. W.
Washington, D.C. 20016

Dear Mr. Streeter:

This letter is in response to your request for information related to Prime Farmland and Farmland of Statewide Importance for the abandonment 13.4 miles of a railroad that extend from MP 112 near Junction City to the Louisiana state line in Union County , Arkansas. Some areas along the railroad are considered Prime Farmland as shown on the attached maps. The proposed action of abandonment of the railroad would be insignificant on the on the Prime Farmland soil functionality.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please call me at (501) 301-3172 or email at nelson.rolong@ar.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

Nelson A. Rolong, PhD
Acting State Soil Scientist

Enclosure

cc:

Section of Environmental Analysis, Surface Transportation Board, Washington D.C.
Nelson A. Rolong, Acting State Soil Scientist, NRCS, Little Rock, AR



**FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING
FOR CORRIDOR TYPE PROJECTS**

PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)		3. Date of Land Evaluation Request 12/9/14	4. Sheet 1 of _____
1. Name of Project Ouachita Railroad, Inc. No. AB-1122X		5. Federal Agency Involved DOT	
2. Type of Project Railroad abandonment		6. County and State Union, Arkansas	
PART II (To be completed by NRCS)		1. Date Request Received by NRCS 12/12/14	2. Person Completing Form Nelson Rolong
3. Does the corridor contain prime, unique statewide or local important farmland? (If no, the FPPA does not apply - Do not complete additional parts of this form). YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		4. Acres Irrigated Average Farm Size 118	
5. Major Crop(s) Soybeans	6. Farmable Land in Government Jurisdiction Acres: 459,748 % 68		7. Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres: 174,826 % 25.9
8. Name Of Land Evaluation System Used SCS-LESA	9. Name of Local Site Assessment System	10. Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS 12/18/14	

PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)	Alternative Corridor For Segment			
	Corridor A	Corridor B	Corridor C	Corridor D
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly				
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly, Or To Receive Services	51.8			
C. Total Acres In Corridor	51.8	0	0	0

PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information	
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland	
B. Total Acres Statewide And Local Important Farmland	12.41
C. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted	0.0027
D. Percentage Of Farmland in Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value	100

PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information Criterion Relative value of Farmland to Be Serviced or Converted (Scale of 0 - 100 Points)	
	62

PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency) Corridor Assessment Criteria (These criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5(c))	Maximum Points			
1. Area in Nonurban Use	15			
2. Perimeter in Nonurban Use	10			
3. Percent Of Corridor Being Farmed	20			
4. Protection Provided By State And Local Government	20			
5. Size of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average	10			
6. Creation Of Nonfarmable Farmland	25			
7. Availability Of Farm Support Services	5			
8. On-Farm Investments	20			
9. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services	25			
10. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use	10			
TOTAL CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT POINTS	160			

PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)				
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)	100	62		
Total Corridor Assessment (From Part VI above or a local site assessment)	160			
TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)	260			

