

236289

FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

29 North Wacker Drive
Suite 920
Chicago, Illinois 60606-2832

AUDREY L. BRODRICK
(312) 252-1518
abrodrick@fletcher-sippel.com

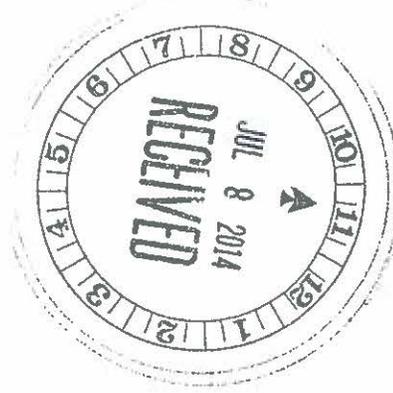
ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
July 8, 2014
Part of
Public Record

Phone: (312) 252-1500
Fax: (312) 252-2400
www.fletcher-sippel.com

July 7, 2014

Via Overnight (Next Business Day) Delivery

Ms. Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W., Room 1034
Washington, DC 20024



Re: Docket No. AB-303 (Sub-No. 44X) Wisconsin Central Ltd. –
Abandonment Exemption -- In Forest County, Wisconsin

Dear Ms. Brown:

Enclosed for filing in the above-captioned proceeding are an original and ten copies of the Verified Notice of Exemption of Wisconsin Central Ltd., dated July 8, 2014 pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50. A check for the filing fee of \$3,900.00 is also enclosed.

The original copy of the Environmental/Historic Report (Exhibit D to the Notice) has been provided directly to the Board's Office of Environmental Analysis.

If you have any questions regarding this filing, please feel free to contact me. Thank you for your assistance on this matter. Kind regards.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Audrey L. Brodrick'.

Audrey L. Brodrick
Attorney for Wisconsin Central Ltd.

FILED
July 8, 2014
SURFACE
TRANSPORTATION BOARD

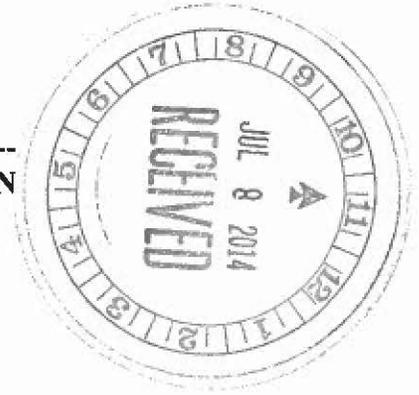
ALB:dg
Enclosures
cc: Ms. Victoria J. Rutson, Room 1106

FEE RECEIVED
July 8, 2014
SURFACE
TRANSPORTATION BOARD

**BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

DOCKET NO AB-303 (SUB-NO. 44X)

**WISCONSIN CENTRAL LTD.
-- ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION --
IN FOREST COUNTY, WISCONSIN**



**VERIFIED NOTICE OF EXEMPTION OF
WISCONSIN CENTRAL LTD.
PURSUANT TO 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50**

Audrey L. Brodrick
Fletcher & Sippel LLC
29 N. Wacker Dr., Suite 920
Chicago, Illinois 60606
312-252-1500
ATTORNEY FOR
WISCONSIN CENTRAL LTD.

Dated: July 8, 2014

**BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

DOCKET NO AB-303 (SUB-NO. 44X)

**WISCONSIN CENTRAL LTD.
-- ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION --
FOREST COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

**VERIFIED NOTICE OF EXEMPTION OF
WISCONSIN CENTRAL LTD.
49 C.F.R. § 1152.50**

Wisconsin Central Ltd. ("WCL") hereby submits this Notice of Exemption pursuant to 49 C.F.R. Part 1152, Subpart F, to abandon its line of railroad located in Forest County, Wisconsin, referred to herein as the "Line" between the northern edge of Prusinski Lane, at or about milepost 242.21 on the Pembine Sub (formerly milepost 243.00 on the old Shawano Sub) in or around Argonne, Forest County, Wisconsin and ending at milepost 235.85 on the Pembine Sub (formerly milepost 249.38 on the Old Shawano Sub) in Crandon, Forest County, Wisconsin, a distance of approximately 6.4 miles.

In accordance with the requirements of 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50(d)(2), WCL submits the following information:

General Corporation Information: 49 C.F.R. § 1152.22(a)(1)-(2)

WCL is a common carrier by rail which owns and operates approximately 1,900 miles of rail line in five Upper Midwestern states. WCL is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Canadian National Railway Company.

The complete name and address of WCL is:

Wisconsin Central Ltd
17641 S. Ashland Avenue
Homewood, IL 60430-1345

Relief Sought: 49 C.F.R. § 1152.22(a)(3)

Pursuant to the Board's class exemption for the abandonment of out-of-service rail lines, codified at 49 C.F.R. Part 1152, Subpart F, WCL intends to abandon its line of railroad between Mileposts 242.21 and 235.85, a distance of approximately 6.4 miles near Crandon, Wisconsin, in Forest County, Wisconsin.

Map: 49 C.F.R. § 1152.22(a)(4)

A map of the Line to be abandoned is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

WCL's Representative: 49 C.F.R. § 1152.22(a)(7)

WCL's representative to whom correspondence regarding this abandonment should be sent is:

Audrey L. Brodrick
Fletcher & Sippel LLC
29 N. Wacker Dr., Suite 920
Chicago, IL 60606
312-252-1500

ZIP Codes Traversed: 49 C.F.R. § 1152.22(a)(8)

The portion of the Line to be abandoned traverses United States Postal Service ZIP Codes 54511 and 54520.

Qualification for Class Exemption: 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50(b)

Per the certificate and verification attached hereto as Exhibit B, WCL certifies that no local revenue traffic has moved over the portion of the Line to be abandoned for at least

the last two years, there is no overhead traffic on this trackage that would have to be rerouted over other lines, and no formal complaint filed by a user of rail service on the portion of the Line to be abandoned (or a state or local governmental entity acting on behalf of such user) regarding cessation of service on the proposed abandonment is pending with the Board or any U.S. District Court or has been decided in favor of the complainant during the last two years.

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

WCL will not consummate the proposed abandonment any earlier than August 22, 2014.

Suitability for Other Public Purposes: 49 C.F.R. § 1152.22(e)(4)

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has expressed interest in using the abandoned corridor for trail purposes, and WCL is working to develop that possibility.

Labor Protection: 49 C.F.R. 1152.50(d)(2)

The level of labor protection applicable in rail line abandonments is that established in *Oregon Short Line Co — Abandonment — Goshen*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979).

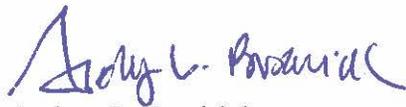
Certificate of Compliance with Notice Requirements: 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50(d)(2)

A certificate that the notice of requirements of 49 C.F.R. § 1152(d)(1) and 49 C.F.R. § 1105.11 have been complied with is attached hereto as Exhibit C.

Environmental and Historic Report: 49 C.F.R. §§ 1105.7 and 1105.8

The original of the Environmental Report and Historic Report, prepared pursuant to 49 C.F.R. §§ 1105.7 and 1105.8, has been concurrently filed with the Surface Transportation Board's Office of Environmental Analysis, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit D.

Respectfully submitted,

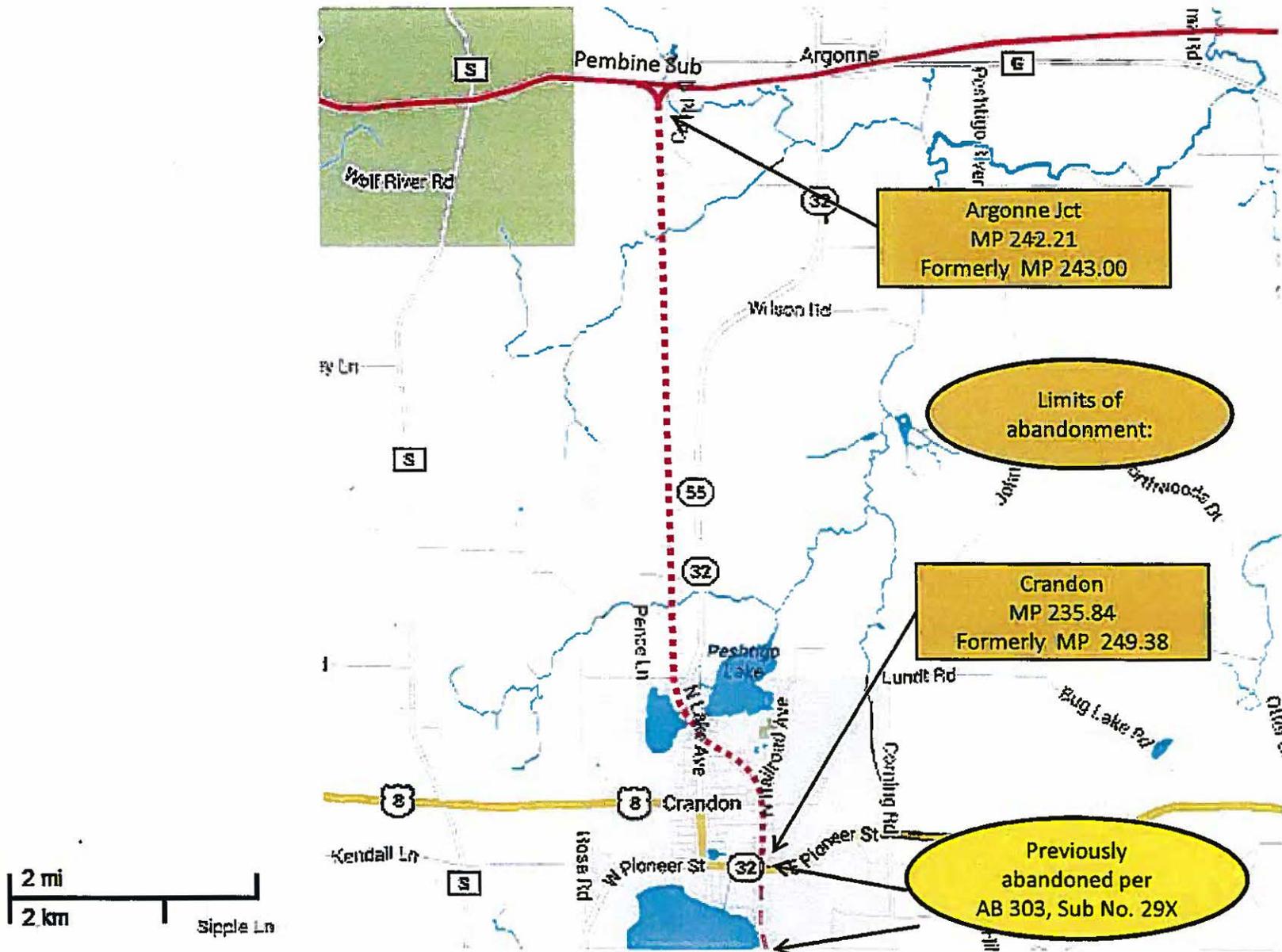
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Audrey L. Brodrick". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

Audrey L. Brodrick
Fletcher & Sippel LLC
29 N. Wacker Dr., Suite 920
Chicago, IL 60606
312-252-1500
ATTORNEY FOR WISCONSIN CENTRAL LTD.

Dated: July 8, 2014

Map – Argonne Jct – Crandon, WI

EXHIBIT
A



DOCKET NO AB-303 (SUB-NO. 44X)
WISCONSIN CENTRAL LTD.
— ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION —
IN FOREST COUNTY, WISCONSIN
CERTIFICATE AND VERIFICATION

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) ss
COUNTY OF COOK)

Brian Buchanan, being duly sworn, deposes and says

1. That no local traffic has moved over the line of Wisconsin Central Ltd. ("WCL") from the northern edge of Prusinski Lane, at or about milepost 242.21 on the Pembine Sub (formerly milepost 243.00 on the old Shawano Sub) in or around Argonne, Forest County, Wisconsin and ending at milepost 235.85 on the Pembine Sub (formerly milepost 249.38 on the Old Shawano Sub) in Crandon, Forest County, Wisconsin, a distance of approximately 6.4 miles for at least two years, and that there is no overhead traffic to be rerouted over other lines; and

2. That no formal complaint filed by a user of rail service on the subject line (or a state or local government entity acting on behalf of such user) regarding cessation of service over the line is either pending with the Surface Transportation Board or any U.S. District Court or has been decided in favor of the complainant within the last two years; and

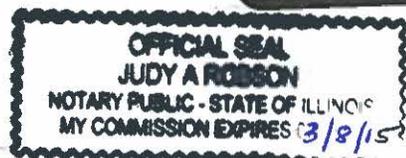
3. That he has read the foregoing Notice of Exemption, knows the facts therein asserted, and that the same are true as stated.

Dated: 6/23, 2014

Name: Brian Buchanan
Wisconsin Central Ltd.

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 23rd day of June, 2014.

Judy A Robson
Notary Public



CERTIFICATE

I, Audrey L. Brodrick, an attorney Wisconsin Central Ltd., hereby certify that, for the proceeding before the Surface Transportation Board known as Docket No. AB-303 (Sub-No. 44X), Wisconsin Central Ltd. – Abandonment Exemption – in Forest County, Wisconsin:

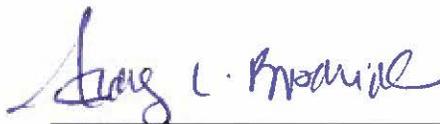
(1) The notice requirements of 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50(d)(1) have been complied with, to wit: On , June 24, 2014, written notice was mailed to the (a) United States Department of Defense, MSDDC-TEA, Attn: Railroads for National Defense; (b) U.S. Department of Agriculture, Chief of the Forest Service; (c) National Center for Recreation and Conservation, National Park Service; and (d) Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Bureau of Rails and Harbors (copies of which are attached hereto as Attachments 1-4).

(2) The notice requirements of 49 C.F.R. § 1105.11 have been complied with, to wit: on June 13, 2014, the Environmental and Historic Report for this proceeding, of which the original report has been concurrently filed with the Surface Transportation Board's Office of Environmental Analysis, and the accompanying transmittal letters in the form set forth in 49 C.F.R. § 1105.11 (a sample of which is attached hereto as Attachment 5) were served by first class mail, postage prepaid, on the parties listed on Attachment 6, which list includes the state historic preservation officer, as required by 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7(b) and § 1105.11.

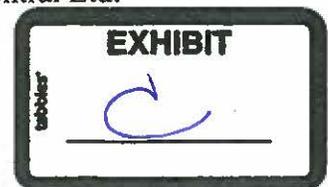
(3) A newspaper notice was published on April 10, 2014 in *The Forest Republication*, a newspaper of general circulation in Forest County, Wisconsin . The notice alerted the public to the proposed abandonment, to possible reuse alternatives, and to procedures for participating in the STB proceeding. Copies of the notice and Affidavit of Publication are attached to this certificate as Attachment 7.

(4) The notice requirements of 49 C.F.R. 1105.8 have been complied with.

Dated this 7TH day of July, 2014.



Audrey L. Brodrick
Counsel for Wisconsin Central Ltd.



FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

29 North Wacker Drive
Suite 920
Chicago, Illinois 60606-2832

Phone: (312) 252-1500
Fax: (312) 252-2400
www.fletcher-sippel.com

AUDREY L. BRODRICK
(312) 252-1518
abrodrick@fletcher-sippel.com

June 24, 2014

Railroads For National Defense Program
Military Surface Deployment & Distribution Command
Transportation Engineering Agency
1 Soldier Way, Bldg. 1900W
Scott AFB, IL 62225- 5006

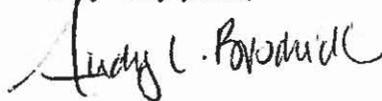
Re: Docket No. AB 303 (Sub No. 44X) –Wisconsin Central Ltd., Notice of
Exemption for Abandonment in Crandon/Argonne, Forest County,
Wisconsin

Dear Sir/Madam:

This is to inform you that pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50 (Exempt Abandonments and Discontinuance of Service and Trackage Rights), Wisconsin Central Ltd. shall, on or after July 7, 2014, file a Notice of Exemption with the Surface Transportation Board for approval to abandon approximately 6.4 miles of railroad line starting at MP 242.21 on the Pembine Sub (formerly milepost 243.00 on the old Shawano Sub) in or around Argonne, Forest County, Wisconsin and ending at MP 235.84 on the Pembine Sub (formerly milepost 249.38 on the Old Shawano Sub) in Crandon, Forest County, Wisconsin. Such line runs through U.S. Postal Zip Codes 54511 and 54520.

The exemption procedures set forth in § 1152.50 are being used in this case because no local traffic has moved over this line for at least two years and there is no overhead traffic that would have to be rerouted over other lines. Based on information in our possession, the line **does not** contain any federally granted rights-of-way. Any documentation in the railroad's possession will be made available promptly to those requesting it.

Very truly yours,



Audrey L. Brodrick
Counsel for Wisconsin Central Ltd.

ALB:dg

FLETCHER & SIPPET LLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

29 North Wacker Drive
Suite 920
Chicago, Illinois 60606-2832

Phone: (312) 252-1500
Fax: (312) 252-2400
www.fletcher-sippel.com

AUDREY L. BRODRICK
(312) 252-1518
abrodric@fletcher-sippel.com

June 24, 2014

Mr. Tom Tidwell
Chief of the Forest Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20250-0003

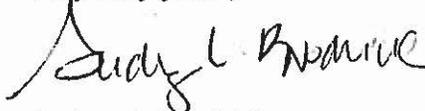
Re: Docket No. AB 303 (Sub No. 44X) –Wisconsin Central Ltd., Notice of
Exemption for Abandonment in Crandon/Argonne, Forest County,
Wisconsin

Dear Mr. Tidwell:

This is to inform you that pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50 (Exempt Abandonments and Discontinuance of Service and Trackage Rights), Wisconsin Central Ltd. shall, on or after July 7, 2014, file a Notice of Exemption with the Surface Transportation Board for approval to abandon approximately 6.4 miles of railroad line starting at MP 242.21 on the Pembine Sub (formerly milepost 243.00 on the old Shawano Sub) in or around Argonne, Forest County, Wisconsin and ending at MP 235.84 on the Pembine Sub (formerly milepost 249.38 on the Old Shawano Sub) in Crandon, Forest County, Wisconsin. Such line runs through U.S. Postal Zip Codes 54511 and 54520.

The exemption procedures set forth in § 1152.50 are being used in this case because no local traffic has moved over this line for at least two years and there is no overhead traffic that would have to be rerouted over other lines. Based on information in our possession, the line **does not** contain any federally granted rights-of-way. Any documentation in the railroad's possession will be made available promptly to those requesting it.

Very truly yours,



Audrey L. Brodrick
Counsel for Wisconsin Central Ltd.

