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July 25, 2014

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JOHN D. HEFFNER

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BY E-FILING

Ms. Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20324

**RE: Docket No. AB-733X
Housatonic Railroad Company, Inc.
Discontinuance of Service Exemption**

**Docket No. AB-1121X
Coltsville Terminal Company, Inc.
Abandonment Exemption**

Dear Ms. Brown:

I am submitting on behalf of Housatonic Railroad Company, Inc. ("Housatonic") and Coltsville Terminal Company, Inc. ("Coltsville"), a draft Environmental Historic Report for Housatonic to discontinue service over and Coltsville to abandon a line of railroad between milepost QBY-0.59 to milepost QBY-2.50 in the City of Pittsfield, Berkshire County, MA. Copies are going out today to all recipients required by the Board's regulations to receive the report.

These Petitioners will submit their Notice of Exemption for said discontinuance and abandonment on or after August 15, 2014.

Strasburger & Price, LLP

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Strasburger
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Cynthia T. Brown

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Page 2

Sincerely yours,



John D. Heffner

Cc: Edward Rodriguez
Matt Whitley

Enclosures

DRAFT

COMBINED ENVIRONMENTAL AND HISTORIC REPORT

Environmental Issues

The following information is provided in accordance with 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7:

(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.

Response: Housatonic Railroad Company, Inc., and Coltsville Terminal Company, Inc.,¹ propose to discontinue service over and abandon, respectively, a line of railroad (“the Line”) extending between milepost QBY-0.59 to milepost QBY-2.50 in the City of Pittsfield, Berkshire County, MA, a distance of 1.91 miles. The purpose of the abandonment is to facilitate the establishment of a trail by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation or its designee.

In the past twelve years, Housatonic has served one active customer on the Line. However, this customer no longer requires rail service and no freight has

¹ Individually referred to as “Housatonic” and “Coltsville” and collectively as “Petitioners.”

moved over the Line since November 2008. Since then, there has been no economic growth in the area, and there has been no activity on the Line. The only alternative to this action would be to forego abandoning the Line and to pass the costs of retaining the Line to its customers located on other parts of its system. This would not be a prudent utilization of carrier resources.

(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: Petitioners anticipate that the proposed action will have no effect on regional or local transportation systems or patterns and will result in no diversion of traffic to other transportation modes or systems. There has been no rail traffic on the Line for more than five years.

(3) Land Use

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

Response: Petitioners believe that the proposed action will not be inconsistent with local land use plans. On July 25, 2014, Housatonic counsel on behalf of itself and Coltsville contacted local officials, seeking information as to the current land use plans for each jurisdiction. (Attachments 1-A and 1-B). Petitioners will provide OEA with copies of replies by local land use officials as soon as they are received.

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

Response : On July 25, 2014, Housatonic on behalf of itself and Coltsville contacted the appropriate National Resource Conservation Services Office, and is currently awaiting its response. (Attachment 2) Petitioners will advise OEA as soon as they receive a response.

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

Response: On July 25, 2014, Housatonic on behalf of itself and Coltsville contacted the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs for Massachusetts seeking its comment on the impact of the abandonment, if any, on the State's coastal zone program. (Attachment 3). Because the subject line is inland, Petitioners believe that there will be no coastal zone impacts. Petitioners will advise OEA as soon as they receive a response.

(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. §10906 and explain why.

Response: Petitioners believe the Line's right-of-way is suitable for alternative public use. The Massachusetts Department of Transportation desires to purchase the Line's right of way for use as a trail.

(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 date and methodology used to arrive at the figure given.

Response: The proposed abandonment will have no effect on the transportation of energy resources because no traffic has moved over the Line since November 2008. There will be no effect on the transportation of recyclables because no recyclables move over the Line. The proposed action will increase overall energy efficiency by saving the energy that would otherwise be needed to

maintain the unused Line. The proposed action will cause no diversion from rail to motor carriage.

(5) Air

Will the proposed action result in (A) a minimum increase in rail traffic of 100 percent (measured in gross tons annually) or eight trains per day on an affected rail line, (B) an increase in rail yard activity of 100 percent as measured in carload activity or (C) an increase in motor carrier traffic of either 50 vehicles per day or an increase in truck traffic exceeding 10 percent of the average daily traffic on a given highway segment? If any of the enumerated thresholds is exceeded, quantify the anticipated increase in air emissions. If a Class I or nonattainment area is affected, are increased emissions within parameters of the affected State

Implementation Plan?

Response : The above thresholds will not be exceeded. See (2) above.

(6) Noise

If any of the thresholds identified in item (5) is surpassed, state whether the proposed action will cause an increase in noise levels exceeding either (i) a three decibel Ldn incremental increase or (ii) 65 decibels?

Response : The above thresholds will not be exceeded.

(7) Safety

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

Response : Petitioners believe that the proposed action will result in improvement to public safety by removing two public road crossings on the Line.

(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 Petitioners' 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.

Response : The proposed action is a discontinuance and abandonment, therefore, no hazardous materials are expected to be transported over the Line.

(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.

Response : There are no known hazardous waste sites on the Line, and Petitioners are not aware of any hazardous materials spills that may have occurred along the 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.

Response : On July 25, 2014, Housatonic counsel, acting on behalf of itself and Coltsville contacted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service about the proposed action. (Attachment 4) Petitioners do not believe that the abandonment will affect any endangered or threatened species or critical habitats.