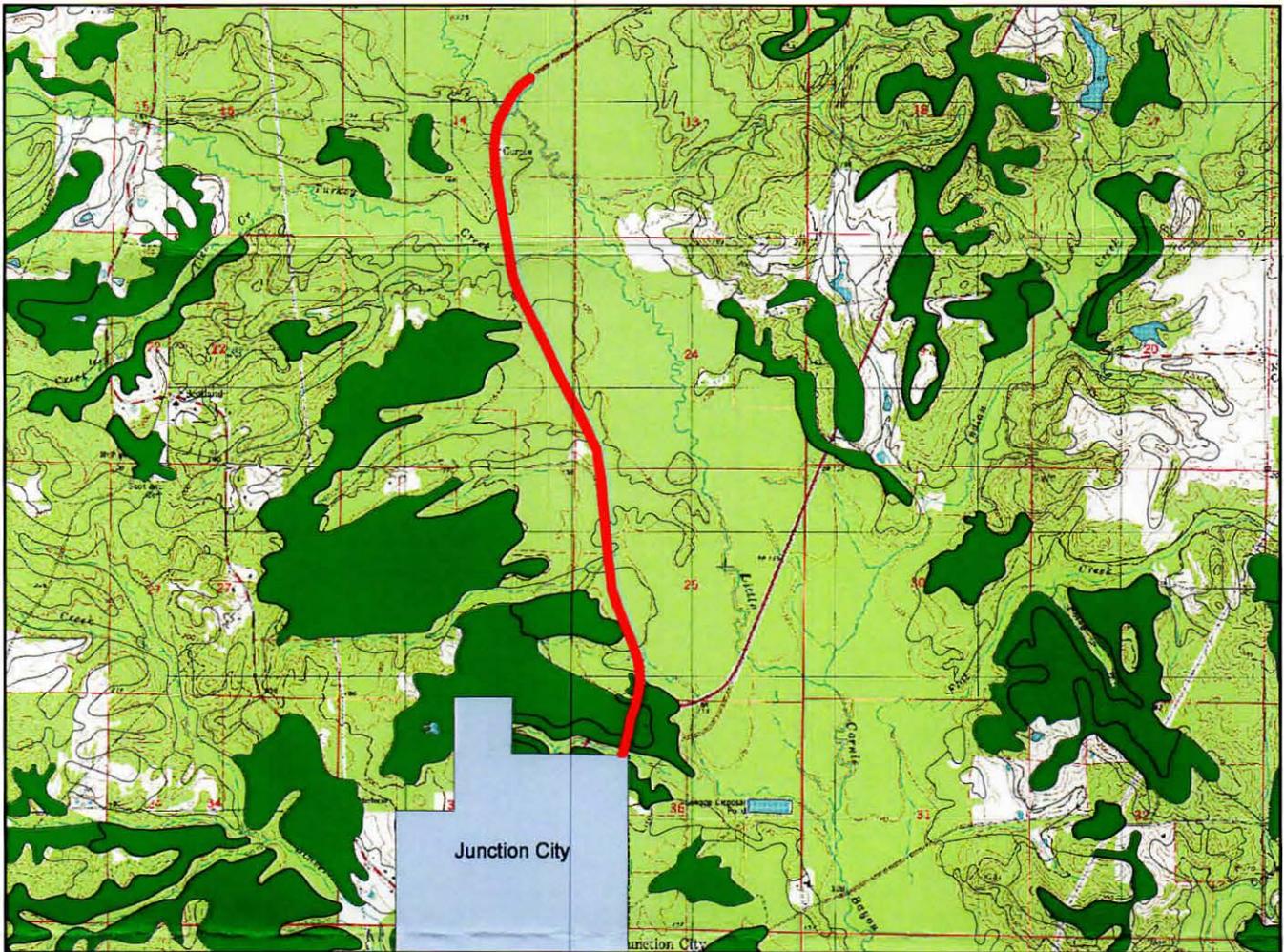
1. Corridor Selected:	2. Total Acres of Farmlands to be Converted by Project:	3. Date Of Selection:	4. Was A Local Site Assessment Used? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
-----------------------	---	-----------------------	--

5. Reason For Selection:

Signature of Person Completing this Part: _____ DATE _____

NOTE: Complete a form for each segment with more than one Alternate Corridor

Farmland Classification along the Ouachita Rail Road, Union Co. Arkansas



Legend

- Ouachita_RR
- Junction_City
- <all other values>
- {NAN, <}**
- All areas are prime farmland

1:50,000

December 2014

RICHARD H. STREETER

ATTORNEY AT LAW
5255 Partridge Lane, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20016
tele: 202-363-2011 fax: 202-363-4899
rhstreeter@gmail.com

December 9, 2014

Office of Historic Preservation
Capital Annex Building
1051 North Third Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Re: Ouachita Railroad, Inc., Notice of Exempt Abandonment, STB Docket No. AB 1122X

On December 30, 2014, in my capacity as counsel for the Ouachita Railroad, Inc, I expect to be filing with the Surface Transportation Board a Notice of Exempt Abandonment seeking authority to abandon 13.4 miles of a line of railroad located in Arkansas and Louisiana that extends from MP 112 near Junction City, AR to MP 125.4 near Lillie, LA. Attached is a combined Environmental and Historic describing the proposed actions and any expected environmental and/or historic effects, as well as a map of the affected area.

I am providing this report so that you may review the information that will form the basis for the STB's independent environmental analysis of this proceeding. If any of the information is misleading or incorrect, if you believe that pertinent information is missing, or if you have any questions about the Board's environmental review process, please contact the Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA), Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20423, telephone (202) 245-0295 and refer to the above *Docket No. 1122X*. Because the applicable statutes and regulations impose stringent deadlines for processing this action, your written comments to SEA (with a copy to the undersigned counsel for Ouachita Railroad, Inc.) would be appreciated within 3 weeks.