ALB:dg

FLETCHER & SIPP LLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

29 North Wacker Drive
Suite 920
Chicago, Illinois 60606-2832

Phone: (312) 252-1500
Fax: (312) 252-2400
www.fletcher-sippel.com

AUDREY L. BRODRICK
(312) 252-1518
abrodrick@fletcher-sippel.com

June 24, 2014

National Park Service
Attention: Charlie Stockman
Org. 2220
1201 I (Eye) Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

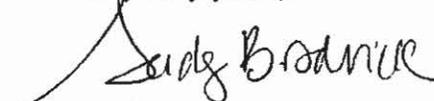
Re: Docket No. AB 303 (Sub No. 44X) –Wisconsin Central Ltd., Notice of
Exemption for Abandonment in Crandon/Argonne, Forest County,
Wisconsin

Dear Mr. Stockman:

This is to inform you that pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50 (Exempt Abandonments and Discontinuance of Service and Trackage Rights), Wisconsin Central Ltd. shall, on or after July 7, 2014, file a Notice of Exemption with the Surface Transportation Board for approval to abandon approximately 6.4 miles of railroad line starting at MP 242.21 on the Pembine Sub (formerly milepost 243.00 on the old Shawano Sub) in or around Argonne, Forest County, Wisconsin and ending at MP 235.84 on the Pembine Sub (formerly milepost 249.38 on the Old Shawano Sub) in Crandon, Forest County, Wisconsin. Such line runs through U.S. Postal Zip Codes 54511 and 54520.

The exemption procedures set forth in § 1152.50 are being used in this case because no local traffic has moved over this line for at least two years and there is no overhead traffic that would have to be rerouted over other lines. Based on information in our possession, the line **does not** contain any federally granted rights-of-way. Any documentation in the railroad's possession will be made available promptly to those requesting it.

Very truly yours,



Audrey L. Brodrick
Counsel for Wisconsin Central Ltd.

ALB:dg

FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

29 North Wacker Drive
Suite 920
Chicago, Illinois 60606-2832

Phone: (312) 252-1500
Fax: (312) 252-2400
www.fletcher-sippel.com

AUDREY L. BRODRICK
(312) 252-1518
abrodrick@fletcher-sippel.com

June 24, 2014

Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Bureau of Railroads and Harbors
4802 Sheboygan Ave.
P.O. Box 7910
Madison, WI 53707-7910

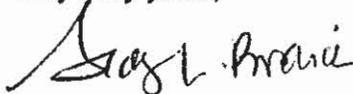
Re: Docket No. AB 303 (Sub No. 44X) –Wisconsin Central Ltd., Notice of
Exemption for Abandonment in Crandon/Argonne, Forest County,
Wisconsin

Dear Sir/Madam:

This is to inform you that pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50 (Exempt Abandonments and Discontinuance of Service and Trackage Rights), Wisconsin Central Ltd. shall, on or after July 7, 2014, file a Notice of Exemption with the Surface Transportation Board for approval to abandon approximately 6.4 miles of railroad line starting at MP 242.21 on the Pembine Sub (formerly milepost 243.00 on the old Shawano Sub) in or around Argonne, Forest County, Wisconsin and ending at MP 235.84 on the Pembine Sub (formerly milepost 249.38 on the Old Shawano Sub) in Crandon, Forest County, Wisconsin. Such line runs through U.S. Postal Zip Codes 54511 and 54520.

The exemption procedures set forth in § 1152.50 are being used in this case because no local traffic has moved over this line for at least two years and there is no overhead traffic that would have to be rerouted over other lines. Based on information in our possession, the line **does not** contain any federally granted rights-of-way. Any documentation in the railroad's possession will be made available promptly to those requesting it.

Very truly yours,



Audrey L. Brodrick
Counsel for Wisconsin Central Ltd.

ALB:dg

FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

29 North Wacker Drive
Suite 920
Chicago, Illinois 60606-2832

Phone: (312) 252-1500
Fax: (312) 252-2400
www.fletcher-sippel.com

AUDREY L. BRODRICK
(312) 252-1518
abrodrick@fletcher-sippel.com

June 13, 2014

Via E-mail (Kathleen.angel@wis.gov)
and U.S. Mail
Coastal Zone Management
Wisconsin Department of Administration
101 East Wilson Street
Madison, WI 53707
Attention: Kathleen Angel

Re: Docket AB 303 (Sub No. 44X)--Wisconsin Central Ltd.--Proposed
Abandonment in Forest County, Wisconsin

Dear Ms. Angel:

On or after July 3, 2014, Wisconsin Central Ltd. ("WCL") expects to file with the Surface Transportation Board a Notice of Exemption for the abandonment of WCL's railroad line extending from MP 242.21 on the Pembine Sub (formerly milepost 243.00 on the old Shawano Sub) in or around Argonne, Forest County, Wisconsin and ending at MP 235.84 on the Pembine Sub (formerly milepost 249.38 on the Old Shawano Sub) in Crandon, Forest County, Wisconsin, a distance of approximately 6.4 miles. Your review of and comments on this project were previously requested by letter dated April 7, 2014.

In accordance with 49 C.F.R. §§ 1105.7(b) and 1105.11, we are providing for your information the enclosed Environmental/Historic Report which will accompany the Notice of Exemption and which describes the proposed action and any expected environmental or historic effects. The Report also includes a map of the affected area.

We are providing this report so that you may review the information that will form the basis for the Board'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 Office of Environmental Analysis at the following address:

Surface Transportation Board
Office of Environmental Analysis
395 E Street, S.W., Room 1106
Washington, DC 20423-0001
(202) 245-0295

FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

Coastal Zone Management
Attention: Kathleen Angel
June 13, 2014
Page 2

Your comments should reference Docket No. AB-303 (Sub-No. 44X) and, if written, should include a copy to the undersigned. Because the applicable statutes and regulations impose stringent deadlines for processing this action, your written comments to the Office of Environmental Analysis would be appreciated within three weeks.

Your comments will be considered by the Board in evaluating the environmental and historic preservation impacts of the contemplated action. If there are any questions concerning this proposal, you should feel free to contact me directly at 312-252-1518. Thank you for your assistance on this matter. Kind regards.

Very truly yours,



Audrey L. Brodrick
Attorney for Wisconsin Central Ltd.

ALB:dg
Enclosure

Docket No. AB-303 (Sub-No. 44X)
Wisconsin Central Ltd.—Proposed Abandonment—near Crandon, Forest County, Wisconsin

SERVICE LIST

U.S. Army Corp of Engineers
St. Paul District (CEMVPA-PA)
190 Fifth Street East
St. Paul, MN 55101-1638

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Water
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Mr. Kenneth A. Westlake
Chief, NEPA Implementation Section
U.S. EPA Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60604

National Park Service
Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

National Geodetic Survey Information Services
Simon.Monroe@noaa.gov

Mr. David M. Kennedy
Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management
NOAA Ocean Service
1305 East-West Highway
Silver Springs, Maryland 20910

Mr. Gregory Hines
RC&D Coordinator
National Resource Conservation Service
3071 Voyager Drive, Suite E
Green Bay, WI 54311-8343

Mr. Rob Jaeger, Mayor of Crandon
601 W. Washington Street
P.O. Box 335
Crandon, WI 54520
mayor@cityofcrandon.com

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
2800 Lake Shore Drive East-Suite B
Ashland, WI 54806-2427

Jonathan.Simonsen@wisconsin.gov
Mr. Jon Simonsen, Environmental Review Coordinator
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Bureau of Energy, Transportation & Environmental Analysis
Central Office
PO Box 7921
Madison WI 53707-7921

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Northern Region
107 Sutliff Ave
Rhinelander, WI 54501

Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Hill Farms State Transportation Bldg.
4802 Sheboygan Avenue
P.O. Box 7910
Madison, WI 53707-7910

Wisconsin Department of Administration
P.O. Box 7868
101 East Wilson Street, 6th Floor
Madison, WI 53707-7868

Wisconsin Coastal Management Program
Department of Administration
P.O. Box 8944
101 East Wilson Street
Madison, WI 53708-8944

Wisconsin Historical Society
Division of Historic Preservation
Office of Preservation Planning
816 State Street
Madison, WI 53706

Paul Millan, Forest County Board Chairman
8490 Millan Rd
Armstrong Creek, Wisconsin 54103

Mr. Doug Huck
Attorney
FCPC Legal Department
P.O. Box 340
Crandon, WI 54520

NOTICE

Wisconsin Central Ltd. gives notice that on or after May 22, 2014 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 approximately 6.4 miles of railroad line starting at MP 242.21 on the Pembine Sub (formerly milepost 243.00 on the old Shawano Sub) in or around Argonne, Wisconsin and ending at MP 235.84 on the Pembine Sub (formerly milepost 249.38 on the Old Shawano Sub) in Crandon, Wisconsin and which traverses through United States Postal Service ZIP Codes 54511 and 54520 in Forest County, Wisconsin. The proceeding will be docketed as No. AB 303 (Sub-No. 44X).

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, 395 E. Street, SW., Washington, DC 20423 [See 49 CFR 1104.1(a) and 1104.3(a)], and one copy must be served on applicants' 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 202-245-0230. Copies of any comments or requests for conditions should be served on the applicant's representative: Fletcher & Sippel LLC, Attention: Audrey L. Brodrick, 29 N. Wacker Dr., Suite 920, Chicago, IL 60606.

LEGAL NOTICES

PUBLISHED HERE BECAUSE CITIZENS HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW—WNAXLP

DATED: March 19, 2014

Gray & Associates, L.L.P.
Attorneys for Plaintiff
18345 West Glendale Drive
New Berlin, WI 53151-2841
(414) 224-8404

Please go to www.gray-law.com to obtain the bid for this sale

John Dennee
Forest County Sheriff

Gray & Associates, L.L.P. is attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. If you have previously received a discharge in a chapter 7 bankruptcy case, this communication should not be construed as an attempt to hold you personally liable for the debt.

WNAXLP

TFR 5272014, 4/10/2014, 4/10/2014

Notice

Wisconsin Central Ltd. gives notice that on or after May 22, 2014 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 approximately 6.4 miles of railroad line starting at MP 242.21 on the Pembine Sub (formerly milepost 243.00 on the old Shawano Sub) in or around Argonne, Wisconsin and ending at MP 235.84 on the Pembine Sub (formerly milepost 249.38 on the Old Shawano Sub) in Crandon, Wisconsin and which traverses through United States Postal Service ZIP Codes 54511 and 54520 in Forest County, Wisconsin. The proceeding will be docketed as No. AB 303 (Sub-No. 44X).

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, 395 E. Street, SW., Washington, DC 20423 [See 49 CFR 1104.1(a) and 1104.3(a)], and one copy must be served on applicants' 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 202-245-0230. Copies of any comments or requests for conditions should be served on the applicant's representative: Fletcher & Sippel LLC, Attention: Audrey L. Brodrick, 29 N. Wacker Dr., Suite 920, Chicago, IL 60606.

WNAXLP

TFR 4/10/2014

Notice of Pending Application for Proposed Bridge

The Forest County Forestry Department, 200 E. Main St., Crandon, WI 54520 has applied to the Department of Natural Resources for a permit to construct a bridge over Little Papple River.

The project is located in the SE1/4 of the SE1/4 of Section 14, Township 38 North, Range 14 East, Town of Papple River, Forest County.

The project will consist of the reconstruction/repair of an existing snowmobile/ATV bridge across the Little Papple River. The bridge span will be shortened from 90 feet to 78 feet and will be reinstalled on top of 4 reinforced concrete piers/abutments. Approximately 350 square feet of wetlands will be impacted.

The Department will review the proposal provided by the applicant and any information from public comment and a public informational hearing, if requested. The Department will determine whether the proposal complies with ss. 1.11 and 30.123(8), Stats., and ch. NR 150, Wis. Adm. Code, and ensure that the required

30 days after the date this notice is published on the Department's website. If you are requesting a public informational hearing, the request must be emailed or postmarked within 20 days after the date this notice is published on the Department's website. A request for hearing must include the docket number or applicant name and specify the issues that the party desires to be addressed at the informational hearing.

If no hearing is requested, the Department may issue its decision without a hearing. If a public informational hearing is held, comments must be postmarked no later than 10 days following the date on which the hearing is completed.

The final decision may be appealed as indicated in the decision document.

Docket Number IP-NO-2014-21-00570

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
For the Secretary
Wendy Henniges
Water Management Specialist
April 1, 2014

WNAXLP

TFR 4/10/2014

Obits

Continued from Page 15

Edward Francis Breaker

Edward Francis Breaker passed away tragically on Thursday, April 3 at the age of 66.

Ed was born in Laona on Nov. 27, 1947, the oldest of seven children born to Eugene (Gene) Breaker and Audrey Whisman Breaker. He was a lifelong resident of Laona. He attended school in Laona and graduated from Laona High School in 1967. Ed was employed by the Connor Company mills in Laona until his retirement in 2008. This is over forty years of dedicated service. He will always be remembered as a hard worker who gave 110 percent.

Ed enjoyed life. He was a very happy-go-lucky man with a very unique sense of humor. Anyone who knew him liked him and they were the richer for having

per. He will be greatly missed.

Ed is survived by his mother, Audrey Breaker Ratty; three sisters, Vicki (Jim) Lemerande of Laona, Chris (Mike) Geske of Wabeno and Penny (Jack) Carter of Crandon; and three brothers, Eugene (Skeeter) and Paul Breaker of Laona and Joe (Sherri) Breaker of Phoenix, Ariz. He is also survived by his nieces and nephew whom he loved very much: Cory Lemerande, Tricia Rocole, Chad Lemerande, Courtney Hauser, Ashley Carter, Brittney Carter, Jake Geske, Emilee Breaker and Amanda Breaker.

He was preceded in death by his father, Gene Breaker; stepfather, Max Ratty; and nephew Travis Geske.

Visitation 19
on Tuesday, April 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the

I will no longer accept
I is currently in posses-
cash them in until Mid-
tokens will not be ac-

state of
er
of Wisconsin

in was filed.
2, 1937 and date of
led in Forest County,
ress of 8617 Wozniak

the decedent's estate
ty Courthouse, 200 E.

9 Sale
of Wisconsin
erger to Wells Fargo
Inc.

on Bank and Ridge-

r a judgment of fore-
nount of \$38,001.10
at public auction as

% of the successful
ash, cashier's check
ts (personal checks
e of the successful
, cashier's check or
ourt's confirmation
eferred to the plain-
il liens and encum-

ounty Courthouse

ted as Lot 2 of the
and Forest County
Southeast Quarter
Ship Thirty-four (34)
llows: Starting at a
y line crosses the
nsisting of an iron
ion along the Mari-
ess to a monument
h stake is situated
Westerly direction

Affidavit of Publication

The Forest Republican
Hank Murphy, Publisher
Phone (715) 528-3276 or 800 339-9080

The authorized representative, signed below, of The Forest Republican, a weekly newspaper, published in the City of Crandon, County of Forest and State of Wisconsin, does attest and swear that the notice or advertisement described herein was published in the full edition of said paper on the following date(s):

Edition of Paper
4/10/2014

Notice Published
Notice

Signed: Melissa Monte
Authorized Representative

Date: 4/10/14



Signed before me this 10 day of April, 2014 the
above named Melissa Monte

Christina Straley, Notary Public State of Wisconsin,
County of Forest

My commission expires: 04-07-17

**BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

DOCKET NO. AB-303 (SUB-NO. 44X)

**WISCONSIN CENTRAL LTD.
-- ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION --
IN FOREST COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

ENVIRONMENTAL/HISTORIC REPORT

Wisconsin Central Ltd. ("WCL") submits this Environmental/Historic Report in compliance with the reporting requirements of 49 C.F.R. §§ 1105.7 and 1105.8. Supporting correspondence is attached. It is the conclusion of this Report that the proposed abandonment, if implemented, will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

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

1. Proposed Action and Alternatives. WCL seeks to abandon a line of railroad, referred to herein as the "Line," extending from the northern edge of Prusinski Lane, at or about milepost 242.21 on the Pembine Sub (formerly milepost 243.00 on the old Shawano Sub) in or around Argonne, Forest County, Wisconsin and ending at milepost 235.85 on the Pembine Sub (formerly milepost 249.38 on the Old Shawano Sub) in Crandon, Forest County, Wisconsin, a distance of approximately 6.4 miles. A map showing the location of the Line is attached hereto as Appendix A. The track south of milepost 235.84 on the Pembine Sub was previously abandoned and sold for a trail under the Trails Act. See AB-303, Sub No. 29X.

There have been no rail shipments of any kind on the Line in the last two years, and no reasonable possibility for the development of new rail traffic exists. The railbed and



subgrade of the Line will remain in place and not be disturbed but the tracks, ties, and other track material will be salvaged. There are currently five public and two private grade crossings located on the Line. The public crossings are equipped with crossbucks only. Subsequent to abandonment, all grade crossings on the Line will be fully removed from the interstate network. There is one wooden trestle located on the Line where the Line crosses the Peshtigo River. The substructures of the trestle were built in 1970 and the superstructures were built in 1971 and accordingly the trestle is not a historic structure. The State Historic Preservation Office within the Wisconsin Historical Society (“SHPO”) has been notified of the proposed abandonment and responded that no historical properties will be affected by the proposed abandonment¹.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has expressed interest in using the abandoned corridor for trail purposes and WCL is working with the agency to develop that possibility.

WCL has contacted and requested comments from the Forest County Board as well as the Crandon Mayor. See correspondence attached herein as Appendix B. WCL received comments back from Badger Farm Rail LLC on behalf of the Mayor of Crandon and the Board Chairman of Forest County which raised issues related to the economic impact the proposed abandonment will have on the geographic area. See Appendix B. The response from Badger Farm Rail LLC did not raise any environmental or historic issues that are directly affected by the proposed abandonment nor are the issues relevant to the environmental impact of WCL's proposed abandonment.

¹ The only change in this Environmental and Historic Report from the Environmental and Historic previously served on the required parties on June 13, 2014, is that at the time the June 13, 2014 report was served, the Wisconsin SHPO had not yet substantively responded to WCL's proposed abandonment. Since that time, WCL has received correspondence from the Wisconsin SHPO concluding that no historical properties would be affected.

2. Transportation System. WCL does not anticipate that existing regional or local transportation systems or patterns will be affected by the proposed abandonment. No rail service is currently provided on the Line. Thus, no traffic will be diverted to other transportation systems or modes as a result of the proposed abandonment. There is no overhead traffic on the Line, and no passenger trains are operated over the Line. WCL does not anticipate that existing regional or local transportation systems or patterns will be adversely affected by the proposed abandonment since WCL believes that there has been no service over the Line for at least the last two years.

WCL has contacted and requested comments from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. Wisconsin Department of Transportation has responded to WCL's letter. See correspondence attached hereto as Appendix C. WCL will comply with all applicable rules and regulations when performing the abandonment and related activities and will employ good engineering practices. WCL will work with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for the possibility of developing the abandoned corridor for trail purposes.