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

Response : Petitioners do not anticipate that the abandonment will affect any wildlife sanctuaries or refuges, or National or State parks or forests.

Nevertheless, Housatonic on behalf of itself and Coltsville contacted the National Park Service to obtain its views and will furnish OEA with any comments received. (Attachment 5).

(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 inconsistency.

Response: No in-stream salvage operations will be required. No action known to be inconsistent with federal, state, and/or local water quality standards is contemplated. If any permits or applications are found to be necessary, they will be obtained and any conditions or procedures required by regulatory agencies will be complied with. Housatonic on behalf of itself and Coltsville contacted state and federal agencies in Massachusetts responsible for environmental matters. (Attachments 6-A and 6-B). Petitioners will advise OEA as soon as they receive a response.

(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 affects.

Response: On July 25, 2014, Housatonic acting on behalf of itself and Coltsville contacted the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. (Attachment 7) While Petitioners do not anticipate that any permits under Section 404 will be required or that any designated wetlands or 100-year flood plains will be affected, Petitioners will provide OEA with the Corps of Engineers' response.

(iii) State whether permits under section 402 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. §1342) are required for the proposed action.

Response: On July 25, 2014, Housatonic acting on behalf of itself and Coltsville contacted both the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs for Massachusetts regarding this question and will provide their comments once received. (Attachments 6-A and 6-B) Petitioners do not anticipate that any permits will be required.

(10) Proposed Mitigation

Describe any actions that are proposed to mitigate adverse environmental impacts, indicating why the proposed mitigation is appropriate.

Response: Petitioners do not expect any adverse impacts, therefore they are not proposing any mitigation measures.

Historic Issues

The following information is provided in accordance with 49 CFR §1105.8(d).

(1) Map

Response: A copy of a map of the Line will be attached to the final version of this report as Attachment 8.

(2) Description of the Line

Response: The width of the right of way varies between 50 and approximately 99 feet (and predominantly 82.5 feet) from the center line of the

track and runs in a generally northerly direction from the south side of the Merrill Road grade crossing at the north end of the North Adams Jct. Yard.

(3) Photographs of structures at least 50 years old

Response: Photographs of the Line are attached as Attachments 8. There is only one bridge on the Line, the highway bridge at Dalton Avenue, and no buildings or structures of any sort.

(4) Dates of construction/alteration of structures

Response: The original Housatonic Railroad was formed in 1836. The Line itself was originally to have been constructed by the Pittsfield and North Adams Railroad, a carrier incorporated on March 3, 1842, by special act of the State of Massachusetts. That company was organized December 18, 1845 and opened for operation on December 1, 1846. However, before track construction could begin, the Pittsfield and North Adams Railroad was acquired by the Western Railroad of Massachusetts (“Western Railroad”). During the Western Railroad’s ownership of the Line the original Housatonic Railroad operated over it. Ultimately, the Western Railroad became part of the Boston and Albany Railroad (“B&A”) on November 2, 1870, as its North Adams Branch. The New York Central Railroad acquired the B&A in 1900. The Line became part of the Penn Central Railroad when the New York Central merged with the Pennsylvania Railroad in 1968. Two years later the Penn Central Railroad entered bankruptcy. The Line was

successively acquired by Consolidated Rail Corporation (“Conrail”), and CSX Transportation (“CSXT”), and Coltsville.

(5) History of carrier operations

Response : As noted above and starting in 1900, the Line has been operated by the New York Central and Penn Central Railroads, Conrail, and CSXT. Coltsville acquired the Line in 2002 from CSXT through an offer of financial assistance in a CSXT abandonment proceeding. Coltsville’s corporate sibling, Housatonic, has provided the common carrier railroad service over the Line.

(6) Documents in carriers’ possession

Response : Petitioners are unaware of any significant structures on the subject line that merit historical comment. No bridges or buildings that are of significant architectural design are on the subject line.

(7) Eligibility for National Register; archeological resources

Response : Petitioners are unaware of any structures on the right-of-way that are eligible for listing in the National Register. On July 25, 2014, Petitioners contacted the State Historic Preservation Officer and are awaiting his or her reply. (Attachment 13). Petitioners will forward to OEA any comments received. Any potential archeological sites within the right of way would have previously been disturbed during the construction of the Line.

(8) Description of ground disturbance or fill

Response : The Line was built in the traditional construction manner for the time. There are no additional deep cuts or fill.

Certification

In accordance with the requirement at 49 CFR §1105.7(c), Housatonic Railroad Company acting on behalf of itself and Coltsville Terminal Company, Inc. certifies that it has sent a copy of the Environmental and Historic Report to all agencies listed at §1105.7(b) and to the State Historic Preservation Officer and that it has consulted with these agencies in preparing this report.

Respectfully submitted,



John D. Heffner
Strasburger & Price, LLP
1025 Connecticut Ave., N.W.
Suite 717
Washington, D.C. 20036
Telephone: (202) 742-8607

Counsel for Housatonic Railroad Company, Inc.
On behalf of itself and
The Coltsville Terminal Company, Inc.