Your comments will be considered by the Board in evaluating the environmental and/or historic preservation impacts of the contemplated action. If there are any questions concerning this proposal, please contact Ouachita's representative directly. Ouachita's representative in this matter is Richard H. Streeter who may be contacted by telephone at (202) 363-2011 or by mail at Law Office of Richard H. Streeter, 5255 Partridge Lane, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20016.

Yours truly,

Richard H. Streeter
Counsel for Ouachita Railroad, Inc.

No known historic properties will be affected by this undertaking. This effect determination could change should new information come to our attention.

Pam Breaux 12-22-14
Pam Breaux Date
State Historic Preservation Officer

RECEIVED

DEC 10 2014

ARCHAEOLOGY

Richard Streeter

From: Simon Monroe <simon.monroe@noaa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 18, 2014 4:20 PM
To: rhstreeter@gmail.com; Surface Transportation Board; Brian Monroe; Lucy Hall - NOAA Federal; Simon Monroe
Subject: NGS Response, STB Docket AB-1122X

Thank you for sharing your railroad abandonment environmental report for
JUNCTION CITY, Union County, ARKANSAS.

Approximately 13 geodetic survey marks may be located in the area described. These marks may or may not be disturbed.

If marks will be disturbed by the abandonment, [THE RAILROAD] shall
consult with the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) at least 90 days prior to
beginning salvage activities that will disturb, or destroy any geodetic station
marks are described on the attached file. Additional advice is provided at
<http://geodesy.noaa.gov/marks/railroads/>

|---|-----|
-|-----|-----|-----|---|-----

- |....|DL0289|. 2|88/ADJUSTED|N330153.....|W0924256.....|C...|N|G 122
- |....|DL0292|. 2|88/ADJUSTED|N330032.....|W0924244.....|C...|N|A 57
- |....|CQ1089|. 2|88/ADJUSTED|N325942.....|W0924155.....|C...|N|B 57
- |....|CQ1090|. 2|88/ADJUSTED|N325759.....|W0924024.....|C...|G|C 57
- |....|CQ1083|. 2|88/ADJUSTED|N325635.....|W0923937.....|C...|S|56 V 65
LADH
- |....|CQ1084|. 2|88/ADJUSTED|N325723.....|W0924003.....|C...|S|56 V 66
LADH
- |....|CQ1091|. 2|88/ADJUSTED|N325704.12...|W0923951.93...|C...|N|TTS 24
B USGS

|....|CQ1081|. 2|88/ADJUSTED|N325516.4....|W0923917.5....|C...|G|56 V 63

|....|CQ1082|. 2|88/ADJUSTED|N325547.....|W0923920.....|C...|S|56 V 64
LADH

|....|CQ1092|. 2|88/ADJUSTED|N325603.....|W0923916.....|C...|N|D 57

|....|CQ1079|3 2|88/ADJUSTED|N325512.16058|W0923920.26137|C...|G|LILLIE

|....|CQ1080|. 2|88/ADJUSTED|N325512.78...|W0923919.79...|C...|G|LILLIE
RM 1

|....|CQ1078|. 2|88/ADJUSTED|N325511.51...|W0923919.77...|C...|G|LILLIE
RM 2

EXHIBIT A

VERIFICATION AND CERTIFICATION THAT RAIL LINE MEETS
CRITERIA OF 49 C.F.R. SECTION 1152.50(b)

I, Daniel B. Robbins, Vice President Marketing, Ouachita Railroad, Inc. ("Ouachita"), declare under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the United States of America, that I have read the foregoing document and that its assertions are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. I further declare that I am qualified and authorized to submit this verification on behalf of Ouachita.