3. Land Use.

(i) WCL does not foresee any inconsistency with regional and/or local land use plans, but has contacted and requested comments from the NOAA/National Geodetic Survey. The National Geodetic Survey has commented that one geodetic survey mark may be located on the Line. See correspondence attached herein as Appendix D. WCL will consult with the National Geodetic Survey prior to beginning salvage activities if such work will disturb any geodetic station marks.

(ii) WCL believes that the proposed abandonment of the Line will not affect any prime or unique agricultural land. WCL has contacted and requested comments from

the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture. See correspondence attached herein as Appendix E. WCL has received no comments to date.

(iii) This track does not appear to be within a designated Coastal Zone Management Area and, accordingly, the proposed abandonment will not affect any land or water uses in such an area or result in any coastal impacts. WCL has contacted the Office of Water at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to determine whether the proposed abandonment is consistent with applicable federal, state and local water quality standards. WCL has received no comments to date. See correspondence attached hereto as Appendix F. WCL also separately contacted the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Region 5 Office. See Appendix F. WCL has received no comments to date from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Region 5 Office. The rail and other salvageable materials will be removed from the Line subsequent to abandonment. WCL will follow all rules and regulations for the removal of such materials. The railbed will remain in place, and no re-grading will be done.

(iv) The right-of-way of the Line is suitable for an alternative public use under 49 U.S.C. § 10905 as a trail. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has expressed interest in using the abandoned corridor for use as a trail and WCL is exploring that as a possibility.

4. Energy.

(i) The proposed abandonment will not have any effect on the transportation of energy resources. No energy resource commodities move on the Line, and WCL foresees little or no possibility that such on-line traffic would develop in the future.

(ii) The movement and/or recovery of recyclable commodities will not be adversely affected by this abandonment. No recyclable commodities move over the Line, and

WCL foresees little possibility that any on-line recyclable commodity traffic would develop in the future.

(iii) Abandonment will not result in an increase or decrease in overall energy efficiency. There is no freight traffic on the Line, and thus, there will be no changes in existing transportation patterns or energy usage as a result of the proposed abandonment.

(iv) Not applicable. Abandonment of the Line will not cause the diversion of more than 1,000 rail carloads per year or an average of 50 rail carloads per mile per year to motor carriers.

5. Air.

(i) Not applicable. Abandonment will not result in (A) a minimum increase in rail traffic of 100% or eight trains per day on any segment of rail line, (B) an increase in rail yard activity of at least 100%, or (C) an average increase in truck traffic of more than 10% of the average daily traffic or 50 vehicles per day on any road segment.

(ii) Not applicable. Forest County is not a class I or nonattainment area under the Clean Air Act. In any event, abandonment of the Line will not result in traffic increases which exceed the thresholds specified in 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7(e)(5)(ii)(A), (B) or (C).

(iii) Not applicable. No ozone depleting materials are transported over the Line, and no such shipments would be diverted as a result of this abandonment.

WCL has contacted and requested comments from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has not yet responded. See Appendix F. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has responded. See Appendix G. WCL responded to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and provided the requested information. See Appendix G. To date,

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has not responded substantively to the proposed abandonment nor WCL's response letter.

6. Noise. Not applicable. As indicated above, none of the thresholds identified in 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7(e)(5)(i) will be exceeded as a result of the abandonment.

7. Safety.

(i) The proposed action will have no adverse effect upon public health or safety. All salvage activities will comply with all applicable rules and regulations.

(ii) Not applicable. No hazardous materials are transported on the Line, and in any event no such shipments would be diverted as a result of abandonment. Accordingly, the proposed abandonment will have no effect on the transportation of hazardous materials.

(iii) There are no known hazardous waste sites or sites where there have been known hazardous material spills on the right-of-way of the Line.

8. Biological Resources.

(i) The Line is located in a generally rural area in and around Crandon and Argonne, Wisconsin. After abandonment the track, ties and other track material will be salvaged and the railbed will remain in place. There is a potential for the abandoned corridor to be used for trail purposes. WCL thus does not believe that any critical habitat will be destroyed, altered or affected as a result of the proposed abandonment, or that any endangered or threatened species are present in the area or would be adversely affected. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has been contacted, and WCL has received no comments to date. See correspondence attached as Appendix H. WCL also has requested comments from the Wisconsin Department of Natural

Resources. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has not substantively responded to WCL's notification of the proposed abandonment. See correspondence attached as Appendix G.

(ii) The Line does not pass through or adjacent to any wildlife sanctuaries or refuges or any national or state parks or forests and, accordingly, none will be adversely affected. WCL has contacted and requested comments from the National Park Service, as set forth in Appendix I. WCL has received no comments from the National Park Service to date.

9. Water. WCL does not believe that there will be any water quality effects of the proposed abandonment because WCL does not intend remove the existing trestle on the Line, but will only remove the rails on the trestle as part of its salvage operations. Accordingly, WCL does not anticipate discharge of any materials into navigable waters that would require permits under Sections 402 and 404 of the Clean Water Act. Additionally, the Line does not appear to be within a Coastal Zone. To WCL's knowledge, there are no wetlands located in or along the right-of-way of the Line, and WCL is unaware of any 100-year flood plains that would be affected by abandonment.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been contacted. See correspondence attached hereto as Appendix J. WCL has received no comments from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has also been contacted and, to date, has not responded. See correspondence attached as Appendix H. Information on the proposed abandonment also has been provided to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. See correspondence attached as Appendices F and G, respectively. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency did not respond. See Appendix F. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources did respond through the Department of

Transportation and indicated that it is interested in using the Line for trail use. See Appendix C. The Department of Natural Resources has not otherwise substantively respond. See Appendix G. Consistent with its salvage operations, because the Line may be used for trail purposes in the future, the integrity of the trestle will not be disturbed but only the rail, ties and other track material will be removed.

HISTORIC REPORT - 49 C.F.R. § 1105.8(d)

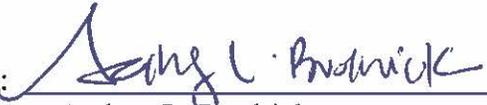
1. Map. A map of the Line is attached hereto as Appendix A.
2. Description of Line. The line to be abandoned begins from the northern edge of Prusinski Lane, at or about milepost 242.21 on the Pembine Sub (formerly milepost 243.00 on the old Shawano Sub) in or around Argonne, Forest County, Wisconsin and ending at milepost 235.85 on the Pembine Sub (formerly milepost 249.38 on the Old Shawano Sub) in Crandon, Forest County, Wisconsin, a distance of approximately 6.4 miles. The area around the Line is flat and generally rural. The width of the right-of-way is approximately 100 feet.
3. Photographs. Not applicable. There are no buildings, bridges or other structures on the Line which are fifty years old or older.
4. Information on Structures. Not applicable. There are no buildings, bridges or other structures on the Line which are fifty years old or older.
5. History of Operations. The Line was previously used for general freight traffic. There have been no rail shipments of any kind on the Line in the last two years, and no reasonable possibility for the development of new rail traffic exists.
6. Engineering Documents. WCL provide copies of any documents in its possession upon request.

7. Historic Criteria. WCL has contacted and requested comments from the State Historic Preservation Office within the Wisconsin Historical Society ("SHPO"). See correspondence attached as Appendix K². The SHPO has responded that no historical properties will be affected by WCL's proposed abandonment. See correspondence attached as Appendix K.

8. Ground Disturbances. WCL has reported there are no archaeological resources in the area. Access to the line is generally good.

Dated: July 8, 2014

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

Audrey L. Brodrick
Fletcher & Sippel LLC
29 North Wacker Drive, Suite 920
Chicago, Illinois 60606-2832
(312) 252-1500 Telephone
(312) 252-2400 Facsimile

Attorney for Wisconsin Central Ltd.

² Early in the abandonment process there was question as to whether a portion of the Line was on tribal property and that issue is evidenced in the communications with the WI SHPO office. WCL and the tribe's counsel have resolved this issue and it has been determined that the Line is not located on any tribal property.

**BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

DOCKET NO. AB-303 (SUB-NO. 44X)

**WISCONSIN CENTRAL LTD.
-- ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION --
IN FOREST COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

**APPENDICES TO
ENVIRONMENTAL/HISTORICAL REPORT**

Appendix

Map showing Line location	A
Forest County Board of Commissioners and Mayor of Crandon Notice and Response Letters	B
Wisconsin Department of Transportation Notice and Response Letters	C
NOAA/National Geodetic Survey Notice and Response Letters	D
Natural Resources Conservation Service Notice Letter.....	E
U.S. Environmental Protection Region 5 Agency Notice Letters	F
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Notice and Response Letters	G
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Notice Letter	H
National Park Service Notice Letter	I
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Notice Letter	J
Wisconsin Historical Society Notice and Response Letters	K
Certificate of Compliance with 49 C.F.R. § 1105	L

FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

29 North Wacker Drive
Suite 920
Chicago, Illinois 60606-2832

Phone: (312) 252-1500
Fax: (312) 252-2400
www.fletcher-sippel.com

AUDREY L. BRODRICK
(312) 252-1518
abrodick@fletcher-sippel.com

April 7, 2014

Mr. Paul Millan, Forest County Board Chairman
8490 Millan Road
Armstrong Creek, WI 54103

Re: Docket AB 303 (Sub No. 44X)-Wisconsin Central Ltd.--Proposed Abandonment
in Forest County, Wisconsin

Dear Mr. Millan:

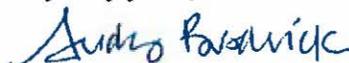
Wisconsin Central Ltd. ("WCL") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon approximately 6.4 miles of railroad line starting at MP 242.21 on the Pembine Sub (formerly milepost 243.00 on the old Shawano Sub) in or around Argonne, Forest County, Wisconsin and ending at MP 235.84 on the Pembine Sub (formerly milepost 249.38 on the Old Shawano Sub) in Crandon, Forest County, Wisconsin. For your convenience, we have attached a map for your reference. WCL is advising you of the proposed action so you may assist us in identifying any potential effects of the proposed action on, among other things, the following:

1. Water quality;
2. Designated wetlands;
3. 100-year old flood plains;
4. Endangered or threatened species;
5. Critical habitats;
6. Wildlife sanctuaries or refuges;
7. National or state parks or forests;
8. Coastal zone management;
9. Soil and natural resource conservations;
10. Agricultural land;
11. Regional and/or local use plans; and
12. The need or permits under Sections 402 or 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Because of the nature of the proposed action, we foresee no adverse effects. Nevertheless, we would appreciate your review and any comments you may wish to offer. We would appreciate a written response as soon as possible so that we may include it in the environmental report, which we will file with the STB. We intend on filing the Environmental Report in two weeks.

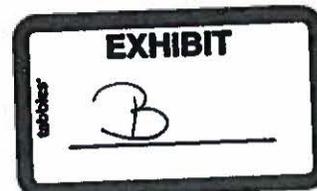
Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

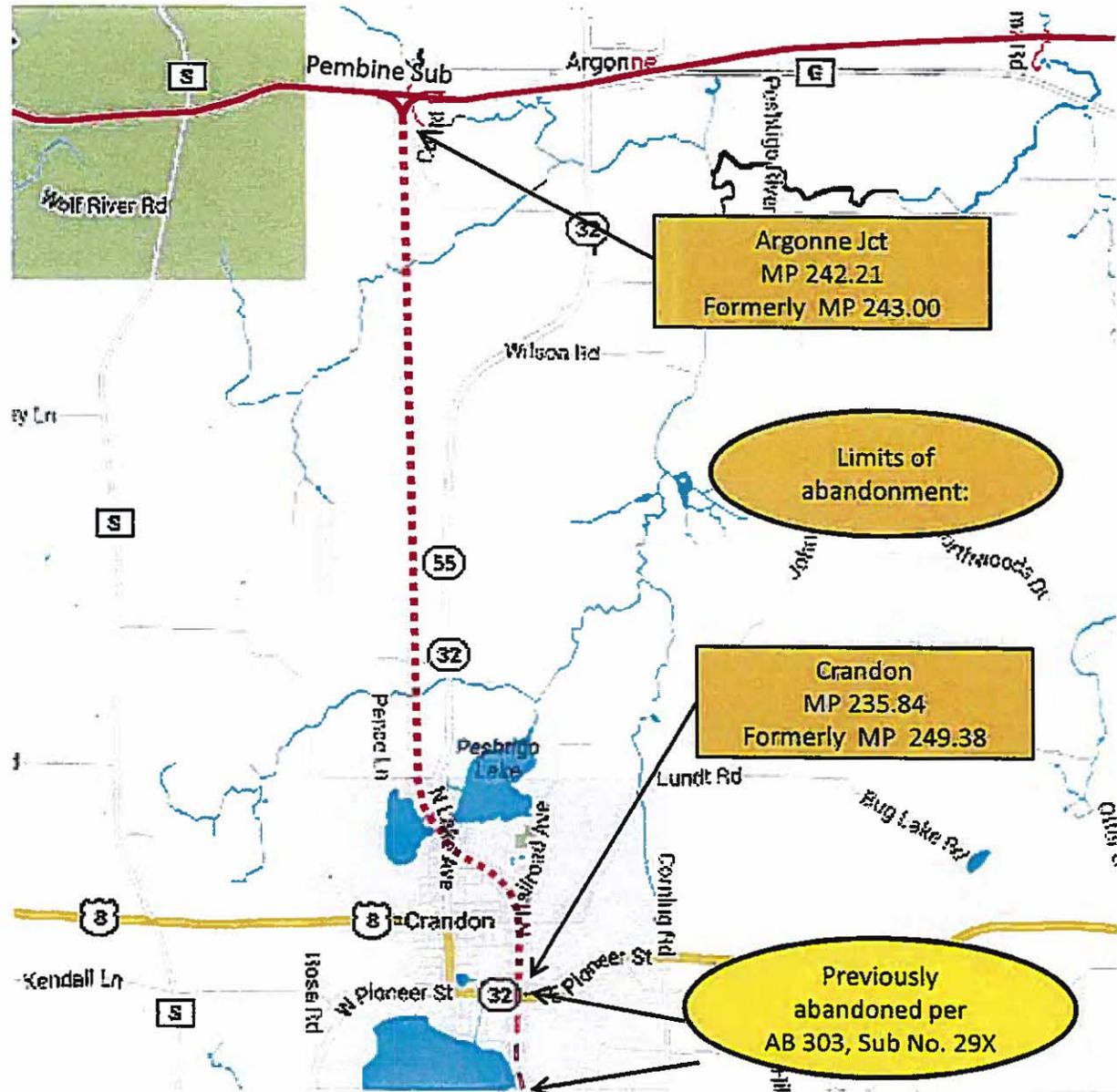


Audrey L. Brodrick
Counsel for Wisconsin Central Ltd.

ALB:dg
Enclosure



Map – Argonne Jct – Crandon, WI



FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

29 North Wacker Drive
Suite 920
Chicago, Illinois 60606-2832

Phone: (312) 252-1500
Fax: (312) 252-2400
www.fletcher-sippel.com

AUDREY L. BRODRICK
(312) 252-1518
abrodrick@fletcher-sippel.com

April 7, 2014

Mr. Rob Jaeger, Mayor of Crandon
601 West Washington Street
P.O. Box 335
Crandon, WI 54520

Re: Docket AB 303 (Sub No. 44X)—Wisconsin Central Ltd.—Proposed Abandonment
in Forest County, Wisconsin

Dear Mayor Jaeger:

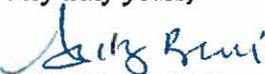
Wisconsin Central Ltd. ("WCL") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon approximately 6.4 miles of railroad line starting at MP 242.21 on the Pembine Sub (formerly milepost 243.00 on the old Shawano Sub) in or around Argonne, Forest County, Wisconsin and ending at MP 235.84 on the Pembine Sub (formerly milepost 249.38 on the Old Shawano Sub) in Crandon, Forest County, Wisconsin. For your convenience, we have attached a map for your reference. WCL is advising you of the proposed action so you may assist us in identifying any potential effects of the proposed action on, among other things, the following:

1. Water quality;
2. Designated wetlands;
3. 100-year old flood plains;
4. Endangered or threatened species;
5. Critical habitats;
6. Wildlife sanctuaries or refuges;
7. National or state parks or forests;
8. Coastal zone management;
9. Soil and natural resource conservations;
10. Agricultural land;
11. Regional and/or local use plans; and
12. The need or permits under Sections 402 or 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Because of the nature of the proposed action, we foresee no adverse effects. Nevertheless, we would appreciate your review and any comments you may wish to offer. We would appreciate a written response as soon as possible so that we may include it in the environmental report, which we will file with the STB. We intend on filing the Environmental Report in two weeks.

Thank you for your assistance.

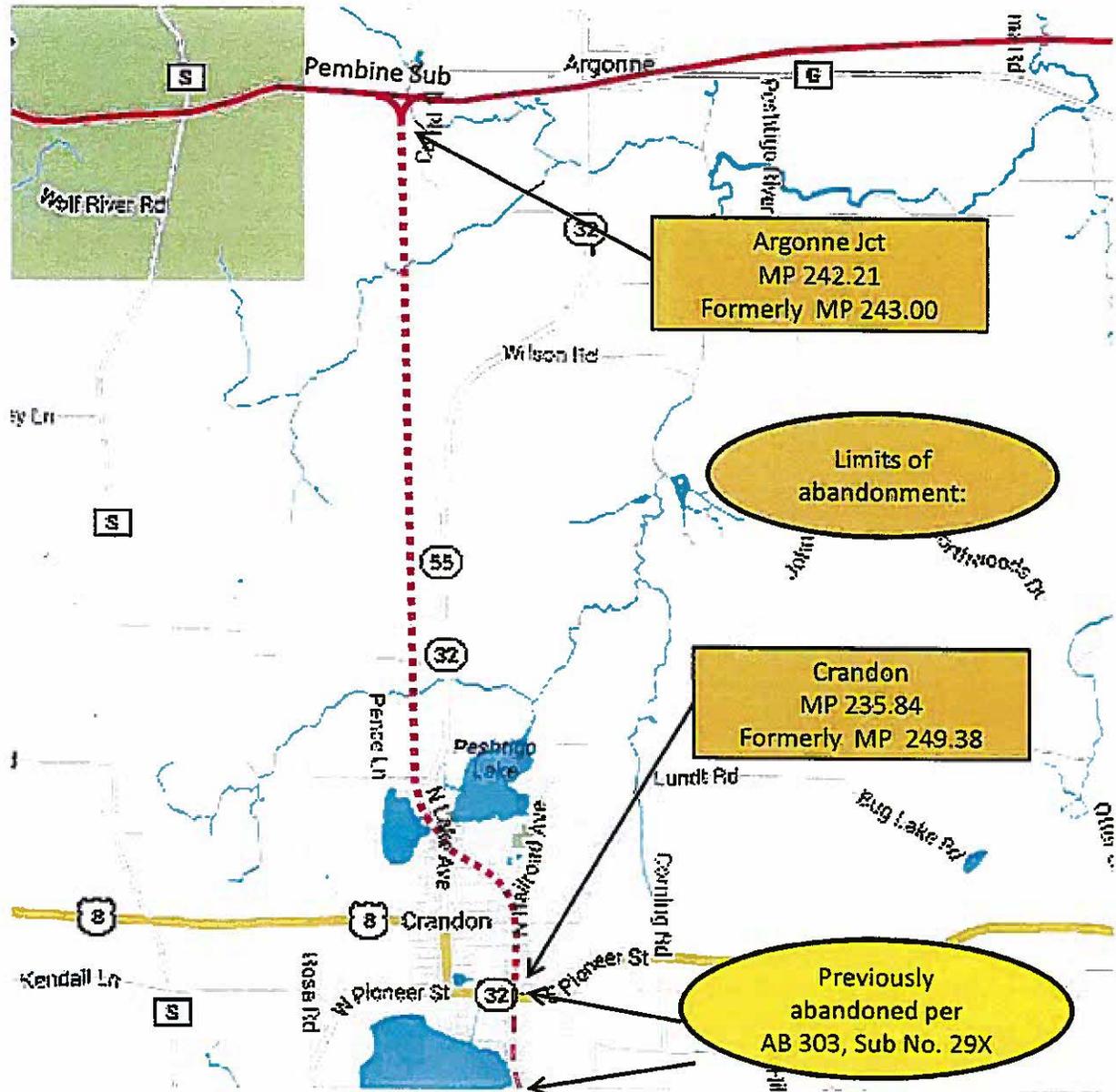
Very truly yours,



Audrey L. Brodrick
Counsel for Wisconsin Central Ltd.