Dated: July 25, 2014



July 25, 2014

JOHN D. HEFFNER
(202) 742-8607
Direct Fax (202) 742-8697
John.Heffner@strasburger.com

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
One Winter Street, 2nd Floor
Boston, MA 02108

RE: Docket No. AB-733X
Housatonic Railroad Company, Inc.
Discontinuance of Service Exemption

Docket No. AB-1121X
Coltsville Terminal Company, Inc.
Abandonment Exemption

Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter is to advise you that Housatonic Railroad Company, Inc., proposes to discontinue service over and that Coltsville Terminal Company, Inc., (collectively "Petitioners") propose to abandon a rail line between milepost QBY-0.59 and milepost QBY-2.50 in the City of Pittsfield, Berkshire County, MA, a distance of 1.91 miles. On or about August 15, 2014, Petitioners will seek Surface Transportation Board ("STB") authorization to accomplish the proposed abandonment under the STB's out of service abandonment regulations, 49 CFR §1152.50. This line traverses U.S. Postal Service zip code 01201.

Enclosed is a draft Environmental and Historic Report ("EHR"), a document which Petitioners must complete and file with the STB as a component of its abandonment filing. The draft EHR explains in greater detail the scope of the proposed rail line abandonments, including a more particular description of the rail line in question. We have also enclosed a map which should assist in your review of the environmental and/or historic impacts (if any) which may arise as a consequence of the abandonment or salvage of the rail structure on this line.

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Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

July 25, 2014

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We have contacted you at this time to seek your assistance in completing the EHR. You will note that the EHR addresses issues pertaining to impacts on noise, air and water quality, wetlands, and flood plains – particular issues for which we seek your comments. See, items 5,6, and 9 of the EHR at pages 5, 7, and 8. We encourage you to review the enclosed draft EHR, and contact me, John D. Heffner, within 30 days of the date of this letter, with any feedback or guidance that you may be able to offer. Your feedback will be incorporated into the final EHR, which, as we have mentioned, will be delivered to the STB.

Petitioners have not yet filed their abandonment notice at the STB. However, at such time as Petitioners submit their request to abandon service over the line in question, we will serve you with copies of the request and the final EHR. At that time, if not sooner, we will supply you with information sufficient for you to issue comments directly to the STB's Office of Environmental Analysis as well as to us.

We appreciate your cooperation. If you have any questions regarding the enclosed materials, please contact me at the address and phone number at the top of this letter.

Sincerely,



John D. Heffner
Attorney for
Housatonic Railroad Company, Inc.
Coltsville Terminal Company, Inc.

Enclosure

cc: Edward Rodriguez, Esq.

6061344.2/SP/25532/0101/072414

ATTACHMENT 1-A



July 25, 2014

JOHN D. HEFFNER
(202) 742-8607
Direct Fax (202) 742-8697
John.Heffner@strasburger.com

Honorable Daniel L. Bianchi, Mayor
City of Pittsfield,
City Hall, Room 105
70 Allen Street,
Pittsfield, MA 01201

RE: Docket No. AB-733X
Housatonic Railroad Company, Inc.
Discontinuance of Service Exemption

Docket No. AB-1121X
Coltsville Terminal Company, Inc.
Abandonment Exemption

Dear Mayor Bianchi:

This letter is to advise you that Housatonic Railroad Company, Inc., proposes to discontinue service over and that Coltsville Terminal Company, Inc., (collectively "Petitioners") propose to abandon a rail line between milepost QBY-0.59 and milepost QBY-2.50 in the City of Pittsfield, Berkshire County, MA, a distance of 1.91 miles. On or about August 15, 2014, Petitioners will seek Surface Transportation Board ("STB") authorization to accomplish the proposed abandonment under the STB's out of service abandonment regulations, 49 CFR §1152.50. This line traverses U.S. Postal Service zip code 01201.

Enclosed is a draft Environmental and Historic Report ("EHR"), a document which Petitioners must complete and file with the STB as a component of its abandonment filing. The draft EHR explains in greater detail the scope of the proposed rail line abandonments, including a more particular description of the rail line in question. We have also enclosed a map which should assist in your review of the environmental and/or historic impacts (if any) which may arise as a

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Honorable Daniel L. Bianchi, Mayor

July 25, 2014

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consequence of the abandonment or salvage of the rail structure on this line.

We have contacted you at this time to seek your assistance in completing the EHR. You will note that the EHR addresses issues pertaining to local land use plans – particular issues for which we seek your comments. See, item 2 of the EHR at pages 2-3. We encourage you to review the enclosed draft EHR, and contact me, John D. Heffner, within 30 days of the date of this letter, with any feedback or guidance that you may be able to offer. Your feedback will be incorporated into the final EHR, which, as we have mentioned, will be delivered to the STB.

Petitioners have not yet filed their abandonment notice at the STB. However, at such time as Petitioners submit their request to abandon service over the line in question, we will serve you with copies of the request and the final EHR. At that time, if not sooner, we will supply you with information sufficient for you to issue comments directly to the STB's Office of Environmental Analysis as well as to us.

We appreciate your cooperation. If you have any questions regarding the enclosed materials, please contact me at the address and phone number at the top of this letter.

Sincerely,



John D. Heffner
Attorney for
Housatonic Railroad Company, Inc.
Coltsville Terminal Company, Inc.

Enclosure

cc: Edward Rodriguez, Esq.