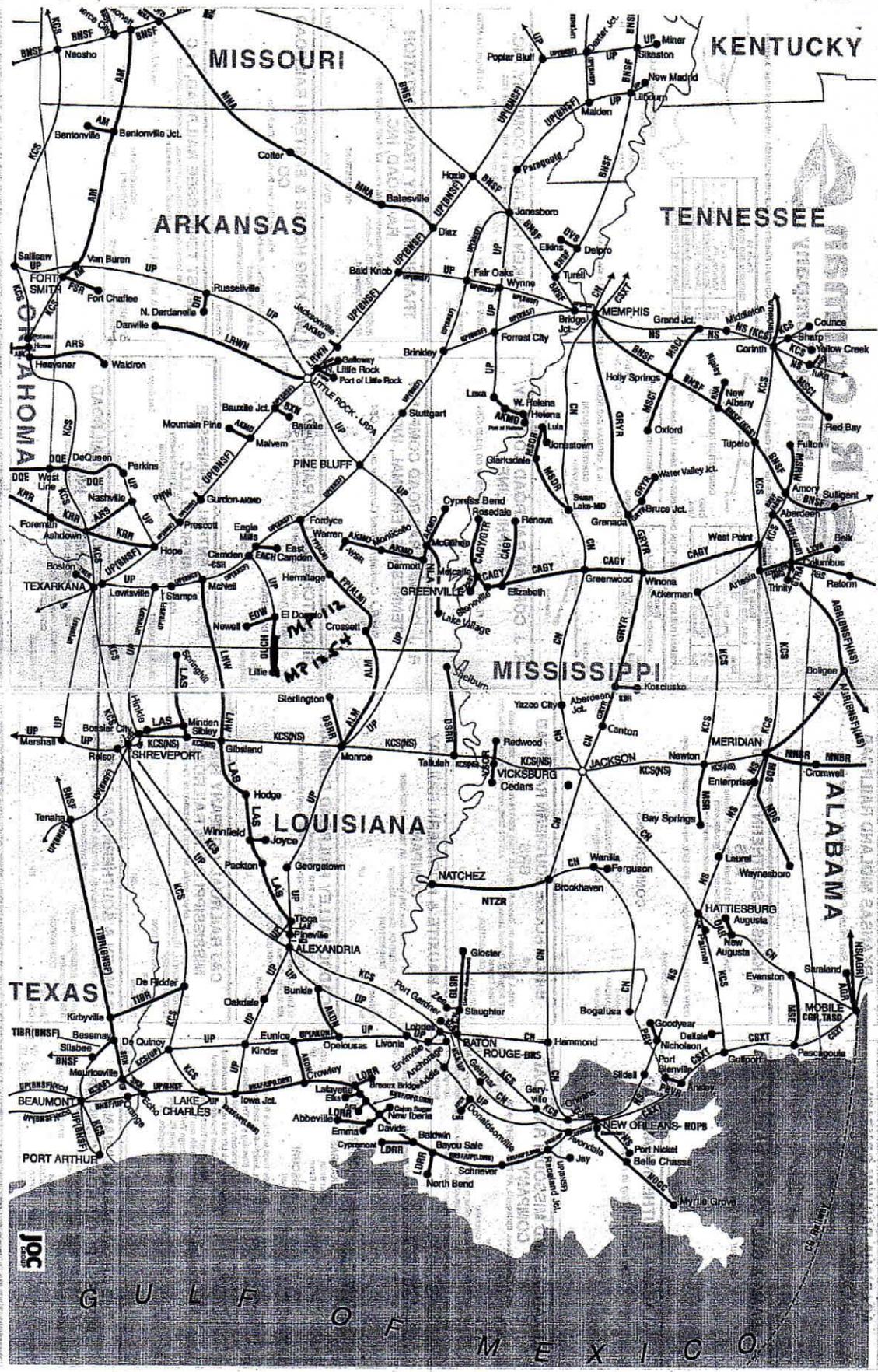
I hereby certify that no local traffic has been handled to or from any customer over the rail line located between milepost 112.0 to milepost 126.2 ("the Line") for at least two (2) years prior to the date hereof. The Line is stub-ended and, therefore, not capable of handling overhead traffic. Further, no formal complaint filed by a user of rail service on the Line (or a State or local government entity acting on behalf of such user) regarding cessation of service over the Line either is pending with the Surface Transportation Board or any U.S. District Court or has been decided in favor of a complainant within the six-year period.

The foregoing certification is made on behalf of Ouachita by the undersigned after due and careful investigation of the matters herein certified and based on the best of the knowledge, information and belief of the undersigned.

FURTHER SAYETH THE AFFIANT NOT.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. B. Robbins', is written over a horizontal line.