ALB:dg
Enclosure

Map – Argonne Jct – Crandon, WI



BADGER FARMRAIL llc

412 N Park St
Reedsburg, WI 53959
P 608-572-2665
F 608-768-2665

April 15, 2014

Audrey L. Brodrick
Counsel for Wisconsin Central Ltd.
Fletcher & Sippel LLC
29 N Wacker Drive, Ste 920
Chicago, Illinois 60606-2832

Dear Attorney Brodrick,

The Forest County Economic Development Director, the Mayor of Crandon and the Board Chairman of Forest County kindly asked that I provide some input regarding the proposed abandonment of the Argonne to Crandon line. In the letters you sent, dated April 7th, 2014, 12 items were listed for consideration of potential effects of this action. We have addressed 5 of the 12 items on the list as follows:

1. Water quality in Northern Wisconsin is hard to manage because of the heavier snowfalls. While roads and highways require high volumes of salt, railroads do not. Additional highway improvements increases the level of sodium chloride in the water sources. By removing this railroad, our ability to regenerate the local economy decreases along with our potential to regenerate the quality of the water.
4. Endangered/threatened species. Local railroad shortline entrepreneurs are a threatened human species, and we have been working on reviving the spirit of that species through education and partnership making. Badger Farmrail, LLC has been working with local transportation companies, local shippers, and local businesses that can pool cargo and access global demand with the railroad, also while managing and sharing in the ownership and investment of the needed equipment.
7. National or state park forests - The Nicolet National Forest is a valuable sustainable forest that drives our local economy with tourism and industry. Abandoning this railroad would decrease the value of that resource, and tourism would be adversely affected when more businesses close by de facto.
10. Agricultural land - agricultural lands in the northwoods are used predominantly for forestry, and a portion for cropland and animal husbandry. Each of these agricultural land uses requires imported fertilizers, feeds, etc. while grains, meats, furs, logs, lumber, and other products need to be shipped out. Agricultural land use in this area will benefit when service to this line is restored.
11. Regional and/or local use plans - It is a city and county-wide effort to sustain the industries and cultures that define the northwoods. This includes healthy growth under smarter and more efficient economic development efforts. The local and regional land use plans and goals will be achieved to a greater extent when the service to this line is restored. Local and regional land use plans would suffer from its abandonment.

BADGER FARMRAIL llc

412 N Park St
Reedsburg, WI 53959
P 608-572-2665
F 608-768-2665

WCL may have assumed that CN doesn't provide service to this line anymore because the demand for its use is gone, but that isn't the case. The reason this line isn't in service anymore is only because it isn't in service. There is no other reason, and it's a poor reason. Abe Lincoln said "no other improvement equals in utility to the railroad", and his statement is still correct today. It will be even more correct tomorrow. It would be a shame for our northwoods to lose yet another valuable line when we have a chance at this time to increase its value.

I have been working with Connor logging, Flannery Trucking, Mihalko Trucking, Rosa Trailer, Domtar, Bemis and many other companies in the region, trying to figure what origin/destination pairs are (WCL advice), and what balanced freight could return (CN advice).

Empty/Load Ratios are too high, we can lower them. Density could be much higher, we could add some. Equipment needs to be handled locally, relationships need to be handled locally, and we can close the gap between the local market dynamics and the Class I feasibility. This gap is huge. WCL and CN have an opportunity to help spawn a shortline/terminal operator that understands both.

I strongly oppose the abandonment of MP 242.21 to MP 235.84 on the Pembine Subdivision.

Very truly yours,



Gatlin Fenwick, CGA
BADGER FARMRAIL, LLC

FLETCHER & SIPPET LLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

29 North Wacker Drive
Suite 920
Chicago, Illinois 60606-2832

Phone: (312) 252-1500
Fax: (312) 252-2400
www.fletcher-sippel.com

AUDREY L. BRODRICK
(312) 252-1518
abrodrick@fletcher-sippel.com

April 7, 2014

Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Hill Farms State Transportation Building
4802 Sheboygan Avenue
P.O. Box 7910
Madison, WI 53707-7910

Re: Docket AB 303 (Sub No. 44X)-Wisconsin Central Ltd.--Proposed Abandonment
in Forest County, Wisconsin

Dear Sir/Madam:

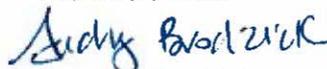
Wisconsin Central Ltd. ("WCL") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon approximately 6.4 miles of railroad line starting at MP 242.21 on the Pembine Sub (formerly milepost 243.00 on the old Shawano Sub) in or around Argonne, Forest County, Wisconsin and ending at MP 235.84 on the Pembine Sub (formerly milepost 249.38 on the Old Shawano Sub) in Crandon, Forest County, Wisconsin. For your convenience, we have attached a map for your reference. WCL is advising you of the proposed action so you may assist us in identifying any potential effects of the proposed action on, among other things, the following:

1. Water quality;
2. Designated wetlands;
3. 100-year old flood plains;
4. Endangered or threatened species;
5. Critical habitats;
6. Wildlife sanctuaries or refuges;
7. National or state parks or forests;
8. Coastal zone management;
9. Soil and natural resource conservations;
10. Agricultural land;
11. Regional and/or local use plans; and
12. The need or permits under Sections 402 or 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Because of the nature of the proposed action, we foresee no adverse effects. Nevertheless, we would appreciate your review and any comments you may wish to offer. We would appreciate a written response as soon as possible so that we may include it in the environmental report, which we will file with the STB. We intend on filing the Environmental Report in two weeks.

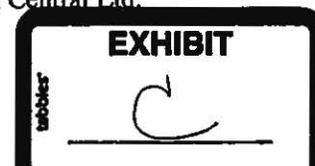
Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

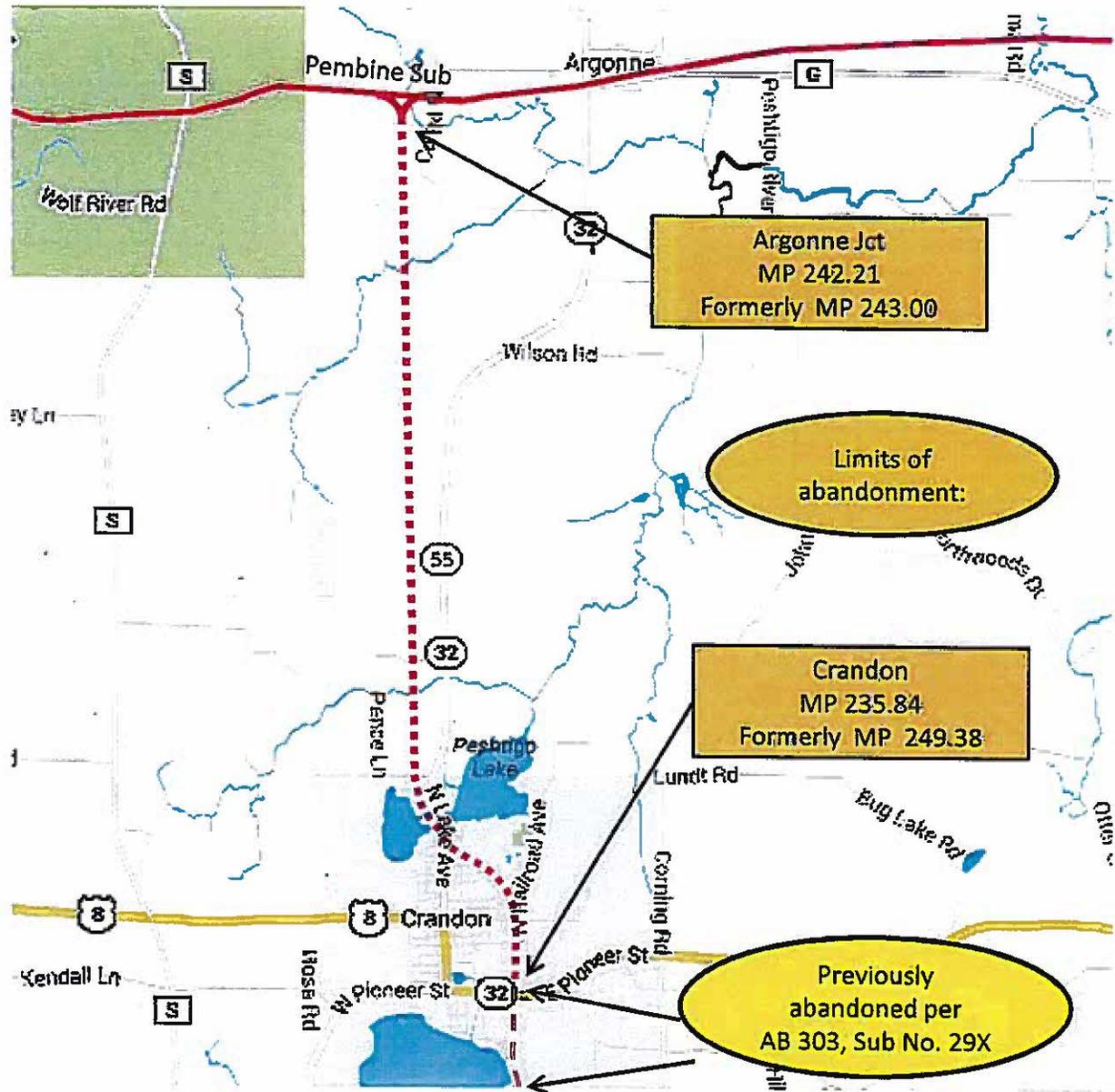


Audrey L. Brodrick
Counsel for Wisconsin Central Ltd.

ALB:dg
Enclosure



Map – Argonne Jct – Crandon, WI





Wisconsin Department of Transportation
www.dot.wisconsin.gov

Scott Walker
Governor

Mark Gottlieb, P.E.
Secretary

Office of General Counsel
4802 Sheboygan Ave., Rm. 115B
P.O. Box 7910
Madison, WI 53707-7910

Telephone: 608-266-8810
FAX: 608-267-6734
E-mail: ogc.exec@dot.wi.gov

April 23, 2014

Audrey L. Brodrick
Counsel for Wisconsin Central Ltd.
FLETCHER & SIPPEL, LLC
29 North Wacker Drive
Suite 920
Chicago, IL 60606-2832

Re: Wisconsin Central Ltd. Proposed Abandonment in Forest County, Wisconsin

Dear Ms. Brodrick:

This letter is a response to your letter dated April 7, 2014, notifying the Wisconsin Department of Transportation about proposed abandonment Docket No. AB 303 (Sub. No. 44X). At your request, the Docket was reviewed for potential effects of the proposed abandonment of approximately 6.4 miles of railroad line on the Pembine Sub, starting at MP 242.21 and ending at MP 235.84, in Crandon, Forest County, Wisconsin. Below are WisDOT's findings and recommendations:

As a multimodal agency, WisDOT would encourage the preservation of this transportation corridor consistent with existing land use plans and essential for efficient use of natural resources for future transportation needs if the line is abandoned. If the proposed section of line is abandoned, there is interest by WDNR for trail use.

If the line is abandoned, Wisconsin Central Ltd. must comply with the *WisDOT Abandoned Railroad Line Salvage and Clean-up Policy/Standards/Procedures* when performing abandonment and related activities. Please see Attachment 1 for a copy of this document. Additionally, surveying benchmarks, monumentation and mapping information for the segment need to be protected.

Upon abandonment, the railroad must remove any rail, ties and ballast at the crossings of the state highways. The railroad is required to obtain a permit from the WisDOT Regional Maintenance Section to work on highway right-of-way. The railroad will be responsible for traffic management during abandonment activities. The roadway shall be restored in like kind. Before crossings are removed across other streets and roadways, the railroad must contact the maintaining authority to coordinate work with them.

Please see Attachment 2 for a summary of other WisDOT identified potential environmental effects of the proposed action.

Audrey L. Brodrick
April 23, 2014
Page 2

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kathleen Chung".

Kathleen Chung
Attorney

cc: Frank Huntington
Bridget Brown
Steve Kienitz

ORIGINATOR
DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF RAILROADS AND HARBORS

Wisconsin Department of Transportation Abandoned Railroad Line Salvage and Clean-up Policy

PART ONE - GENERAL

SECTION I - PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVE

These procedures are for use by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) and local roadway authorities in working with railroads owning rail lines which have been authorized for abandonment or service discontinuation. These procedures are intended to accomplish the following:

1. Guide the preparation and development of site specific performance standards to be used in the salvage and clean-up of abandoned railroad lines.
2. Provide a process for railroads to consult with WisDOT during the preparation of a salvage/clean-up plan for a specific rail line, and the establishment of a time schedule for accomplishment and administration of the specific salvage/clean-up plan.
3. Direct the coordination of site reviews and inspections to facilitate the implementation of the salvage/clean-up operation and roadway/street/highway restoration, commencing with the pre-planning development stage through to post salvage/clean-up review.
4. Specify the terms for the issuance of written department documentation approving the salvage/clean-up plan and the final post-project acceptance.

SECTION II - BACKGROUND

Since the late 1970's more than 3000 miles of railroad lines have been abandoned in Wisconsin and the tracks removed. It is not unusual to find areas on these former rail

shall also include the addition or replacement of sidewalk, curb and gutter if present on the approaching roadway.

4. All railroad warning devices (flashing lights, advance warning signs, cross-arm gates, cross-bucks, etc) shall be removed, including posts, footings, foundations and related electrical equipment associated with any warning device.

5. Bridges not associated with water:

a. All railroad bridges over roadways shall be removed, including footings, foundations, backwalls, abutments.

b. If a roadway bridge over the railroad is owned and maintained by the railroad, it shall be removed as per 5a unless the road authority having jurisdiction for the roadway agrees in writing to accept ownership and maintenance of the structure.

c. If a roadway bridge over a railroad is owned by the railroad and maintained by the roadway authority, it shall be removed as per 5a at the joint expense of the railroad and roadway authority unless the roadway authority agrees to accept ownership of the structure.

d. Unless refuted by documentary evidence to the contrary, bridges ordered installed by a public regulatory body at railroad expense, but where the maintenance of the structure is unclear yet the structure has been included by the roadway authority in its mileage calculations for receipt of state road maintenance aids, shall be removed at the expense of the roadway authority unless the roadway authority accepts in writing ownership of the structure.

In cases where ownership is undocumented, acceptance of state road maintenance aids by the roadway authority, which included the bridge and the approaches to the mileage aids calculations, shall be defacto evidence of the roadway authority's ownership of the structure.

6. All bridges over water shall be removed to the level of the stream bed or lake floor. This removal shall include all footings, foundations, backwalls, abutments and piers.

7. All buildings and other structures shall be removed from the railroad property, including footings, foundations, retaining walls and piers.

8. All telegraph or signal communications poles and wire shall be removed from the corridor. Poles may be cut flush with the ground.

WisDOT is not obligated to make a determination of the state's interest in abandoned railroad property, nor issue a release statement, unless the abandoning railroad or other eligible entities file a qualified request in writing for such release. (See s.85.09(4), Wis. Stats.,)

3. The agreed upon salvage and clean-up plan may be altered or modified by mutual written agreement to handle unforeseen circumstances such as extreme weather conditions which could affect the implementation or operation activities of the salvage and clean-up work

PART THREE - IMPLEMENTATION

SECTION I - PLANNING AND DESIGN

A. ROLE COORDINATION

Three groups have a major role in the salvage/clean-up of an abandoned railroad line, the railroad abandoning the rail line, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and the local road authorities.

The salvage of the rail lines is usually performed by a individual/company under contract with the owning railroad. This contractor often subcontracts with others to perform specific portions of the salvage and clean-up work. It is the responsibility of the railroad to contract for and monitor its agents, contractors and assigns, to ascertain that the standards of performance set forth in these guidelines or as agreed to in writing between the parties in the specific salvage/clean-up plan, are adhered to, and fulfilled.

The role of each group is as follows:

1. The railroad and its agents, contractors and assigns, shall:

a. Participate in an on-site inspection of the abandoned railroad property as arranged by WisDOT for the purpose of developing a site specific salvage and clean-up plan, including but not limited to, the scope of work and specifications.

b. Provide map(s) of the abandoned property which adequately locate the railroad property, roadway crossings, bridges, buildings, etc., by reference points, identification numbers or other familiar methods of identification.

c. Participate in the preparation of the "railroad abandonment salvage and clean-up disposition form" with WisDOT and the local roadway authority. This form will set forth the project method, process, work scope and project timing as agreed to by

3. The local roadway authorities, their agents and assigns, shall have sole jurisdiction over matters pertaining to salvage and clean-up of roadway crossings under its jurisdiction, unless such authority has been delegated in writing to WisDOT. The local roadway authority shall:

a. Discuss with a WisDOT representative, prior to on-site inspections of the abandoned salvage and clean-up operation, the specifications for restoration work or vehicular traffic control desired by the roadway authority.

b. Determine if it will delegate its authority regarding the restoration work on the salvage and clean-up operations to WisDOT.

c. If authority regarding the restoration work on the salvage and clean-up operations is not delegated to WisDOT, meet with the railroad, its agents, contractors and assigns, and with WisDOT at each roadway crossing under its jurisdiction to prepare the project method, process, work scope, timing and special conditions, together with preparing the "railroad abandonment salvage and clean-up disposition form".

d. At its option, conduct progress inspections of the removal, clean-up and restoration work.

e. Provide written notice to the railroad, its agents, contractors and assigns of defective and deficient work, and shall provide timely written acknowledgment to the railroad, et al, when the corrective action has been satisfactorily performed.

f. Provide written notification to the railroad, et al, if the work is acceptable upon the completion of the railroad abandonment salvage and clean-up project.

g. Provide the railroad, et al, with written notification delivered by certified mail, if the final work for completion of the railroad abandonment salvage and clean-up project *is unacceptable*. The notification that the final project is unacceptable shall contain a detailed list of all defective and deficient work remaining. A copy of this notification should be forwarded to the local roadway authority's legal counsel.