ATTACHMENT 1-B



July 25, 2014

JOHN D. HEFFNER
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John.Heffner@strasburger.com

Mr. Nathaniel W. Karns, AICP
Executive Director
Berkshire Regional Planning Commission
1 Fenn Street, Suite 201
Pittsfield, MA 01201-6629

RE: Docket No. AB-733X
Housatonic Railroad Company, Inc.
Discontinuance of Service Exemption

Docket No. AB-1121X, Coltsville Terminal Company, Inc.
Abandonment Exemption

Dear Mr. Karns:

This letter is to advise you that Housatonic Railroad Company, Inc., proposes to discontinue service over and that Coltsville Terminal Company, Inc., (collectively "Petitioners") propose to abandon a rail line between milepost QBY-0.59 and milepost QBY-2.50 in the City of Pittsfield, Berkshire County, MA, a distance of 1.91 miles. On or about August 15, 2014, Petitioners will seek Surface Transportation Board ("STB") authorization to accomplish the proposed abandonment under the STB's out of service abandonment regulations, 49 CFR §1152.50. This line traverses U.S. Postal Service zip code 01201.

Enclosed is a draft Environmental and Historic Report ("EHR"), a document which Petitioners must complete and file with the STB as a component of its abandonment filing. The draft EHR explains in greater detail the scope of the proposed rail line abandonments, including a more particular description of the rail

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Mr. Nathaniel W. Karns, AICP

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line in question. We have also enclosed a map which should assist in your review of the environmental and/or historic impacts (if any) which may arise as a consequence of the abandonment or salvage of the rail structure on this line.

We have contacted you at this time to seek your assistance in completing the EHR. You will note that the EHR addresses issues pertaining to local land use plans – particular issues for which we seek your comments. See, item 2 of the EHR at pages 2-3. We encourage you to review the enclosed draft EHR, and contact me, John D. Heffner, within 30 days of the date of this letter, with any feedback or guidance that you may be able to offer. Your feedback will be incorporated into the final EHR, which, as we have mentioned, will be delivered to the STB.

Petitioners have not yet filed their abandonment notice at the STB. However, at such time as Petitioners submit their request to abandon service over the line in question, we will serve you with copies of the request and the final EHR. At that time, if not sooner, we will supply you with information sufficient for you to issue comments directly to the STB's Office of Environmental Analysis as well as to us.

We appreciate your cooperation. If you have any questions regarding the enclosed materials, please contact me at the address and phone number at the top of this letter.

Sincerely,



John D. Heffner

Attorney for

Housatonic Railroad Company, Inc.

Coltsville Terminal Company, Inc.

Enclosure

Mr. Nathaniel W. Karns, AICP

July 25, 2014

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cc: Edward Rodriguez, Esq.

ATTACHMENT 2



July 25, 2014

JOHN D. HEFFNER
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Direct Fax (202) 742-8697
John.Heffner@strasburger.com

District Conservationist
USDA-NRCS
319 Littleton Road, STE 205
Westford, MA 01886-4133

RE: Docket No. AB-733X
Housatonic Railroad Company, Inc.
Discontinuance of Service Exemption

Docket No. AB-1121X
Coltsville Terminal Company, Inc.
Abandonment Exemption

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Strasburger & Price, LLP

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District Conservationist

July 25, 2014

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of the environmental and/or historic impacts (if any) which may arise as a consequence of the abandonment or salvage of the rail structure on this line.

We have contacted you at this time to seek your assistance in completing the EHR. You will note that the EHR addresses issues pertaining to prime agricultural land— particular issues for which we seek your comments. See, item 3 of the EHR at pages 2-3. We encourage you to review the enclosed draft EHR, and contact me, John D. Heffner, within 30 days of the date of this letter, with any feedback or guidance that you may be able to offer. Your feedback will be incorporated into the final EHR, which, as we have mentioned, will be delivered to the STB.

Petitioners have not yet filed their abandonment notice at the STB. However, at such time as Petitioners submit their request to abandon service over the line in question, we will serve you with copies of the request and the final EHR. At that time, if not sooner, we will supply you with information sufficient for you to issue comments directly to the STB's Office of Environmental Analysis as well as to us.

We appreciate your cooperation. If you have any questions regarding the enclosed materials, please contact me at the address and phone number at the top of this letter.

Sincerely,



John D. Heffner
Attorney for
Housatonic Railroad Company, Inc.
Coltsville Terminal Company, Inc.

Enclosure

cc: Edward Rodriguez, Esq.

ATTACHMENT 3



July 25, 2014

JOHN D. HEFFNER
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John.Heffner@strasburger.com

Ms. Susan Snow-Cotter
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Coastal Zone Management Program
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
251 Causeway Street, STE 800
Boston, MA 02114-2138

RE: Docket No. AB-733X
Housatonic Railroad Company, Inc.
Discontinuance of Service Exemption

Docket No. AB-1121X
Coltsville Terminal Company, Inc.
Abandonment Exemption

Dear Ms. Snow-Cotter:

This letter is to advise you that Housatonic Railroad Company, Inc., proposes to discontinue service over and that Coltsville Terminal Company, Inc., (collectively "Petitioners") propose to abandon a rail line between milepost QBY-0.59 and milepost QBY-2.50 in the City of Pittsfield, Berkshire County, MA, a distance of 1.91 miles. On or about August 15, 2014, Petitioners will seek Surface Transportation Board ("STB") authorization to accomplish the proposed abandonment under the STB's out of service abandonment regulations, 49 CFR §1152.50. This line traverses U.S. Postal Service zip code 01201.