Daniel B. Robbins



JOC

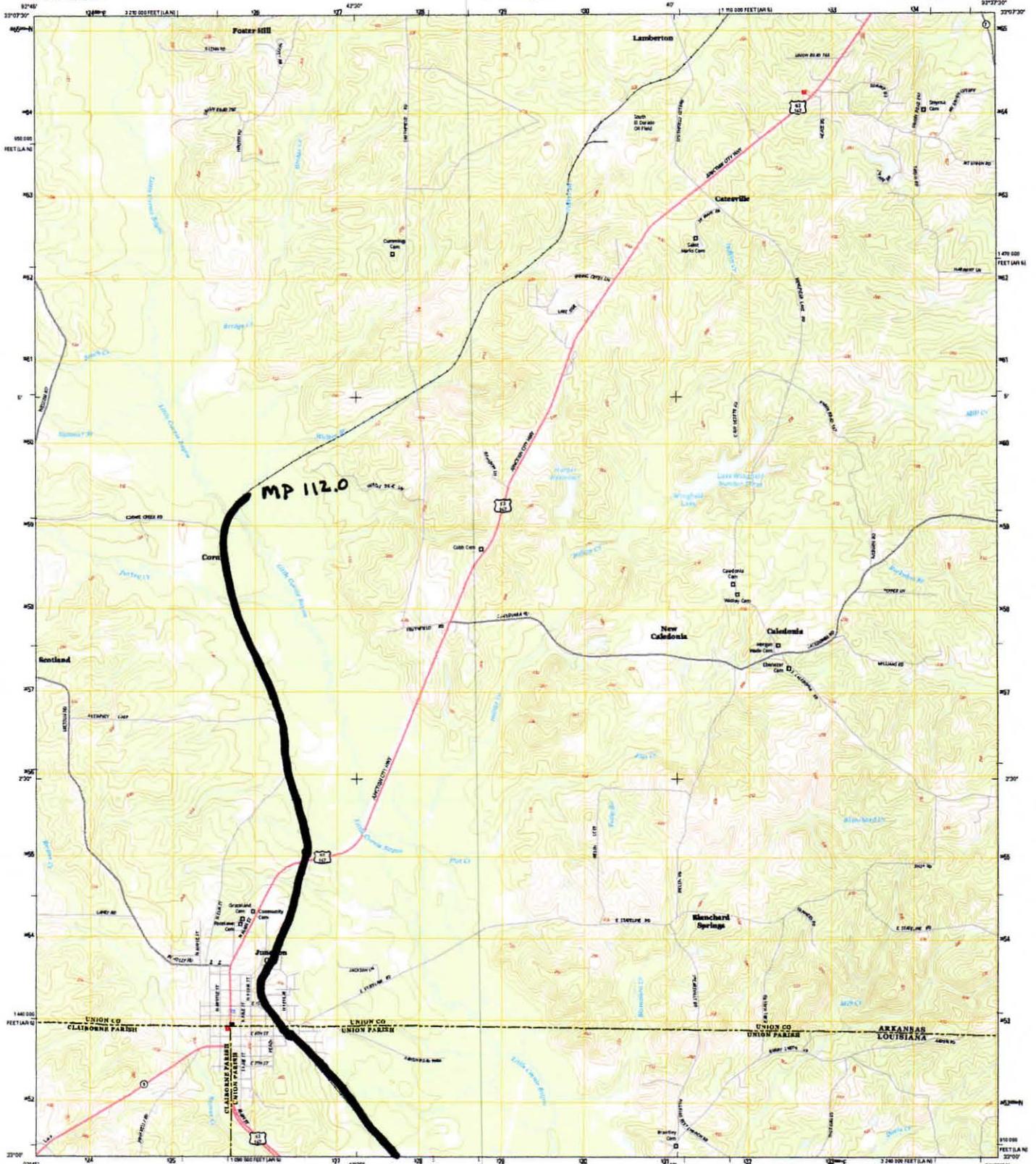
GULF OF MEXICO



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



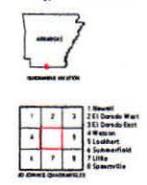
JUNCTION CITY QUADRANGLE
ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA
7.5-MINUTE SERIES



Produced by the United States Geological Survey
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83)
Map Scale: 1:24,000
This map is not a legal document. Boundaries may be questioned for the real world. Private land with government reservations is not shown. Obtain permission before making private land.