B. SALE OF PROPERTY BY RAILROAD **AFTER ABANDONMENT**

Before clean-up and removal of track can commence, railroads shall inform WisDOT of any property it proposes to sell to others. "No person owning abandoned rail property, including any person to whom ownership reverts upon abandonment, may convey or dispose of any abandoned rail property without first obtaining a written release from the

- f. Disposition of signal and railroad warning devices;
- g. Removal of buildings and other structures;
- h. Removal of telegraph or signal communication facilities;
- i. Removal of all other waste or debris on the railroad corridor;
- j. Traffic control methodology developed for control at each crossing;
- k. Erosion control steps for appropriate sites;
- l. The time schedule for accomplishing the salvage and clean-up operation;
- m. Any specific environmental challenges and considerations;
- n. First right releases as appropriate.

5. A separate "railroad abandonment salvage and clean-up disposition form" shall be completed for each roadway crossing and signed by representatives from the railroad, local roadway authority as appropriate, and WisDOT. WisDOT will prepare the subject form for all state and federal highways, and if requested, will assist the local roadway authorities with the preparation of the subject forms for roadway crossing within the appropriate local roadway jurisdictions.

6. The railroad shall provide plat(s), map(s), track chart(s) or other appropriate documentation, which adequately locates the various components set forth in Part Three-Section I (C) above. Such documentation shall become a part of the salvage and clean-up plan.

SECTION II - IMPLEMENTATION

A. PLAN APPROVAL, MODIFICATION AND NOTICES

1. Upon completion of the plan and the appropriate "railroad abandonment salvage and clean-up disposition forms", together with the plats, maps and other documents used to accurately locate the various components and specific sites on the project, WisDOT will execute a letter of approval of the salvage and clean-up plan. (This letter of approval will not cover local roadway items unless the local roadway authority(s) has delegated its authority to WisDOT or has notified WisDOT in writing of its approval of those items under its jurisdiction.) WisDOT will deliver a copy of this approval letter, together with a copy of the plan, forms and plats/maps to the railroad and the local roadway authorities as appropriate.

2. No term or provision of the final approved salvage and clean-up plan, including attached documents, may be changed, waived, discharged or terminated orally, but require a written letter from WisDOT. Consents and approvals required, and interpretations of the plan may be made or granted by letter, or by an exchange of letters between the parties.

D. OBLIGATION OF RAILROAD RELATIVE TO IMPLEMENTATION DELAYS

It is the public objective that the salvage and clean-up of abandoned rail lines commence as soon as possible after the decision or authority to abandon a rail line has been determined. This policy is intended to minimize safety, transportation and environmental challenges which could arise by delay. Nevertheless, there may exist reasonable corporate reasons for delaying the start-up and implementation of the salvage and clean-up operations.

After notification has been received from either regulatory or judicial authority authorizing abandonment or discontinuance of service over a rail line, a railroad shall be required to continue to properly maintain all roadway crossings for the safety of the traveling public. Within 90 days after receiving said notification of abandonment, if the railroad has not commenced a WisDOT approved salvage and clean-up operation, the railroad shall erect signs at all public road crossings notifying the public that the rail line is "abandoned".

It is the public objective that the salvage and clean-up operation be completed within 12 months of the approval of the final plan.

SECTION III - CLOSEOUT

SALVAGE AND CLEAN-UP PROJECT CLOSE OUT

1. At the time the railroad determines that the salvage and clean-up operation on the entire line is completed (except for elements that may still be in dispute), the railroad shall in accordance with Part Three - Section II, (A) Notices, notify WisDOT (and the local roadway authority(s) as appropriate) that it is requesting a final inspection of the project.

2. WisDOT (and the local roadway authority(s) as appropriate), shall within 30 days of receipt of the foregoing final inspection request:

- a. conduct a final inspection of the work performed, and
- b. provide the railroad with a written acceptance (or denial of acceptance) report.

Unless snow cover or flooding makes a final inspection impossible, failure to conduct a final inspection or failure to provide written acceptance (or denial of acceptance) within



Wisconsin Department of Transportation

Tommy G. Thompson
Governor

Charles H. Thompson
Secretary



January 1, 1998

SAMPLE LETTER

Division of Transportation
Infrastructure Development
Bureau of Railroads and Harbors
4802 Sheboygan Avenue, 155B
P O Box 7914
Madison, WI 53707-7914

Telephone: (608) 267-7348
Facsimile (FAX): (608) 267-3567

Mr. Railroad Official, (Appropriate Title)
(Name of Railroad Company)
(Street Address or PO Box)
(City, State and Mailing Zip Code)

Dear (Railroad Official):

On behalf of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (and local roadway authority if applicable), we hereby acknowledge receipt and acceptance of your salvage and clean-up plan which was presented on (insert appropriate date) for the railroad line between (insert appropriate termini point) and (insert appropriate termini point) in the County(s) of (insert the names of the appropriate counties).

All of the standards, conditions and methods incorporated in the plan are found to be acceptable, or if appropriate use the following sentence

All of the standards, conditions and methods incorporated in your plan are found to be acceptable except for item(s) (insert appropriate specific items that are not acceptable). (Insert name of individual) from this department will be in contact with you shortly to work out a mutually acceptable solution.

We look forward to working cooperatively with you and your company. We hope that the clean-up, salvage and restoration operation will be commenced and completed in a timely, efficient fashion.

Sincerely,

(Name of appropriate WisDOT Official)

cc: (Local officials as appropriate)
(Appropriate DOT staff)
(Others as appropriate)

Encl: Approved Salvage/Clean-Up Plan

CONTINUATION SHEET
RAILROAD ABANDONMENT
SALVAGE AND CLEAN-UP

ELEMENT LOCATION: Describe the specific location of the element involved. If more than one location under consideration for the work plan, describe each in a separate description. (Attach additional sheets as needed)

Work Plan: Describe action to be taken, by whom and when. Include appropriate measurements, starting and ending points. Describe materials, type of process or workmanship for work to be done as appropriate. List specific environmental considerations, if any. (Attach additional sheets as needed)

Date: _____ Page _____ of _____ Pages
Attachment No. 2



Wisconsin Department of Transportation

Tommy G. Thompson
Governor

Charles H. Thompson
Secretary



Division of Transportation
Infrastructure Development
Bureau of Railroads and Harbors
4802 Sheboygan Avenue, 155B
P O Box 7914
Madison, WI 53707-7914

January 1, 1998

SAMPLE LETTER

Telephone: (608) 267-7348
Facsimile (FAX): (608) 267-3567

Mr. Railroad Official, (Appropriate Title)
(Name of Railroad Company)
(Street Address or PO Box)
(City, State and Mailing Zip Code)

Dear (Railroad Official):

Your request for final approval of the salvage, clean-up and restoration work on the (name of appropriate railroad line) was been received by this office on (insert date)

On (date) (name of appropriate WisDOT Official) conducted a (joint) final inspection of the property with (put in appropriate names and organization) and found that everything set forth in the initial salvage/clean-up plan has been accomplished with the exception of the following (put in number) items which need correction:

- a. (insert appropriate item)
- b. (insert appropriate item)
- c. etc.

You were notified on (date) that you had thirty (30) days in which to correct the defects and deficiencies noted. On (date), (put in appropriate name) of this office reinspected the property and found that the defects and deficiencies had not yet been corrected. Will you please advise me when you expect to have the needed corrections completed so that this project may be closed out in a timely fashion.

or if appropriate use the following sentence

You were notified on (date) that you had 30 days in which to correct the defects and deficiencies noted. On (date), (put in appropriate name) of this office reinspected the property and found that the defects and deficiencies still remained to be corrected. Two follow-up letters were sent to your office and there has been no response. Several telephone messages were also left with your office, but no messages returned. We would like to have this matter resolved in a mutually cooperative and timely manner. Please contact (put in name of individual) within the next three days.

Sincerely,

(Name of appropriate WisDOT Official)

cc: (Local officials as appropriate)
(Appropriate DOT staff)
Others as Appropriate)

Encl: Worksheet of Deficiencies

Attachment 2

Summary of WisDOT identified potential environmental effects;

- **Potential need for continued rail service – new industry;**
None Identified.
- **Need for the railroad right of way for road, airport or other transportation improvements;**
None reported.
- **Known hazardous material sites;**
There are two known sites near the proposed abandonment:
Former Petrouka Oil Bulk Plant - BRRS Number: 02-21-556284
Leah White shop - BRRS number: 03-21-220899
- **Known sensitive areas (streams, wetlands, etc.)**

ASNRI Endangered Threatened or Special Concern Waters (7)
Floodplain Analysis Lines (7)
ASNRI Endangered Threatened or Special Concern Lakes (3)
ASNRI State Natural Areas (1)
County Boundary (1)
Cities, Towns & Villages (6)
Floodplain Analysis Points (3)
Rivers and Streams (25)
Open Water (31)
County Boundaries (1)
ASNRI Outstanding and Exceptional Streams (2)

- **The potential for trail usage (based on known local unit or DNR expressions of interest);**
The Wisconsin DNR is interested in the corridor for trail purposes.
- **Regional or local land use plans;**
Town of Argonne:
Existing land uses along corridor: Grassland, woodland and agricultural
Future land uses along corridor: Agricultural, rural residential

City of Crandon:
Existing land uses along corridor: Residential, woodlands, industrial, governmental
Future land uses along corridor: Forestry, industrial, residential, commercial
- **Known archaeological or historically significant sites;**
No cultural resources identified within the proposed 6.4 miles of abandonment.

FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

29 North Wacker Drive
Suite 920
Chicago, Illinois 60606-2832

Phone: (312) 252-1500
Fax: (312) 252-2400
www.fletcher-sippel.com

AUDREY L. BRODRICK
(312) 252-1518
abrodrick@fletcher-sippel.com

April 7, 2014

National Geodetic Survey Information Services
Simon.Monroe@noaa.gov
Mr. David M. Kennedy
Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management
NOAA Ocean Service
1305 East-West Highway
Silver Springs, Maryland 20910

Re: Docket AB 303 (Sub No. 44X)--Wisconsin Central Ltd.--Proposed Abandonment
in Forest County, Wisconsin

Dear Sir/Madam:

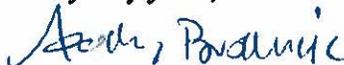
Wisconsin Central Ltd. ("WCL") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon approximately 6.4 miles of railroad line starting at MP 242.21 on the Pembine Sub (formerly milepost 243.00 on the old Shawano Sub) in or around Argonne, Forest County, Wisconsin and ending at MP 235.84 on the Pembine Sub (formerly milepost 249.38 on the Old Shawano Sub) in Crandon, Forest County, Wisconsin. For your convenience, we have attached a map for your reference. WCL is advising you of the proposed action so you may assist us in identifying any potential effects of the proposed action on, among other things, the following:

1. Water quality;
2. Designated wetlands;
3. 100-year old flood plains;
4. Endangered or threatened species;
5. Critical habitats;
6. Wildlife sanctuaries or refuges;
7. National or state parks or forests;
8. Coastal zone management;
9. Soil and natural resource conservations;
10. Agricultural land;
11. Regional and/or local use plans; and
12. The need or permits under Sections 402 or 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Because of the nature of the proposed action, we foresee no adverse effects. Nevertheless, we would appreciate your review and any comments you may wish to offer. We would appreciate a written response as soon as possible so that we may include it in the environmental report, which we will file with the STB. We intend on filing the Environmental Report in two weeks.

Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

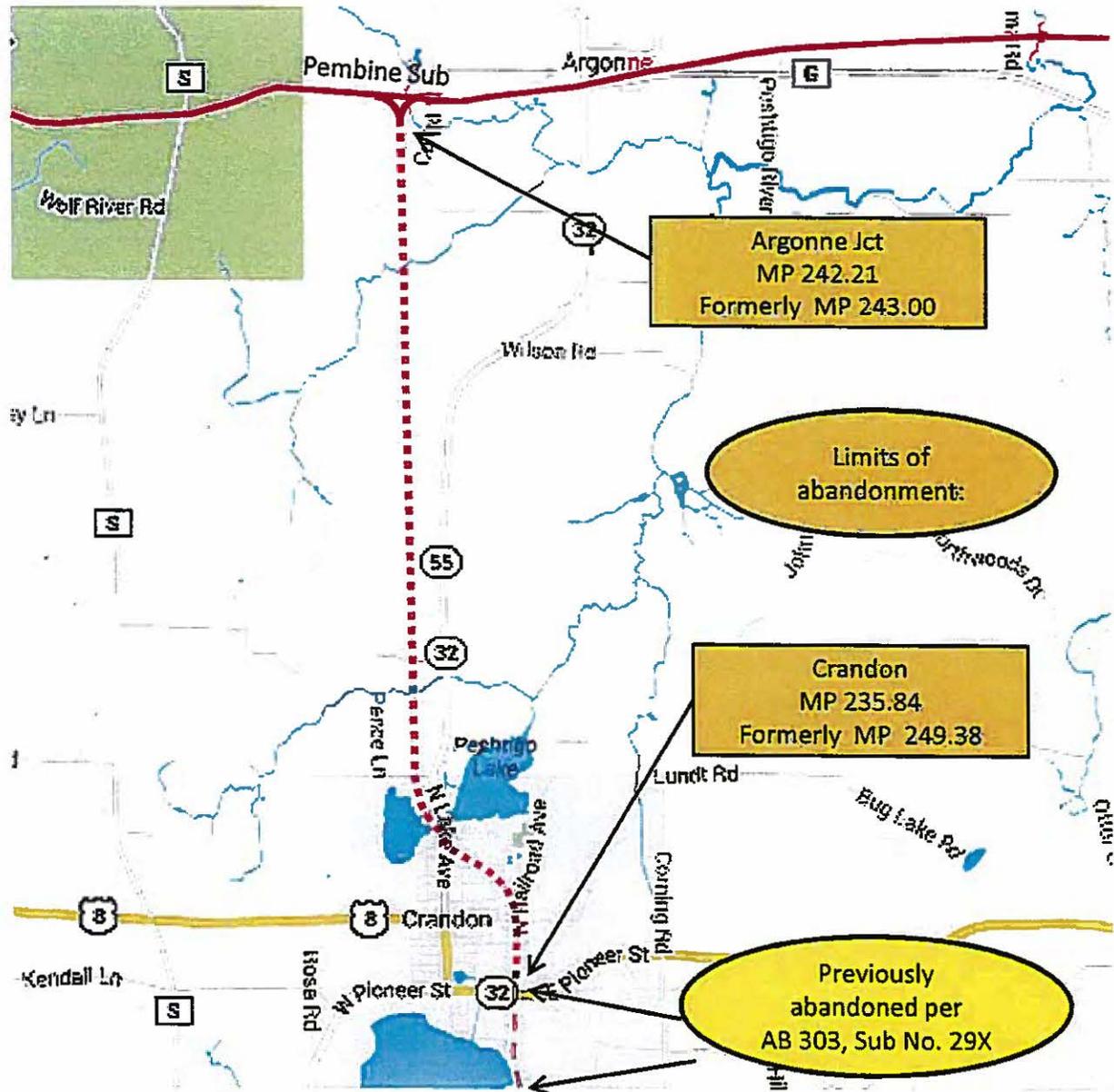


Audrey L. Brodrick
Counsel for Wisconsin Central Ltd.

ALB:dg
Enclosure



Map – Argonne Jct – Crandon, WI



-----Original Message-----

From: Simon Monroe [<mailto:simon.monroe@noaa.gov>]

Sent: Monday, June 09, 2014 3:48 PM

To: Audrey Brodrick

Cc: Surface Transportation Board; john.ellingson@noaa.gov; Lucy Hall - NOAA Federal; Simon Monroe

Subject: NGS Response, STB Docket AB-303 (SUB NO. 044X)

Thank you for sharing your railroad abandonment environmental report for

ARGONNE/CRANDON, Forest County, WISCONSIN.

Approximately 01 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/>

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

]....|QM0536|. 1|88/ADJUSTED|N453511.....|W0885418.....|B...|G|Q 226

FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

29 North Wacker Drive
Suite 920
Chicago, Illinois 60606-2832

Phone: (312) 252-1500
Fax: (312) 252-2400
www.fletcher-sippel.com

AUDREY L. BRODRICK
(312) 252-1518
abrodric@fletcher-sippel.com

April 7, 2014

Mr. Gregory Hines
RC&D Coordinator
National Resource Conservation Service
3071 Voyager Drive, Suite E
Green Bay, WI 54311-8343

Re: Docket AB 303 (Sub No. 44X)-Wisconsin Central Ltd.--Proposed Abandonment
in Forest County, Wisconsin

Dear Mr. Hines:

Wisconsin Central Ltd. ("WCL") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon approximately 6.4 miles of railroad line starting at MP 242.21 on the Pembine Sub (formerly milepost 243.00 on the old Shawano Sub) in or around Argonne, Forest County, Wisconsin and ending at MP 235.84 on the Pembine Sub (formerly milepost 249.38 on the Old Shawano Sub) in Crandon, Forest County, Wisconsin. For your convenience, we have attached a map for your reference. WCL is advising you of the proposed action so you may assist us in identifying any potential effects of the proposed action on, among other things, the following:

1. Water quality;
2. Designated wetlands;
3. 100-year old flood plains;
4. Endangered or threatened species;
5. Critical habitats;
6. Wildlife sanctuaries or refuges;
7. National or state parks or forests;
8. Coastal zone management;
9. Soil and natural resource conservations;
10. Agricultural land;
11. Regional and/or local use plans; and
12. The need or permits under Sections 402 or 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Because of the nature of the proposed action, we foresee no adverse effects. Nevertheless, we would appreciate your review and any comments you may wish to offer. We would appreciate a written response as soon as possible so that we may include it in the environmental report, which we will file with the STB. We intend on filing the Environmental Report in two weeks.