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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Susan Snow-Cotter

July 25, 2014

Page 2

proposed rail line abandonments, including a more particular description of the rail line in question. We have also enclosed a map which should assist in your review of the environmental and/or historic impacts (if any) which may arise as a consequence of the abandonment or salvage of the rail structure on this line.

We have contacted you at this time to seek your assistance in completing the EHR. Because the Line is inland, we do not believe there are any issues requiring your attention but we encourage you to review the enclosed draft EHR, and contact me, John D. Heffner, within 30 days of the date of this letter, with any feedback or guidance that you may be able to offer. Your feedback will be incorporated into the final EHR, which, as we have mentioned, will be delivered to the STB.

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Sincerely,



John D. Heffner
Attorney for
Housatonic Railroad Company, Inc.
Coltsville Terminal Company, Inc.

Enclosure

cc: Edward Rodriguez, Esq.

ATTACHMENT 4



July 25, 2014

JOHN D. HEFFNER
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John.Heffner@strasburger.com

Michael Bartlett
New England Field Office
U.S. Department of Interior
Fish & Wildlife Service
70 Commercial Street, STE 300
Concord, NH 03301

RE: Docket No. AB-733X
Housatonic Railroad Company, Inc.
Discontinuance of Service Exemption

Docket No. AB-1121X
Coltsville Terminal Company, Inc.
Abandonment Exemption

Dear Mr. Bartlett:

This letter is to advise you that Housatonic Railroad Company, Inc., proposes to discontinue service over and that Coltsville Terminal Company, Inc., (collectively "Petitioners") propose to abandon a rail line between milepost QBY-0.59 and milepost QBY-2.50 in the City of Pittsfield, Berkshire County, MA, a distance of 1.91 miles. On or about August 15, 2014, Petitioners will seek Surface Transportation Board ("STB") authorization to accomplish the proposed abandonment under the STB's out of service abandonment regulations, 49 CFR §1152.50. This line traverses U.S. Postal Service zip code 01201.

Enclosed is a draft Environmental and Historic Report ("EHR"), a document which Petitioners must complete and file with the STB as a component of its abandonment filing. The draft EHR explains in greater detail the scope of the

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Strasburger & Price, LLP

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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Michael Bartlett

July 25, 2014

Page 2

proposed rail line abandonments, including a more particular description of the rail line in question. We have also enclosed a map which should assist in your review of the environmental and/or historic impacts (if any) which may arise as a consequence of the abandonment or salvage of the rail structure on this line.

We have contacted you at this time to seek your assistance in completing the EHR. You will note that the EHR addresses issues pertaining to endangered or threatened species or critical habitats— particular issues for which we seek your comments. See, item 8 of the EHR at page 7. We encourage you to review the enclosed draft EHR, and contact me, John D. Heffner, within 30 days of the date of this letter, with any feedback or guidance that you may be able to offer. Your feedback will be incorporated into the final EHR, which, as we have mentioned, will be delivered to the STB.

Petitioners have not yet filed their abandonment notice at the STB. However, at such time as Petitioners submit their request to abandon service over the line in question, we will serve you with copies of the request and the final EHR. At that time, if not sooner, we will supply you with information sufficient for you to issue comments directly to the STB's Office of Environmental Analysis as well as to us.

We appreciate your cooperation. If you have any questions regarding the enclosed materials, please contact me at the address and phone number at the top of this letter.

Sincerely,



John D. Heffner

Attorney for

Housatonic Railroad Company, Inc.

Coltsville Terminal Company, Inc.

Enclosure

cc: Edward Rodriguez, Esq.

ATTACHMENT 5



July 25, 2014

JOHN D. HEFFNER
(202) 742-8607
Direct Fax (202) 742-8697
John.Heffner@strasburger.com

Regional Director
Northeast Region
National Park Service
U.S. Customs House
200 Chestnut Street, 5th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19106

RE: Docket No. AB-733X
Housatonic Railroad Company, Inc.
Discontinuance of Service Exemption

Docket No. AB-1121X
Coltsville Terminal Company, Inc.
Abandonment Exemption

Dear Sir or Madam :

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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Regional Director

July 25, 2014

Page 2

proposed rail line abandonments, including a more particular description of the rail line in question. We have also enclosed a map which should assist in your review of the environmental and/or historic impacts (if any) which may arise as a consequence of the abandonment or salvage of the rail structure on this line.

We have contacted you at this time to seek your assistance in completing the EHR. You will note that the EHR addresses issues pertaining to wildlife sanctuaries or refuges or national or state parks or forests— particular issues for which we seek your comments. See, item 8 of the EHR at page 7. We encourage you to review the enclosed draft EHR, and contact me, John D. Heffner, within 30 days of the date of this letter, with any feedback or guidance that you may be able to offer. Your feedback will be incorporated into the final EHR, which, as we have mentioned, will be delivered to the STB.

Petitioners have not yet filed their abandonment notice at the STB. However, at such time as Petitioners submit their request to abandon service over the line in question, we will serve you with copies of the request and the final EHR. At that time, if not sooner, we will supply you with information sufficient for you to issue comments directly to the STB's Office of Environmental Analysis as well as to us.

We appreciate your cooperation. If you have any questions regarding the enclosed materials, please contact me at the address and phone number at the top of this letter.

Sincerely,



John D. Heffner
Attorney for
Housatonic Railroad Company, Inc.
Coltsville Terminal Company, Inc.

Enclosure

cc: Edward Rodriguez, Esq.