SCALE 1:24 000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NORTH AMERICAN VERTICAL DATUM OF 1983
This map was produced in conformance with the National Geospatial Program US Topographic Standard, 2011.
A metadata file associated with this product is available on-line.



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Secondary Road	Local Connector
Primary Road	Local Road
Interstate	US Road
State Road	State Road

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9
10	11	12

2014

Exhibit No. 2

Certificate of Service and Publication

Pursuant to the notice requirements of

49 C.F.R. §§ 1152.50(d)(1), 1105.11 and 1105.12

**DOCKET NO. AB-1122X
NORMAN BRANCH SEGMENT**

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE AND PUBLICATION

49 C.F.R. § 1152.50(d)(1) - Notice

The undersigned certifies that on November 3, 2014, written notice was given of Ouachita Railroad, Inc.'s intent to use the exemption notice procedure to abandon the segment of its line between railroad milepost 112, approximately 4.7 miles north of the Louisiana/Arkansas border near Junction City, Arkansas, and railroad milepost 126.2, 9.5 miles south of the Louisiana/Arkansas border near Lillie, Louisiana, a total distance of 14.2 miles in Union County, Arkansas and Union Parish, Louisiana ("the Line") in Docket No. AB-1122X. Written notice (a copy of which is attached hereto as Attachment 1) was served on the following:

Arkansas Public Service Commission
1000 Center Street
Little Rock, AR 72201

National Park Service
Recreation Resources Assistance
Division
Midwest Region
601 Riverside Drive
Omaha, NE 68102-4226

Louisiana Public Service Commission
Galvez Building
12th Floor
602 North Fifth Street
P.O. Box 91154
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9154

U.S. Dept. of Agriculture
Chief of the Forest Service
4th Floor, N.W. Auditors Bldg.
14th St. & Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Department of Defense
Surface Deployment Distribution
Command
Transportation Engr. Agency
Railroads for National Defense

49 C.F.R. § 1105.11 – Transmittal Letter for Applicant’s Report

The undersigned certifies that on December 9, 2014, 2014, a Combined Environmental and Historic Report pursuant to 49 C.F.R. §§ 1105.7 and 1105.8 was served in Docket No. AB-1076X for abandonment of the segment of the Norman Branch Line from MP 447 to the end of the Line at MP 479.2 in Clark, Pike and Montgomery Counties, Arkansas, on the following:

State Clearinghouse (or alternate):
Arkansas State Clearing House
400 East Capitol Avenue
Little Rock, AR 72202-2418

State Environmental Protection Agency
Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality
5301 Northshore Drive
North Little Rock, AR 72118-5317

State Coastal Zone Management Agency
(If applicable):
Not Applicable

Head of Union County, AR
Mike Loftin
101 N. Washington
Suite 101
El Dorado, AR 71730

Environmental Protection Agency
(Regional Office):
Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue
Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75202

State Historic Preservation Office:
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
1500 Tower Building
323 Center Street
Little Rock, AR 72201

Louisiana Public Service Commission
Galvez Building
12th Floor
602 North Fifth Street
P.O. Box 91154
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9154

U.S. Fish and Wildlife:
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Region 4
1875 Century Blvd.
NE Suite 400
Atlanta, GA 30345

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Vicksburg District
4155 East Clay Street
Vicksburg, MS 39183-3435

National Park Service:
National Park Service
Midwest Region
120 Russell Labs
1630 Linden Drive
Madison, WI 53706

U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service
State Conservationist
Natural Resource Conservation Service
700 West Capitol Ave.
Little Rock, AR 72201

National Geodetic Survey:
National Geodetic Survey
Geodetic Services Division
Information Services
NOAAINGS12
1315 E-W Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282

State Environmental Protection Agency
Louisiana Department of Environmental
Quality
602 North Fifth Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Head of Union Parish, LA
A.J. Smith, President
Union County Parish
P.O. Box 723
Farmersville, LA 71241

State Historic Preservation Office
Office of Historic Preservation
Capital Annex Building
1051 North Third Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

49 C.F.R. § 1105.12- Newspaper Notice

The undersigned further certifies that a “Notice of Intent to Abandon or to Discontinue Rail Service” was published in the form prescribed by the Board for a Notice of Exemption (a copy of which is attached hereto as Attachment 2). The Notice was published one time in a major newspaper in the County and Parish in which the Line is located as follows:

<u>County/Parish</u>	<u>Newspaper</u>	<u>Date</u>
Union County, AR	El Dorado News Times	November 6, 2014
Union Parish, LA	Farmerville Gazette	November 6, 2014

Dated this 30th day of December, 2014.