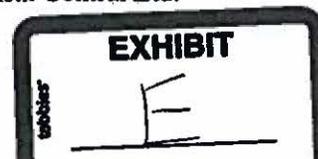
Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

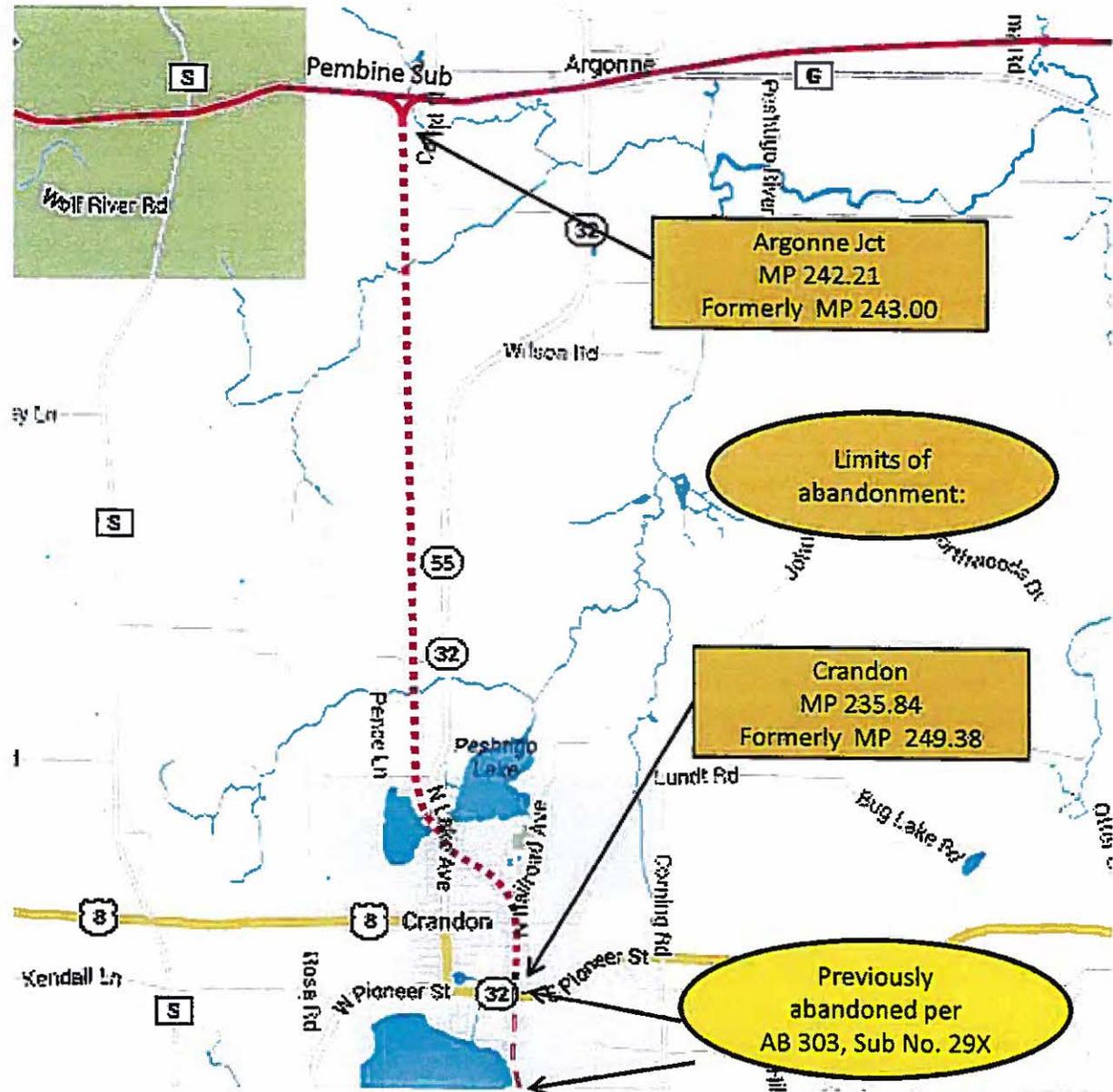


Audrey L. Brodrick
Counsel for Wisconsin Central Ltd.

ALB:dg
Enclosure



Map – Argonne Jct – Crandon, WI



FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

29 North Wacker Drive
Suite 920
Chicago, Illinois 60606-2832

Phone: (312) 252-1500
Fax: (312) 252-2400
www.fletcher-sippel.com

AUDREY L. BRODRICK
(312) 252-1518
abrodrick@fletcher-sippel.com

April 7, 2014

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Water
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Re: Docket AB 303 (Sub No. 44X)-Wisconsin Central Ltd.--Proposed Abandonment
in Forest County, Wisconsin

Dear Sir/Madam:

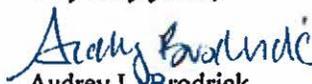
Wisconsin Central Ltd. ("WCL") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon approximately 6.4 miles of railroad line starting at MP 242.21 on the Pembine Sub (formerly milepost 243.00 on the old Shawano Sub) in or around Argonne, Forest County, Wisconsin and ending at MP 235.84 on the Pembine Sub (formerly milepost 249.38 on the Old Shawano Sub) in Crandon, Forest County, Wisconsin. For your convenience, we have attached a map for your reference. WCL is advising you of the proposed action so you may assist us in identifying any potential effects of the proposed action on, among other things, the following:

1. Water quality;
2. Designated wetlands;
3. 100-year old flood plains;
4. Endangered or threatened species;
5. Critical habitats;
6. Wildlife sanctuaries or refuges;
7. National or state parks or forests;
8. Coastal zone management;
9. Soil and natural resource conservations;
10. Agricultural land;
11. Regional and/or local use plans; and
12. The need or permits under Sections 402 or 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Because of the nature of the proposed action, we foresee no adverse effects. Nevertheless, we would appreciate your review and any comments you may wish to offer. We would appreciate a written response as soon as possible so that we may include it in the environmental report, which we will file with the STB. We intend on filing the Environmental Report in two weeks.

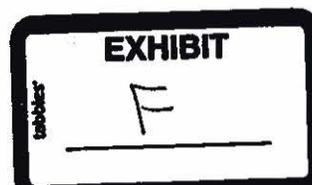
Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

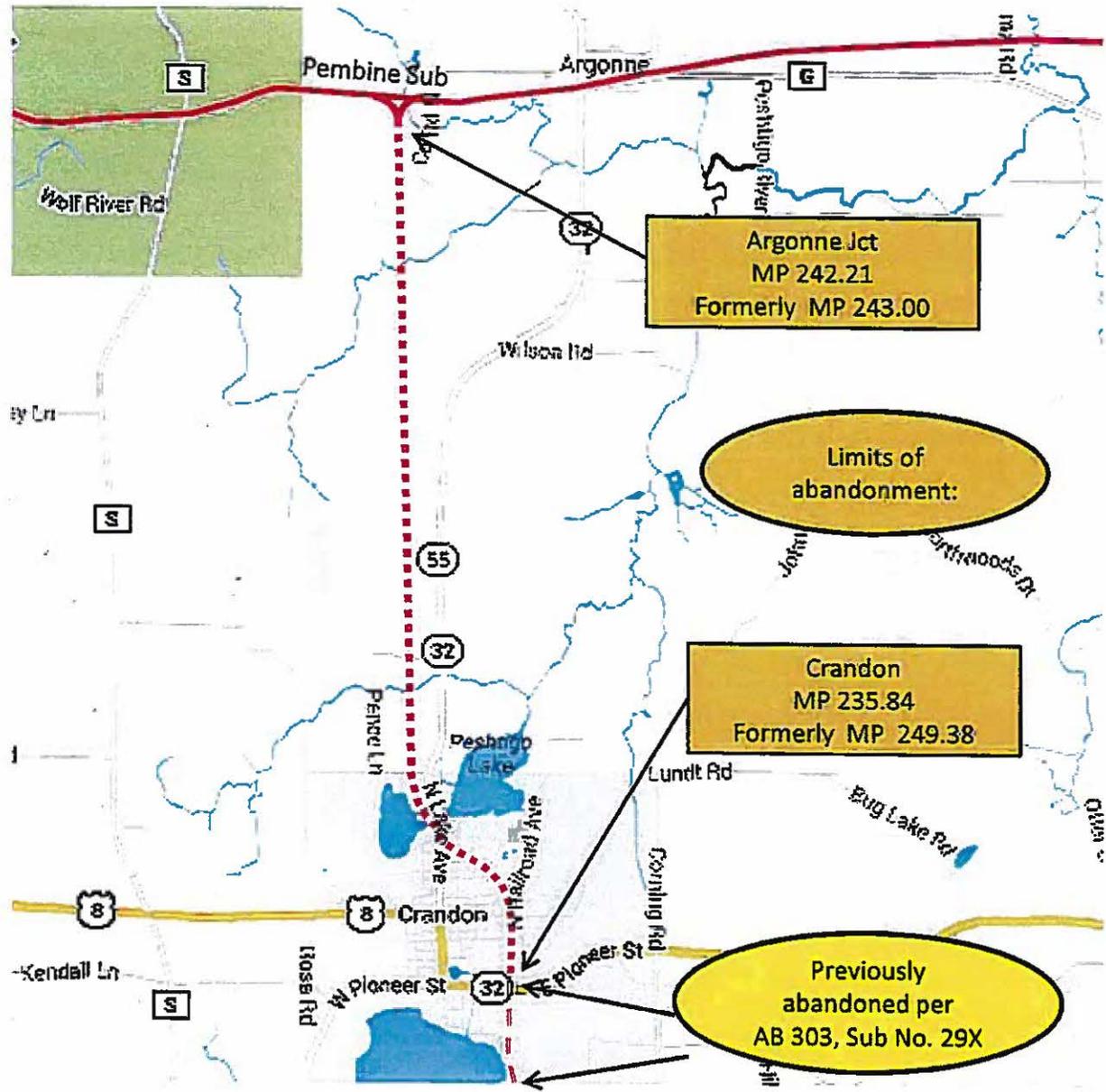


Audrey L. Brodrick
Counsel for Wisconsin Central Ltd.

ALB:dg
Enclosure



Map – Argonne Jct – Crandon, WI



FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

29 North Wacker Drive
Suite 920
Chicago, Illinois 60606-2832

Phone: (312) 252-1500
Fax: (312) 252-2400
www.fletcher-sippel.com

AUDREY L. BRODRICK
(312) 252-1518
abrodrick@fletcher-sippel.com

April 7, 2014

Mr. Kenneth A. Westlake
Chief, NEPA Implementation Section
U.S. EPA Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60604

Re: Docket AB 303 (Sub No. 44X)-Wisconsin Central Ltd.--Proposed Abandonment
in Forest County, Wisconsin

Dear Mr. Westlake:

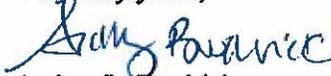
Wisconsin Central Ltd. ("WCL") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon approximately 6.4 miles of railroad line starting at MP 242.21 on the Pembine Sub (formerly milepost 243.00 on the old Shawano Sub) in or around Argonne, Forest County, Wisconsin and ending at MP 235.84 on the Pembine Sub (formerly milepost 249.38 on the Old Shawano Sub) in Crandon, Forest County, Wisconsin. For your convenience, we have attached a map for your reference. WCL is advising you of the proposed action so you may assist us in identifying any potential effects of the proposed action on, among other things, the following:

1. Water quality;
2. Designated wetlands;
3. 100-year old flood plains;
4. Endangered or threatened species;
5. Critical habitats;
6. Wildlife sanctuaries or refuges;
7. National or state parks or forests;
8. Coastal zone management;
9. Soil and natural resource conservations;
10. Agricultural land;
11. Regional and/or local use plans; and
12. The need or permits under Sections 402 or 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Because of the nature of the proposed action, we foresee no adverse effects. Nevertheless, we would appreciate your review and any comments you may wish to offer. We would appreciate a written response as soon as possible so that we may include it in the environmental report, which we will file with the STB. We intend on filing the Environmental Report in two weeks.

Thank you for your assistance.

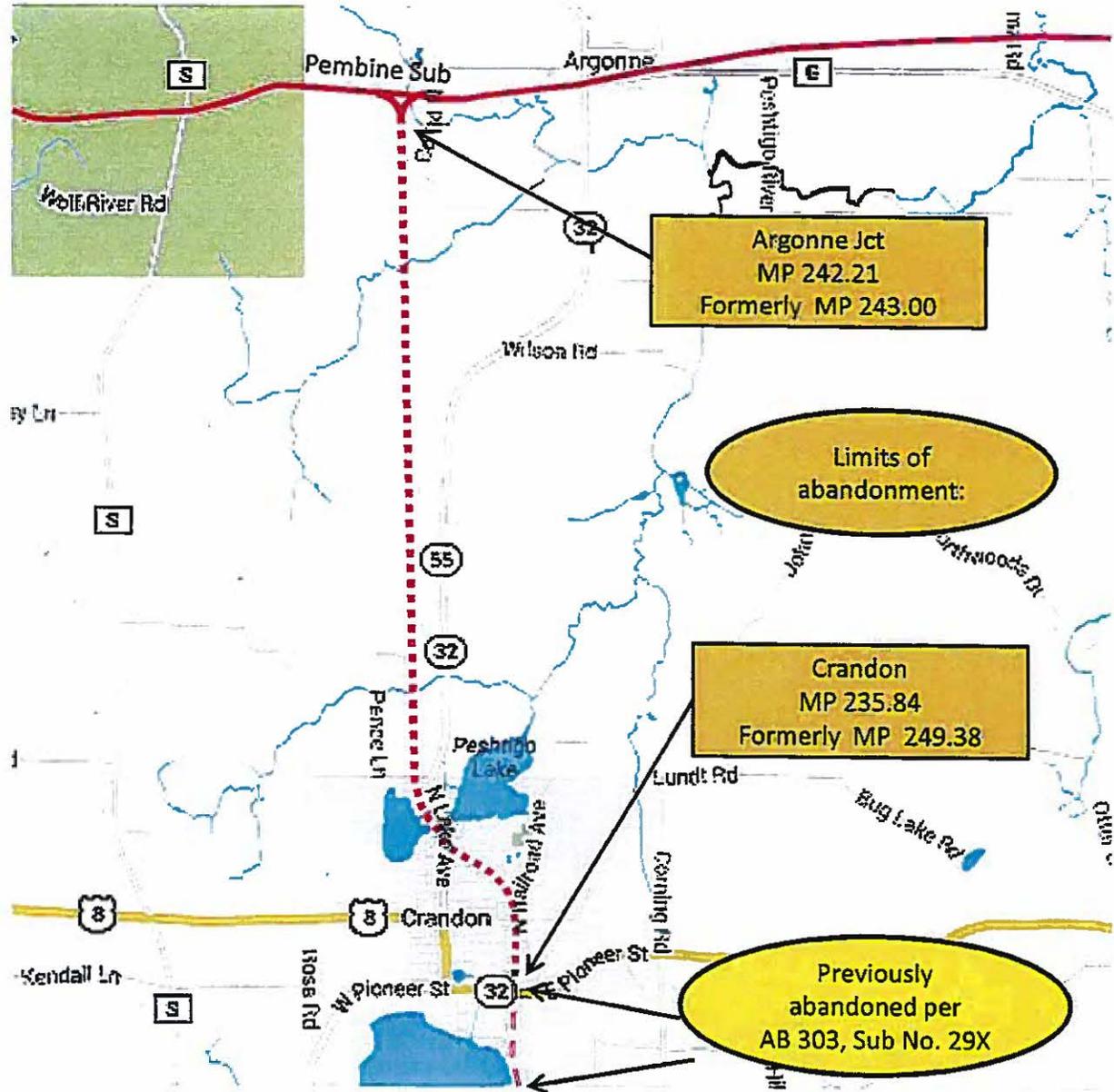
Very truly yours,



Audrey L. Brodrick
Counsel for Wisconsin Central Ltd.

ALB:dg
Enclosure

Map – Argonne Jct – Crandon, WI



FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

29 North Wacker Drive
Suite 920
Chicago, Illinois 60606-2832

Phone: (312) 252-1500
Fax: (312) 252-2400
www.fletcher-sippel.com

AUDREY L. BRODRICK
(312) 252-1518
abrodrick@fletcher-sippel.com

April 7, 2014

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Central Office
P.O. Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707-7921

Re: Docket AB 303 (Sub No. 44X)-Wisconsin Central Ltd.--Proposed Abandonment
in Forest County, Wisconsin

Dear Sir/Madam:

Wisconsin Central Ltd. ("WCL") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon approximately 6.4 miles of railroad line starting at MP 242.21 on the Pembine Sub (formerly milepost 243.00 on the old Shawano Sub) in or around Argonne, Forest County, Wisconsin and ending at MP 235.84 on the Pembine Sub (formerly milepost 249.38 on the Old Shawano Sub) in Crandon, Forest County, Wisconsin. For your convenience, we have attached a map for your reference. WCL is advising you of the proposed action so you may assist us in identifying any potential effects of the proposed action on, among other things, the following:

1. Water quality;
2. Designated wetlands;
3. 100-year old flood plains;
4. Endangered or threatened species;
5. Critical habitats;
6. Wildlife sanctuaries or refuges;
7. National or state parks or forests;
8. Coastal zone management;
9. Soil and natural resource conservations;
10. Agricultural land;
11. Regional and/or local use plans; and
12. The need or permits under Sections 402 or 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Because of the nature of the proposed action, we foresee no adverse effects. Nevertheless, we would appreciate your review and any comments you may wish to offer. We would appreciate a written response as soon as possible so that we may include it in the environmental report, which we will file with the STB. We intend on filing the Environmental Report in two weeks.

Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

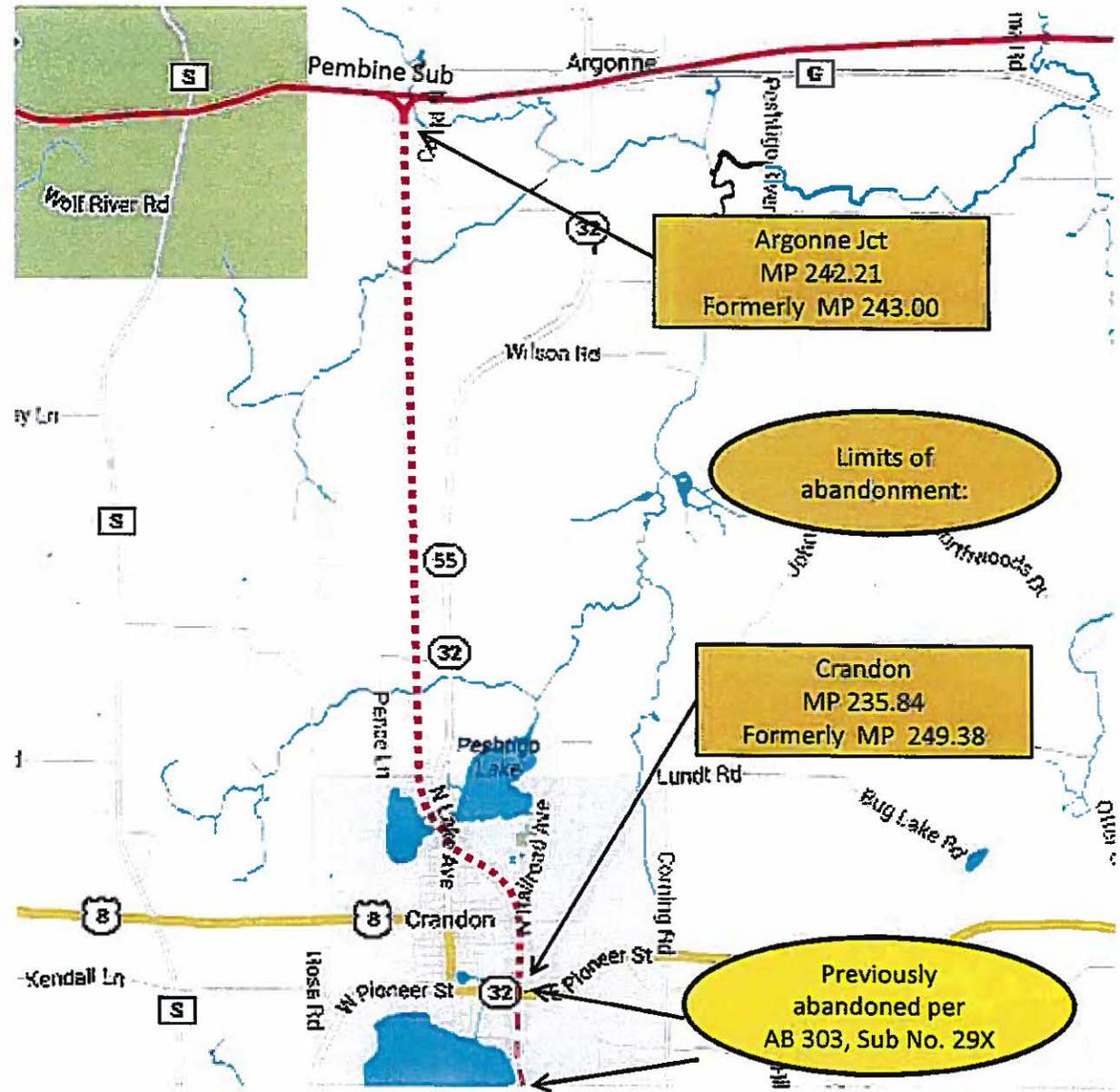


Audrey L. Brodrick
Counsel for Wisconsin Central Ltd.