ATTACHMENT 6-A



July 25, 2014

JOHN D. HEFFNER
(202) 742-8607
Direct Fax (202) 742-8697
John.Heffner@strasburger.com

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
One Winter Street, 2nd Floor
Boston, MA 02108

RE: Docket No. AB-733X
Housatonic Railroad Company, Inc.
Discontinuance of Service Exemption

Docket No. AB-1121X
Coltsville Terminal Company, Inc.
Abandonment Exemption

Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter is to advise you that Housatonic Railroad Company, Inc., proposes to discontinue service over and that Coltsville Terminal Company, Inc., (collectively "Petitioners") propose to abandon a rail line between milepost QBY-0.59 and milepost QBY-2.50 in the City of Pittsfield, Berkshire County, MA, a distance of 1.91 miles. On or about August 15, 2014, Petitioners will seek Surface Transportation Board ("STB") authorization to accomplish the proposed abandonment under the STB's out of service abandonment regulations, 49 CFR §1152.50. This line traverses U.S. Postal Service zip code 01201.

Enclosed is a draft Environmental and Historic Report ("EHR"), a document which Petitioners must complete and file with the STB as a component of its abandonment filing. The draft EHR explains in greater detail the scope of the proposed rail line abandonments, including a more particular description of the rail line in question. We have also enclosed a map which should assist in your review of the environmental and/or historic impacts (if any) which may arise as a consequence of the abandonment or salvage of the rail structure on this line.

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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

July 25, 2014

Page 2

We have contacted you at this time to seek your assistance in completing the EHR. You will note that the EHR addresses issues pertaining to impacts on noise, air and water quality, wetlands, and flood plains – particular issues for which we seek your comments. See, items 5,6, and 9 of the EHR at pages 5, 7, and 8. We encourage you to review the enclosed draft EHR, and contact me, John D. Heffner, within 30 days of the date of this letter, with any feedback or guidance that you may be able to offer. Your feedback will be incorporated into the final EHR, which, as we have mentioned, will be delivered to the STB.

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We appreciate your cooperation. If you have any questions regarding the enclosed materials, please contact me at the address and phone number at the top of this letter.

Sincerely,



John D. Heffner
Attorney for
Housatonic Railroad Company, Inc.
Coltsville Terminal Company, Inc.

Enclosure

cc: Edward Rodriguez, Esq.

ATTACHMENT 6-B



July 25, 2014

JOHN D. HEFFNER
(202) 742-8607
Direct Fax (202) 742-8697
John.Heffner@strasburger.com

Stephen Perkins
Office Director
Office of Environmental Stewardship
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
New England, Region 1
One Congress Street, STE 1100
Boston, MA 02114-2023

RE: Docket No. AB-733X
Housatonic Railroad Company, Inc.
Discontinuance of Service Exemption

Docket No. AB-1121X
Coltsville Terminal Company, Inc.
Abandonment Exemption

Dear Mr. Perkins:

This letter is to advise you that Housatonic Railroad Company, Inc., proposes to discontinue service over and that Coltsville Terminal Company, Inc., (collectively "Petitioners") propose to abandon a rail line between milepost QBY-0.59 and milepost QBY-2.50 in the City of Pittsfield, Berkshire County, MA, a distance of 1.91 miles. On or about August 15, 2014, Petitioners will seek Surface Transportation Board ("STB") authorization to accomplish the proposed abandonment under the STB's out of service abandonment regulations, 49 CFR §1152.50. This line traverses U.S. Postal Service zip code 01201.

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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Stephen Perkins

July 25, 2014

Page 2

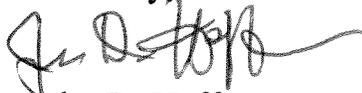
abandonment filing. The draft EHR explains in greater detail the scope of the proposed rail line abandonments, including a more particular description of the rail line in question. We have also enclosed a map which should assist in your review of the environmental and/or historic impacts (if any) which may arise as a consequence of the abandonment or salvage of the rail structure on this line.

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We appreciate your cooperation. If you have any questions regarding the enclosed materials, please contact me at the address and phone number at the top of this letter.

Sincerely,



John D. Heffner

Attorney for

Housatonic Railroad Company, Inc.

Coltsville Terminal Company, Inc.

Enclosure

cc: Edward Rodriguez, Esq.

ATTACHMENT 7



July 25, 2014

JOHN D. HEFFNER
(202) 742-8607
Direct Fax (202) 742-8697
John.Heffner@strasburger.com

Larry Rosenberg
Chief, Public Affairs Office
New England District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742-2751

RE: Docket No. AB-733X
Housatonic Railroad Company, Inc.
Discontinuance of Service Exemption

Docket No. AB-1121X
Coltsville Terminal Company, Inc.
Abandonment Exemption

Dear Mr. Rosenberg:

This letter is to advise you that Housatonic Railroad Company, Inc., proposes to discontinue service over and that Coltsville Terminal Company, Inc.,(collectively "Petitioners") propose to abandon a rail line between milepost QBY-0.59 and milepost QBY-2.50 in the City of Pittsfield, Berkshire County, MA, a distance of 1.91 miles. On or about August 15, 2014, Petitioners will seek Surface Transportation Board ("STB") authorization to accomplish the proposed abandonment under the STB's out of service abandonment regulations, 49 CFR §1152.50. This line traverses U.S. Postal Service zip code 01201.