/s/ Richard H. Streeter

Richard H. Streeter

RICHARD H. STREETER

ATTORNEY AT LAW
5255 Partridge Lane, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20016
tele: 202-363-2011 fax: 202-363-4899
rhstreeter@gmail.com

Ex 2 Attachment 1

November 3, 2014

Arkansas Public Service Commission
1000 Center Street
Little Rock, AR 72201

National Park Service
Recreation Resources Assistance
Division
Midwest Region
601 Riverside Drive
Omaha, NE 68102-4226

Louisiana Public Service Commission
Galvez Building
12th Floor
602 North Fifth Street
P.O. Box 91154
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9154

U.S. Dept. of Agriculture
Chief of the Forest Service
4th Floor, N.W. Auditors Bldg.
14th St. & Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Department of Defense
Military Surface Deployment and
Distribution Command
Transportation Engr. Agency
Railroads for National Defense
Program
709 Ward Drive
Scott Air Force Base, IL 62225

Re: Proposed Abandonment of Portion of Line Between M.P. 112 near Junction City, AR and MP 126.2 near Lillie, LA, in Union County, AR and Union Parish, LA, a total distance of 14.2 miles; STB Docket No. AB-1122X

To Whom It May Concern:

Please be advised that Ouachita Railroad, Inc. ("Ouachita") expects to file with the United States Surface Transportation Board ("STB") a notice of an exempt abandonment on a portion of a line of railroad in Union County, AR and Union Parish, LA, extending from Milepost 112 to Milepost 126.2 a total distance of 14.2 miles (the "Line"). The Line traverses U.S. Postal Service zip codes 71749 (AR) and 71256 (LA).

The "no business" exemption procedure will be used to abandon the Line, pursuant to the STB's abandonment regulations at 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50. No local traffic has moved over the Line for at least two years and there is no overhead traffic on the Line. A Notice of Exemption to abandon service on the Line pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50 (no local traffic for at least two years) will be filed with the STB on or after November 30, 2014.

November 3, 2014
Page 2

Based on information in Ouachita's possession, the Line does not contain federally granted rights-of-way. Any documentation in Ouachita's possession will be made available promptly to those requesting it.

A map showing the segment of Line to be abandoned is attached for your information.

Sincerely,

/s/ Richard H. Streeter

Richard H. Streeter
Attorney for
Ouachita Railroad, Inc.

RHS:rs
Enclosure

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ABANDON OR TO DISCONTINUE RAIL SERVICE
Ouachita Railroad, Inc. gives notice that on or about November 30, 2015, 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 a 14.2 mile line of railroad between railroad milepost 112, approximately 4.7 miles north of the Louisiana/Arkansas border near Junction City, Arkansas, and railroad milepost 128.2, 9.5 miles south of the Louisiana/Arkansas border near Lillie, Louisiana, which traverses through United States Postal Service ZIP Codes 71749 (AR) and 71256 (LA), Union County, Arkansas and Union Parish, Louisiana. The proceeding will be docketed as No. AB-1122X.

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 Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA), Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423 or by calling that office at 202-245-0295.

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 [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 Board's Office of Congressional and Public Services at 202-245-1792. Copies of any comments or requests for conditions should be served on the applicant's representative: Richard H. Streeter, 5255 Partridge Lane, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20016. Telephone 202-363-2011.

News-Times Publishing Company

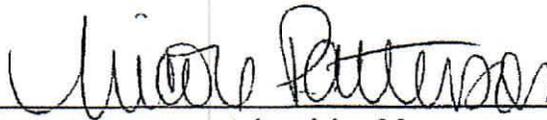
El Dorado, Arkansas

Affidavit For Proof of Publication

NO. 16949

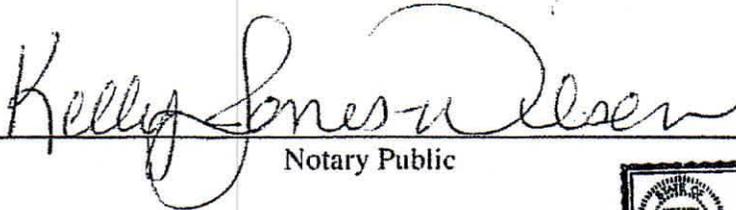
State of Arkansas
County of Union

I, Nicole Patterson, do swear that I am the Advertising Manager of the El Dorado News-Times, a daily newspaper printed and published in Union County, State of Arkansas, having a bona fide circulation in said county, and authorized by law to publish advertisements, and NOTICE OF INTENT TO ABANDON was published in said newspaper ONE time with the first insertion being on the 6TH day of NOVEMBER 2014.