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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Larry Rosenberg

July 25, 2014

Page 2

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We appreciate your cooperation. If you have any questions regarding the enclosed materials, please contact me at the address and phone number at the top of this letter.

Sincerely,



John D. Heffner
Attorney for
Housatonic Railroad Company, Inc.
Coltsville Terminal Company, Inc.

Enclosure

cc: Edward Rodriguez, Esq.

ATTACHMENT 8



Google earth

Imagery Date: 5/10/2014 42°27'57.15" N 73°13'22.55" W elev. 112 ft. eye alt. 19297 ft

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20

1997

My places editor

My places Actions

You haven't saved yet. Save now

Unsaved places

- South End of Coltsville...
- North End of Coltsville...
- Coltsville Line
Length: 1.00 miles

Map navigation controls: Refresh, Print, Share, Home, Back, Forward, Zoom In, Zoom Out, Full Screen, Street View, Measure, Link, Copy, Paste, Undo, Redo, Erase, Add Place, Remove Place, Save Place, Cancel, Done.



ATTACHMENT 9







ATTACHMENT 10



July 25, 2014

JOHN D. HEFFNER
(202) 742-8607
Direct Fax (202) 742-8697
John.Heffner@strasburger.com

Economic Development Department
One Ashburton Place, Room 2101
Boston, MA 02108

RE: Docket No. AB-733X
Housatonic Railroad Company, Inc.
Discontinuance of Service Exemption

Docket No. AB-1121X
Coltsville Terminal Company, Inc.
Abandonment Exemption

Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter is to advise you that Housatonic Railroad Company, Inc., proposes to discontinue service over and that Coltsville Terminal Company, Inc., (collectively "Petitioners") propose to abandon a rail line between milepost QBY-0.59 and milepost QBY-2.50 in the City of Pittsfield, Berkshire County, MA, a distance of 1.91 miles. On or about August 15, 2014, Petitioners will seek Surface Transportation Board ("STB") authorization to accomplish the proposed abandonment under the STB's out of service abandonment regulations, 49 CFR §1152.50. This line traverses U.S. Postal Service zip code 01201.

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Strasburger & Price, LLP

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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Economic Development Department

July 25, 2014

Page 2

We have contacted you at this time to seek your assistance in completing the EHR. You will note that the EHR addresses issues pertaining to local land use plans, transportation needs, energy resources, air and water quality, and noise – particular issues for which we seek your comments. See, items 2-6, 8, and 9 of the EHR at pages 2-9. We encourage you to review the enclosed draft EHR, and contact me, John D. Heffner, within 30 days of the date of this letter, with any feedback or guidance that you may be able to offer. Your feedback will be incorporated into the final EHR, which, as we have mentioned, will be delivered to the STB.

Petitioners have not yet filed their abandonment notice at the STB. However, at such time as Petitioners submit their request to abandon service over the line in question, we will serve you with copies of the request and the final EHR. At that time, if not sooner, we will supply you with information sufficient for you to issue comments directly to the STB's Office of Environmental Analysis as well as to us.

We appreciate your cooperation. If you have any questions regarding the enclosed materials, please contact me at the address and phone number at the top of this letter.

Sincerely,



John D. Heffner
Attorney for
Housatonic Railroad Company, Inc.
Coltsville Terminal Company, Inc.

Enclosure

cc: Edward Rodriguez, Esq.

6053917.4/SP/25532/0101/070914

ATTACHMENT 11



July 25, 2014

JOHN D. HEFFNER
(202) 742-8607
Direct Fax (202) 742-8697
John.Heffner@strasburger.com

Executive Office of Transportation
10 Park Plaza, 3rd Floor
Boston, MA 02116

RE: Docket No. AB-733X
Housatonic Railroad Company, Inc.
Discontinuance of Service Exemption

Docket No. AB-1121X
Coltsville Terminal Company, Inc.
Abandonment Exemption

Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter is to advise you that Housatonic Railroad Company, Inc., proposes to discontinue service over and that Coltsville Terminal Company, Inc., (collectively "Petitioners") propose to abandon a rail line between milepost QBY-0.59 and milepost QBY-2.50 in the City of Pittsfield, Berkshire County, MA, a distance of 1.91 miles. On or about August 15, 2014, Petitioners will seek Surface Transportation Board ("STB") authorization to accomplish the proposed abandonment under the STB's out of service abandonment regulations, 49 CFR §1152.50. This line traverses U.S. Postal Service zip code 01201.

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Strasburger & Price, LLP

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Strasburger

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Executive Office of Transportation

July 25, 2014

Page 2

We have contacted you at this time to seek your assistance in completing the EHR. You will note that the EHR addresses issues pertaining to transportation systems, local land use plans, energy resources, noise, and safety – particular issues for which we seek your comments. See, items 2,3,4,6, and 7 of the EHR at pages 2-6. We encourage you to review the enclosed draft EHR, and contact me, John D. Heffner, within 30 days of the date of this letter, with any feedback or guidance that you may be able to offer. Your feedback will be incorporated into the final EHR, which, as we have mentioned, will be delivered to the STB.

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We appreciate your cooperation. If you have any questions regarding the enclosed materials, please contact me at the address and phone number at the top of this letter.

Sincerely,



John D. Heffner
Attorney for
Housatonic Railroad Company, Inc.
Coltsville Terminal Company, Inc.

Enclosure

cc: Edward Rodriguez, Esq.

ATTACHMENT 12



July 25, 2014

JOHN D. HEFFNER
(202) 742-8607
Direct Fax (202) 742-8697
John.Heffner@strasburger.com

Simon Monroe, Geodetic Tech
National Geodetic Survey
Geodetic Services Division
NOAA, N/NGS-12
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3293

RE: Docket No. AB-733X
Housatonic Railroad Company, Inc.
Discontinuance of Service Exemption

Docket No. AB-1121X
Coltsville Terminal Company, Inc.
Abandonment Exemption

Dear Mr. Monroe:

This letter is to advise you that Housatonic Railroad Company, Inc., proposes to discontinue service over and that Coltsville Terminal Company, Inc., (collectively "Petitioners") propose to abandon a rail line between milepost QBY-0.59 and milepost QBY-2.50 in the City of Pittsfield, Berkshire County, MA, a distance of 1.91 miles. On or about August 15, 2014, Petitioners will seek Surface Transportation Board ("STB") authorization to accomplish the proposed abandonment under the STB's out of service abandonment regulations, 49 CFR §1152.50. This line traverses U.S. Postal Service zip code 01201.

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Strasburger & Price, LLP

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Strasburger
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Simon Monroe, Geodetic Tech

July 25, 2014

Page 2

proposed rail line abandonments, including a more particular description of the rail line in question. We have also enclosed a map which should assist in your review of the environmental and/or historic impacts (if any) which may arise as a consequence of the abandonment or salvage of the rail structure on this line.

We have contacted you at this time to seek your assistance in completing the EHR. You will note that the EHR addresses issues pertaining to impacts on National Geodetic Survey activities and projects local land use plans – particular issues for which we seek your comments. We encourage you to review the enclosed draft EHR, and contact me, John D. Heffner, within 30 days of the date of this letter, with any feedback or guidance that you may be able to offer. Your feedback will be incorporated into the final EHR, which, as we have mentioned, will be delivered to the STB.

Petitioners have not yet filed their abandonment notice at the STB. However, at such time as Petitioners submit their request to abandon service over the line in question, we will serve you with copies of the request and the final EHR. At that time, if not sooner, we will supply you with information sufficient for you to issue comments directly to the STB's Office of Environmental Analysis as well as to us.

We appreciate your cooperation. If you have any questions regarding the enclosed materials, please contact me at the address and phone number at the top of this letter.

Sincerely,



John D. Heffner
Attorney for
Housatonic Railroad Company, Inc.
Coltsville Terminal Company, Inc.

Enclosure

cc: Edward Rodriguez, Esq.

ATTACHMENT 13



July 25, 2014

JOHN D. HEFFNER
(202) 742-8607
Direct Fax (202) 742-8697
John.Heffner@strasburger.com

State Historic Preservation Office
Director of Architectural Review
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Blvd.
Boston, MA 02125

RE: Docket No. AB-733X
Housatonic Railroad Company, Inc.
Discontinuance of Service Exemption

Docket No. AB-1121X
Coltsville Terminal Company, Inc.
Abandonment Exemption

Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter is to advise you that Housatonic Railroad Company, Inc., proposes to discontinue service over and that Coltsville Terminal Company, Inc., (collectively "Petitioners") propose to abandon a line of railroad between milepost QBY-0.59 and milepost QBY-2.50 in the City of Pittsfield, Berkshire County, MA, a distance of 1.91 miles. On or about August 15, 2014, Petitioners will seek Surface Transportation Board ("STB") authorization to accomplish the proposed abandonment under the STB's out of service abandonment regulations, 49 CFR §1152.50. This line traverses U.S. Postal Service zip code 01201.

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Strasburger & Price, LLP

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line in question. We have also enclosed a map which should assist in your review of the environmental and/or historic impacts (if any) which may arise as a consequence of the abandonment or salvage of the rail structure on this line.

In connection with this abandonment, Petitioner is required by the STB's regulations (at 49 C.F.R. §1105) to prepare as part of its notice an Environmental and Historic Report addressing the following issues:

- (i) Are sites or structures listed in the National Register of Historic Places affected? If so, describe the effects.

To the best of Petitioner's knowledge, no site or structures listed in the National Register of Historic Places will be affected.

- (ii) Will sites or structures 50 years old or older be affected? If so, and such sites or structures are not listed in the National Register of Historic Places, Petitioners would submit, at the earliest possible juncture, a description of the line, including a map, as well as photographs and descriptions of such structures to the appropriate State Historic Preservation Office for review and include a copy of the cover letter in the Environmental and Historic Report.

Petitioners are currently compiling a list of all structures on the Line that are 50 years old or older. Petitioners will supplement this report and forward a map of the line (depicting the location of the structures) and color pictures of said structures as soon as they are available.

- (iii) Will culturally significant locations, archaeological sites, or unique land forms be affected? If so, Petitioners should consult with the involved State Historic Preservation Office.

To the best of Petitioners' knowledge, no culturally significant locations, archaeological sites, or unique land forms will be affected.

A copy of the draft report is enclosed for your review.

State Historic Preservation Office

July 25, 2014

Page two

We appreciate your cooperation. If you have any questions regarding the enclosed materials, please contact me at the address and phone number at the top of this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John D. Heffner", with a long, sweeping horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John D. Heffner

Enclosure

cc: Edward Rodriguez, Esq.

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