Advertising Manager

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 6TH day of NOVEMBER 2014.



Notary Public



The Gazette

P.O. Box 722 - 104 N. Washington St. - Farmerville, LA 71241

Serving Union Parish Since 1878

Proof of Publication

STATE OF LOUISIANA
PARISH OF UNION

BEFORE ME, the undersigned Notary Public duly commissioned and qualified within and for the State of Louisiana and Parish of Union, personally came and appeared Mark Rainwater, to be duly sworn and says that he is editor of The Gazette, a newspaper of general circulation, published weekly in the Town of Farmerville, Parish of Union, State of Louisiana and that the legal notice for

Notice of Intent

Was published in The Gazette in the issue of

November 6, 2014

Mark Rainwater

MARK RAINWATER

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME on this the

6 day of November, 2014

M. Brandon Maxwell

NOTARY PUBLIC



M. Brandon Maxwell
Notary Public # 058842
STATE OF LOUISIANA
UNION PARISH
My Commission Expires at Death

Voice 318-368-9732

Fax 318-368-7331

E-mail news@fgazette.com

NOTICE OF INTENT
TO ABANDON OR TO DIS-
CONTINUE RAIL SERVICE
Ouachita Railroad, Inc.
gives notice that on or
about November 30, 2015,
it intends to file with the Sur-
face Transportation Board,
Washington, DC 20423, a
notice of exemption under
49 CFR 1152 Subpart F-
Exempt Abandonments
permitting the abandonment
of a 14.2 mile line of railroad
between railroad milepost
112, approximately 4.7
miles north of the Louisi-
ana/Arkansas border near
Junction City, Arkansas, and
railroad milepost 126.2, 9.5
miles south of the Louisiana/
Arkansas border near Little,
Louisiana, which traverses
through United States Postal
Service ZIP Codes (71749
(AR) and 71256 (LA), Union
County, Arkansas and Union
Parish, Louisiana. The pro-
ceeding will be docketed as
No. AB-1122X.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Pursuant to the requirements of 49 C.F.R. § 1105.8(c), the undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of the foregoing Combined Environmental and Historic Report in Docket No. AB-1122X was served by First Class U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, December 9, 2014, on the following parties:

Arkansas State Clearing House
Region 4
400 East Capitol Avenue
Little Rock, AR 72202-2418

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service,
1875 Century Blvd.
NE Suite 400
Atlanta, GA 30345

Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality
5301 Northshore Drive
North Little Rock, AR 72118-5317

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Little Rock District
PO Box 867
Little Rock, AR 72203

Southwest Central Arkansas Planning &
Development District
Conservation Service
600 Bessie St. P.O. Box 767
Magnolia, AR 71753

State Conservationist
Natural Resource
101 East Capitol Ave.
Little Rock, AR 72201

Environmental Protection Agency
Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue
Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75202

National Geodetic Survey
Information Services
NOAAINGS12
1315 E-W Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
Tower Building
323 Center Street
Little Rock, AR 72201

Louisiana Department of 1500
Environment Quality
602 North Fifth Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Louisiana Public Service Commission
Galvez Building
12th Floor
602 North Fifth Street
P.O. Box 91154
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9154

North Delta Regional Planning
& Development District
David Creed, Executive Director
1913 Stubbs Avenue
Monroe, LA 71201

National Park Service
Midwest Region
Recreation Resources Assistance Division
601 Riverside Drive
Omaha, NE 68102-4226

Office of Historic Preservation
Capital Annex Building
1051 North Third Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

National Park Service
Recreation Resources Assistance Division
Southeast Region
100 Alabama Street, SW
1924 Building
Atlanta, GA 30303



Richard H. Streeter













121



1137



1133



1134



113.5



113.6



1127



113.0





114





114.7



114.8



114.9



1151







1187



118.9



1190





1200

1200





209





1218



1221



1200



1225