ALB:dg
Enclosure



Map – Argonne Jct – Crandon, WI



FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

29 North Wacker Drive
Suite 920
Chicago, Illinois 60606-2832

Phone: (312) 252-1500
Fax: (312) 252-2400
www.fletcher-sippel.com

AUDREY L. BRODRICK
(312) 252-1518
abrodick@fletcher-sippel.com

April 7, 2014

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Northern Region
107 Sutliff Avenue
Rhineland, WI 54501

Re: Docket AB 303 (Sub No. 44X)-Wisconsin Central Ltd.--Proposed Abandonment
in Forest County, Wisconsin

Dear Sir/Madam:

Wisconsin Central Ltd. ("WCL") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon approximately 6.4 miles of railroad line starting at MP 242.21 on the Pembine Sub (formerly milepost 243.00 on the old Shawano Sub) in or around Argonne, Forest County, Wisconsin and ending at MP 235.84 on the Pembine Sub (formerly milepost 249.38 on the Old Shawano Sub) in Crandon, Forest County, Wisconsin. For your convenience, we have attached a map for your reference. WCL is advising you of the proposed action so you may assist us in identifying any potential effects of the proposed action on, among other things, the following:

1. Water quality;
2. Designated wetlands;
3. 100-year old flood plains;
4. Endangered or threatened species;
5. Critical habitats;
6. Wildlife sanctuaries or refuges;
7. National or state parks or forests;
8. Coastal zone management;
9. Soil and natural resource conservations;
10. Agricultural land;
11. Regional and/or local use plans; and
12. The need or permits under Sections 402 or 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Because of the nature of the proposed action, we foresee no adverse effects. Nevertheless, we would appreciate your review and any comments you may wish to offer. We would appreciate a written response as soon as possible so that we may include it in the environmental report, which we will file with the STB. We intend on filing the Environmental Report in two weeks.

Thank you for your assistance.

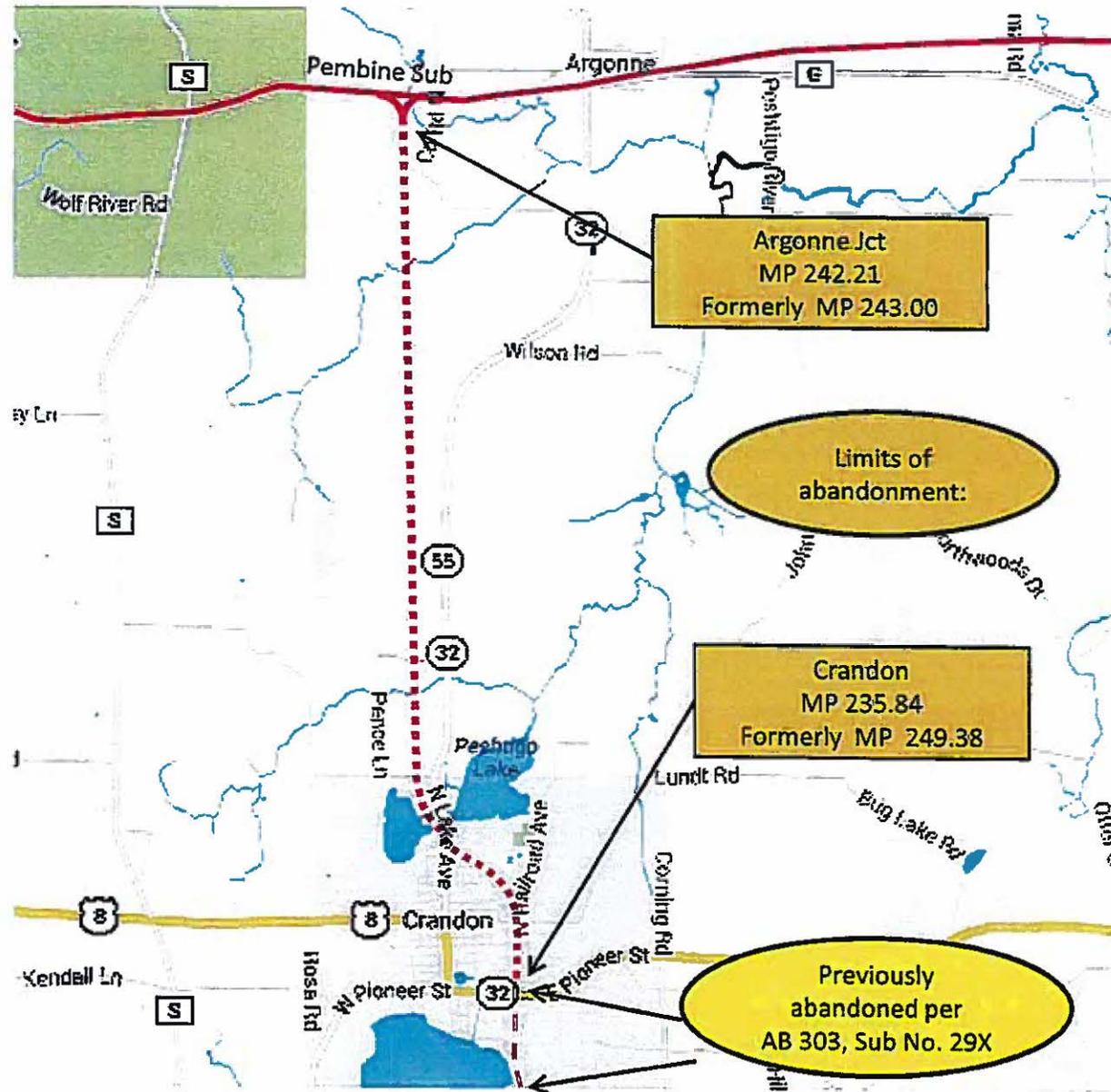
Very truly yours,



Audrey L. Brodrick
Counsel for Wisconsin Central Ltd.

ALB:dg
Enclosure

Map – Argonne Jct – Crandon, WI



From: Simonsen, Jonathan M - DNR [<mailto:Jonathan.Simonsen@wisconsin.gov>]
Sent: Friday, April 25, 2014 12:47 PM
To: Audrey Brodrick
Subject: Docket AB 303 WCL proposed abandonment Forest County

Ms. Brodrick: We recently received this request for comment and will begin preparing a response from WI DNR. In order to investigate potential environmental issues and prepare comments that accurately reflect the potential impacts of the proposal, a field review will be needed. With the cold spring we are having and amount of snow cover, conditions are just now becoming favorable to evaluate the site.

Your assistance and comment on the following items would be appreciated.

- Any information you can provide regarding the ROW width and boundaries along this corridor would be much appreciated so we know the footprint of the proposal.
- Do DNR staff have permission to access the corridor to evaluate the site?
- Given the timing of this request, we will not be able to provide comments until the week of May 19th. Please advise if this timeline does not work for WCL.

Thank you,

Jon Simonsen WI DNR
Environmental Review Coordinator
Bureau of Energy, Transportation, & Environmental Analysis
715-365-8916

For information about working with DNR
on transportation projects [click here](#)

FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

29 North Wacker Drive
Suite 920
Chicago, Illinois 60606-2832

Phone: (312) 252-1500
Fax: (312) 252-2400
www.fletcher-sippel.com

AUDREY L. BRODRICK
(312) 252-1518
abrodrick@fletcher-sippel.com

May 8, 2014

Via E-Mail and U.S. Mail
Jonathan.Simonsen@wisconsin.gov

Mr. Jon Simonsen, Environmental Review Coordinator
Wisconsin DNR
Bureau of Energy, Transportation & Environmental Analysis
Northern Region
107 Sutliff Ave
Rhinelander, WI 54501

Re: Docket AB 303 (Sub No. 44 X)--Wisconsin Central Ltd.--Proposed
Abandonment in Forest County, Wisconsin

Dear Mr. Simonsen:

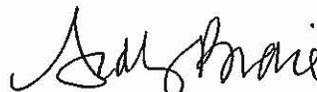
I am in receipt of your April 25, 2014 communication in which you raised several issues with respect to Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' ("WisDNR") evaluation of Wisconsin Central Ltd.'s ("WCL") proposed abandonment in Docket No. AB-303 (Sub No. 44x) in Forest County, Wisconsin. To our recollection, WisDNR has never before requested access to any WCL property in order to comment on a proposed abandonment. Is there any particular circumstance about this proposed abandonment of concern to WisDNR?

To the extent that such access may be necessary, prior to granting access, WCL will require WisDNR to provide specific and detailed information to the railroad about what the agency intends to do while on the property. WCL will review WisDNR's work plan and will advise WisDNR of our perspective. Should WCL be amenable to the requested access, WCL will provide WisDNR with a separate Right of Entry Agreement to govern the visit.

As to your request for information regarding the width of the right of way and related boundaries, WCL is still investigating its right of way deeds, and will provide this information in its Environmental and Historic Report, a copy of which will be served on you.

If you would like to discuss this matter further, please let me know,

Very truly yours,



Audrey L. Brodrick

ALB:dg

FLETCHER & SIPPEN LLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

29 North Wacker Drive
Suite 920
Chicago, Illinois 60606-2832

Phone: (312) 252-1500
Fax: (312) 252-2400
www.fletcher-sippel.com

AUDREY L. BRODRICK
(312) 252-1518
abrodrick@fletcher-sippel.com

April 7, 2014

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
2800 Lake Shore Drive East-Suite B
Ashland, WI 54806-2427

Re: Docket AB 303 (Sub No. 44X)-Wisconsin Central Ltd.--Proposed Abandonment
in Forest County, Wisconsin

Dear Sir/Madam:

Wisconsin Central Ltd. ("WCL") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon approximately 6.4 miles of railroad line starting at MP 242.21 on the Pembine Sub (formerly milepost 243.00 on the old Shawano Sub) in or around Argonne, Forest County, Wisconsin and ending at MP 235.84 on the Pembine Sub (formerly milepost 249.38 on the Old Shawano Sub) in Crandon, Forest County, Wisconsin. For your convenience, we have attached a map for your reference. WCL is advising you of the proposed action so you may assist us in identifying any potential effects of the proposed action on, among other things, the following:

1. Water quality;
2. Designated wetlands;
3. 100-year old flood plains;
4. Endangered or threatened species;
5. Critical habitats;
6. Wildlife sanctuaries or refuges;
7. National or state parks or forests;
8. Coastal zone management;
9. Soil and natural resource conservations;
10. Agricultural land;
11. Regional and/or local use plans; and
12. The need or permits under Sections 402 or 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Because of the nature of the proposed action, we foresee no adverse effects. Nevertheless, we would appreciate your review and any comments you may wish to offer. We would appreciate a written response as soon as possible so that we may include it in the environmental report, which we will file with the STB. We intend on filing the Environmental Report in two weeks.

Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

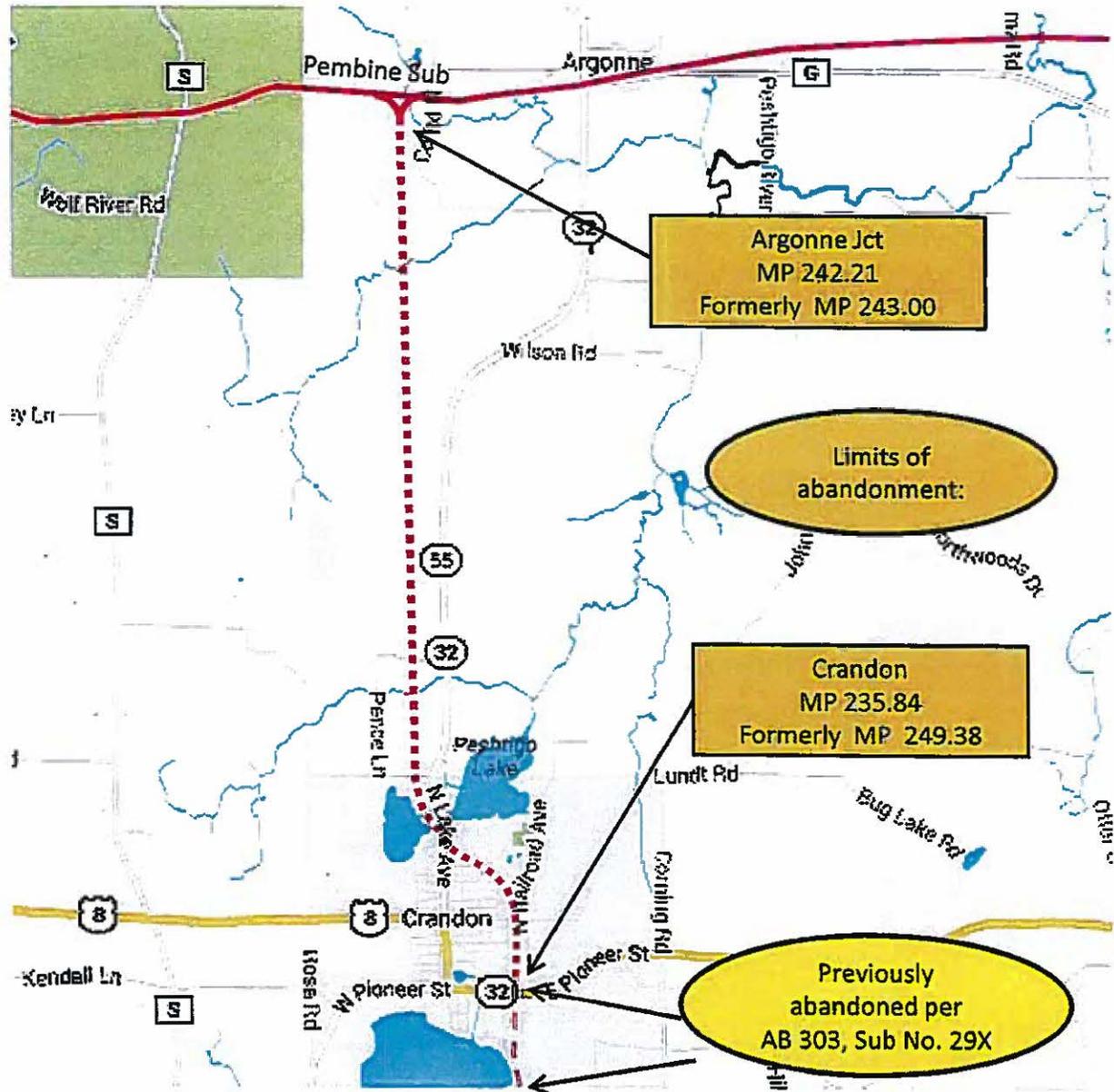


Audrey L. Brodrick
Counsel for Wisconsin Central Ltd.

ALB:dg
Enclosure



Map – Argonne Jct – Crandon, WI



FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

29 North Wacker Drive
Suite 920
Chicago, Illinois 60606-2832

Phone: (312) 252-1500
Fax: (312) 252-2400
www.fletcher-sippel.com

AUDREY L. BRODRICK
(312) 252-1518
abrodrick@fletcher-sippel.com

April 7, 2014

National Park Service
Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: Docket AB 303 (Sub No. 44X)—Wisconsin Central Ltd.—Proposed Abandonment
in Forest County, Wisconsin

Dear Sir/Madam:

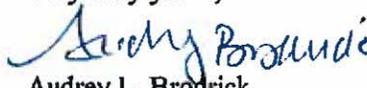
Wisconsin Central Ltd. ("WCL") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon approximately 6.4 miles of railroad line starting at MP 242.21 on the Pembine Sub (formerly milepost 243.00 on the old Shawano Sub) in or around Argonne, Forest County, Wisconsin and ending at MP 235.84 on the Pembine Sub (formerly milepost 249.38 on the Old Shawano Sub) in Crandon, Forest County, Wisconsin. For your convenience, we have attached a map for your reference. WCL is advising you of the proposed action so you may assist us in identifying any potential effects of the proposed action on, among other things, the following:

1. Water quality;
2. Designated wetlands;
3. 100-year old flood plains;
4. Endangered or threatened species;
5. Critical habitats;
6. Wildlife sanctuaries or refuges;
7. National or state parks or forests;
8. Coastal zone management;
9. Soil and natural resource conservations;
10. Agricultural land;
11. Regional and/or local use plans; and
12. The need or permits under Sections 402 or 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Because of the nature of the proposed action, we foresee no adverse effects. Nevertheless, we would appreciate your review and any comments you may wish to offer. We would appreciate a written response as soon as possible so that we may include it in the environmental report, which we will file with the STB. We intend on filing the Environmental Report in two weeks.

Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

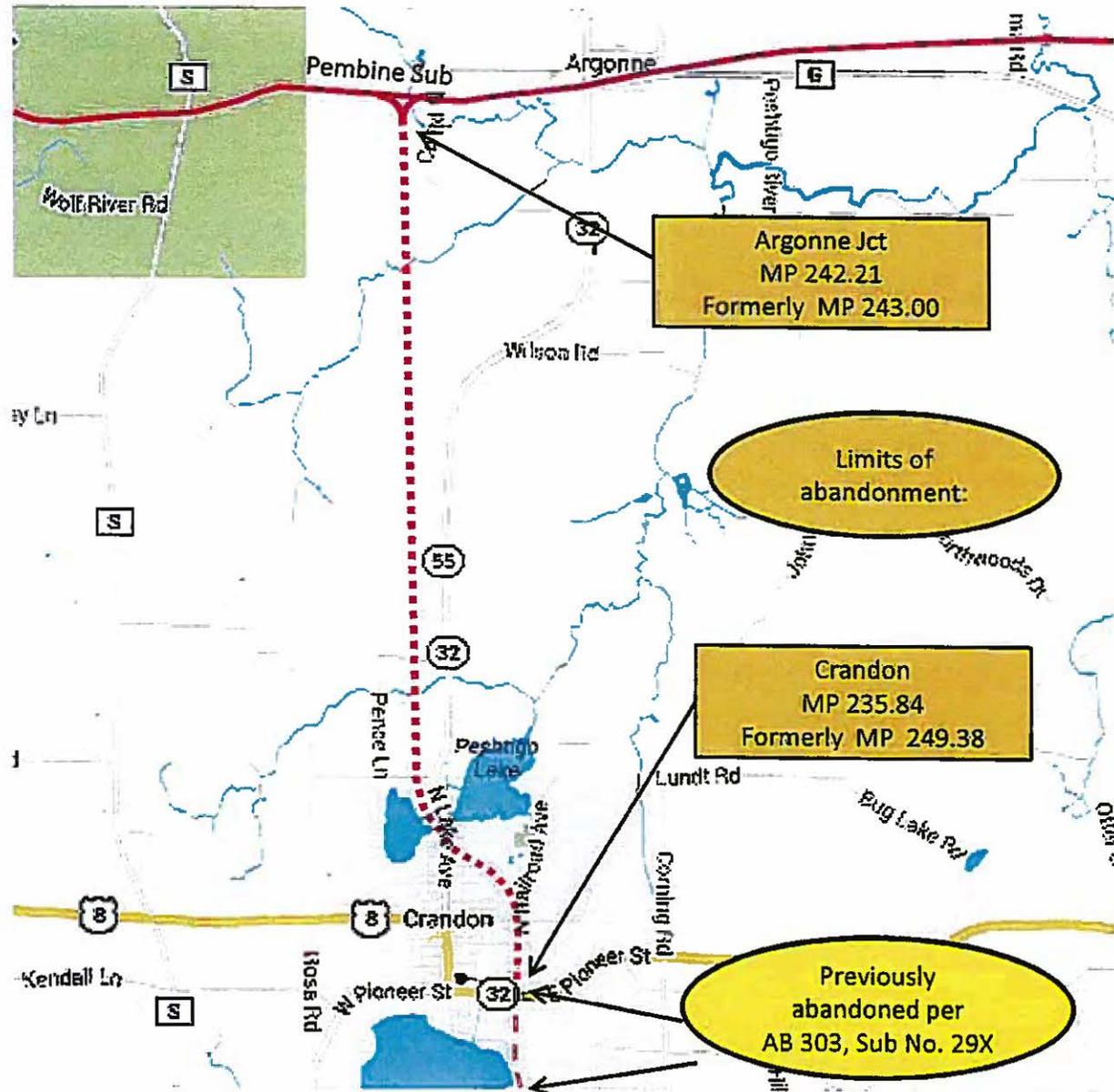


Audrey L. Brodrick
Counsel for Wisconsin Central Ltd.

ALB:dg
Enclosure



Map – Argonne Jct – Crandon, WI



FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

29 North Wacker Drive
Suite 920
Chicago, Illinois 60606-2832

Phone: (312) 252-1500
Fax: (312) 252-2400
www.fletcher-sippel.com

AUDREY L. BRODRICK
(312) 252-1518
abrodrick@fletcher-sippel.com

April 7, 2014

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
St. Paul District (CEMVPA-PA)
190 Fifth Street East
St. Paul, MN 55101-1638

Re: Docket AB 303 (Sub No. 44X)-Wisconsin Central Ltd.--Proposed Abandonment
in Forest County, Wisconsin

Dear Sir/Madam:

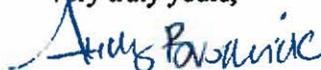
Wisconsin Central Ltd. ("WCL") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon approximately 6.4 miles of railroad line starting at MP 242.21 on the Pembine Sub (formerly milepost 243.00 on the old Shawano Sub) in or around Argonne, Forest County, Wisconsin and ending at MP 235.84 on the Pembine Sub (formerly milepost 249.38 on the Old Shawano Sub) in Crandon, Forest County, Wisconsin. For your convenience, we have attached a map for your reference. WCL is advising you of the proposed action so you may assist us in identifying any potential effects of the proposed action on, among other things, the following:

1. Water quality;
2. Designated wetlands;
3. 100-year old flood plains;
4. Endangered or threatened species;
5. Critical habitats;
6. Wildlife sanctuaries or refuges;
7. National or state parks or forests;
8. Coastal zone management;
9. Soil and natural resource conservations;
10. Agricultural land;
11. Regional and/or local use plans; and
12. The need or permits under Sections 402 or 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Because of the nature of the proposed action, we foresee no adverse effects. Nevertheless, we would appreciate your review and any comments you may wish to offer. We would appreciate a written response as soon as possible so that we may include it in the environmental report, which we will file with the STB. We intend on filing the Environmental Report in two weeks.

Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

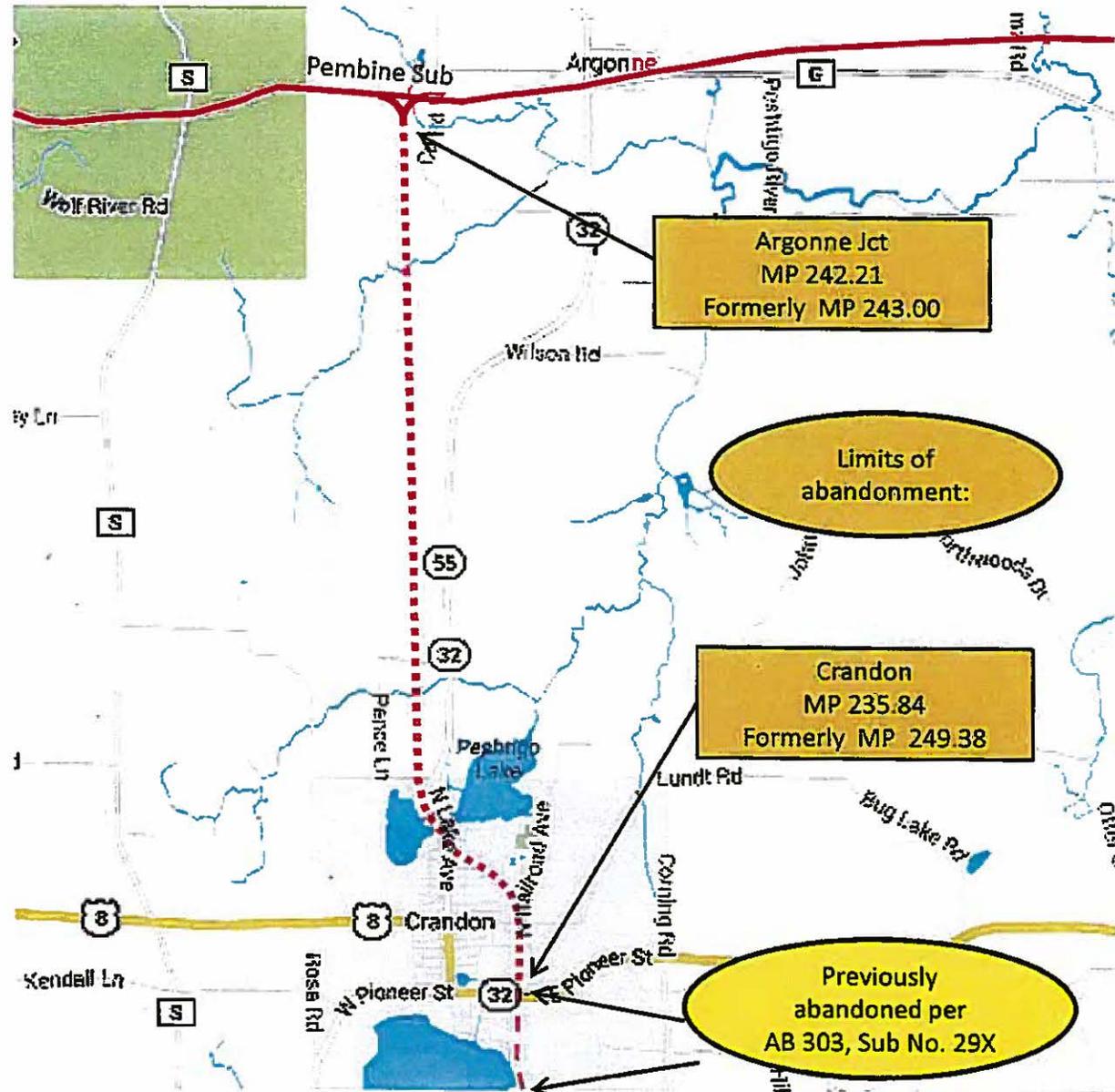


Audrey L. Brodrick
Counsel for Wisconsin Central Ltd.

ALB:dg
Enclosure



Map – Argonne Jct – Crandon, WI



FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

29 North Wacker Drive
Suite 920
Chicago, Illinois 60606-2832

Phone: (312) 252-1500
Fax: (312) 252-2400
www.fletcher-sippel.com

AUDREY L. BRODRICK
(312) 252-1518
abrodric@fletcher-sippel.com

April 7, 2014

Wisconsin Historical Society
Division of Historic Preservation
Office of Preservation Planning
816 State Street
Madison, WI 53706

Re: Docket AB 303 (Sub No. 44X)—Wisconsin Central Ltd.—Proposed Abandonment
in Forest County, Wisconsin

Dear Sir/Madam:

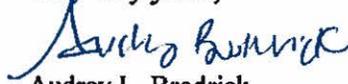
Wisconsin Central Ltd. ("WCL") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon approximately 6.4 miles of railroad line starting at MP 242.21 on the Pembine Sub (formerly milepost 243.00 on the old Shawano Sub) in or around Argonne, Forest County, Wisconsin and ending at MP 235.84 on the Pembine Sub (formerly milepost 249.38 on the Old Shawano Sub) in Crandon, Forest County, Wisconsin. For your convenience, we have attached a map for your reference. WCL is advising you of the proposed action so you may assist us in identifying any potential effects of the proposed action on, among other things, the following:

1. Water quality;
2. Designated wetlands;
3. 100-year old flood plains;
4. Endangered or threatened species;
5. Critical habitats;
6. Wildlife sanctuaries or refuges;
7. National or state parks or forests;
8. Coastal zone management;
9. Soil and natural resource conservations;
10. Agricultural land;
11. Regional and/or local use plans; and
12. The need or permits under Sections 402 or 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Because of the nature of the proposed action, we foresee no adverse effects. Nevertheless, we would appreciate your review and any comments you may wish to offer. We would appreciate a written response as soon as possible so that we may include it in the environmental report, which we will file with the STB. We intend on filing the Environmental Report in two weeks.

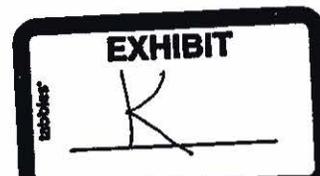
Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

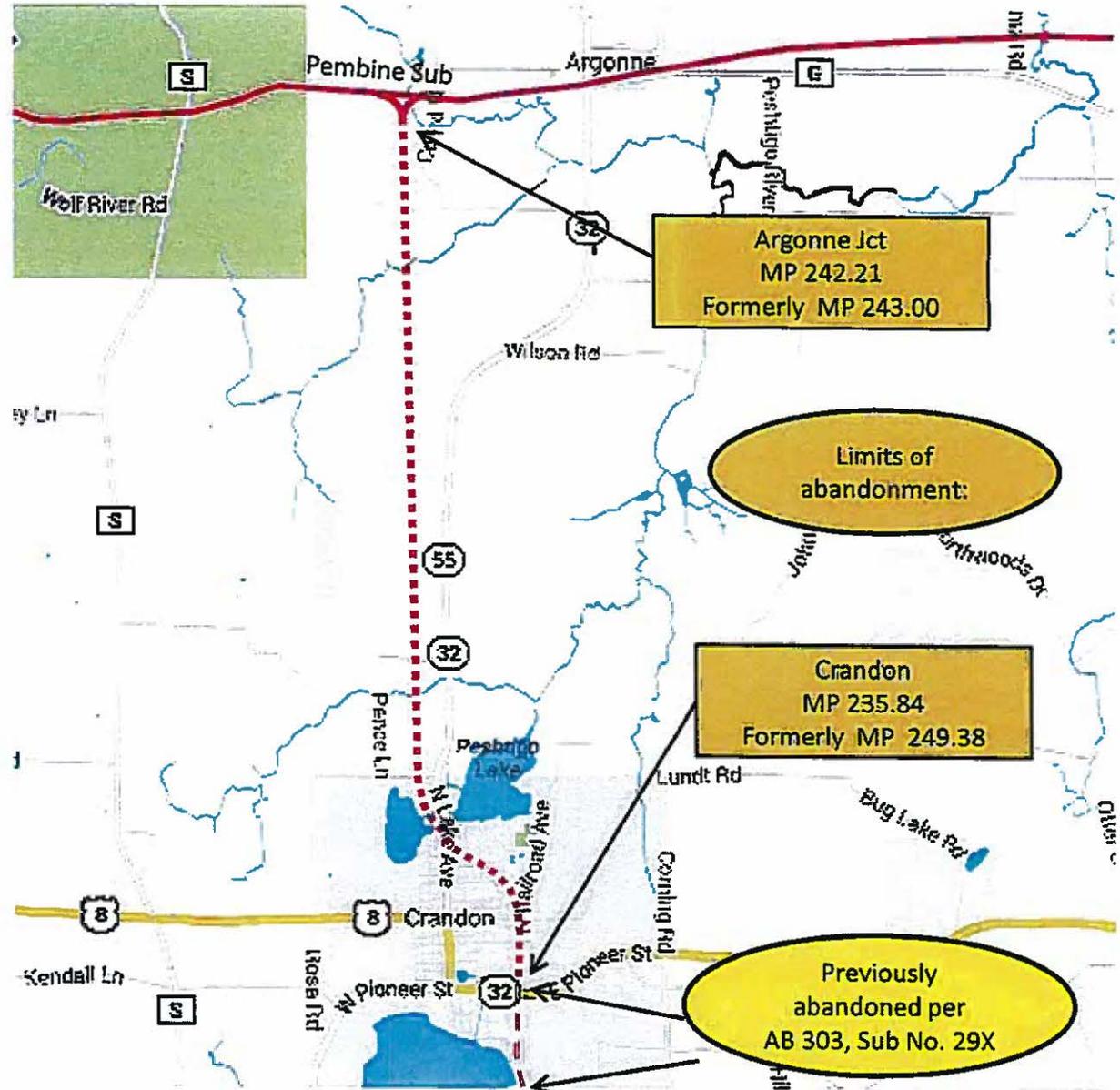


Audrey L. Brodrick
Counsel for Wisconsin Central Ltd.

ALB:dg
Enclosure



Map – Argonne Jct – Crandon, WI





WISCONSIN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

April 11, 2014

Ms. Audrey L Brodrick
Fletcher & Sippel, LLC
29 North Wacker Dr., Ste. 920
Chicago, IL 60606-2832

RE: WHS Case #14-0309/FR
Wisconsin Central Ltd. Abandonment: MP 242.21 to MP 235.84

Dear Ms. Brodrick:

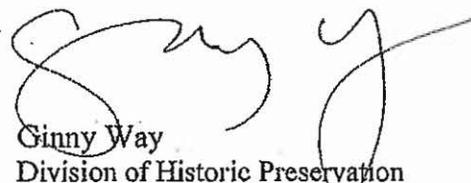
The materials you recently submitted for review do not comply with our review process guidelines and are not sufficient to determine if the proposed undertaking will have any adverse environmental impacts. For detailed information on the Wisconsin § 106 review process, please visit the Wisconsin Historical Society's "State Historic Preservation Officer Review" website at: <http://preview.wisconsinhistory.org/Content.aspx?dsNav=N:1200>.

It may be necessary to obtain the services of a qualified consultant to complete the required research. When the research has been completed, sign and date the appropriate form(s), and return them to our office for review and comment – with the research documentation.

All formal reports submitted to our office must be bound. Two copies of archaeological survey reports for each project must be submitted; however, only one copy of an architecture/history survey needs to accompany each submittal.

Once we receive adequate project information we will be able to review your submittal to determine what affects the project may have on historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR 800. For specific questions about this issue, I may be reached at (608) 264-6505, or by email at Ginny.Way@wisconsinhistory.org. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Best,



Ginny Way
Division of Historic Preservation
and Public History

Collecting, Preserving and Sharing Stories Since 1846

816 State Street Madison, Wisconsin 53706

wisconsinhistory.org

REQUEST FOR SHPO COMMENT AND CONSULTATION ON A FEDERAL UNDERTAKING

Submit one copy with each undertaking for which our comment is requested. Please print or type. Return to:

Wisconsin Historical Society, Division of Historic Preservation, Office of Preservation Planning, 816 State Street, Madison, WI 53706

RECEIVED

Please Check All Boxes and Include All of the Following Information, as Applicable:

MAY 07 2014

DIV HIST PRES

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- This is a new submittal.
- This is supplemental information relating to Case #: 14-0309/FR and title: _____
- This project is being undertaken pursuant to the terms and conditions of a programmatic or other interagency agreement. The title of the agreement is _____

- a. Federal Agency Jurisdiction (Agency providing funds, assistance, license, permit): STB, 395 E Street SW, Wash. D.C. 20423
- b. Federal Agency Contact Person: Cynthia Brown, Chief Section of Administration Phone: 202-245-0245
- c. Project Contact Person: Audrey Brodrick Phone: 312-252-1518
- d. Return Address: Fletcher & Sippel LLC, 29 N Wacker Drive, Suite 920, Chicago IL Zip Code: 60606-2832
- e. Email Address: abrodrick@fletcher-sippel.com
- f. Project Name: Wisconsin Central Ltd. proposed Abandonment in Forest County, Wisconsin AB 303 (Sub-No. 44X)
- g. Project Street Address: N/A-Rail Line Abandonment-Forest County, Crandon, Wisconsin from MP 242.21 TO MP 235.84
- h. County: Forest City: Crandon Zip Code: 54511 and 54520
- i. Project Location: Township _____, Range _____, E/W (circle one), Section _____, Quarter Sections _____
- j. Project Narrative Description—Attach Information as Necessary.
- k. Area of Potential Effect (APE). Attach Copy of U.S.G.S. 7.5 Minute Topographic Quadrangle Showing APE.

II. IDENTIFICATION OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

- Historic Properties are located within the project APE per 36 CFR 800.4. Attach supporting materials.
- Historic Properties are not located within the project APE per 36 CFR 800.4. Attach supporting materials.

III. FINDINGS

- No historic properties will be affected (i.e., none is present or there are historic properties present but the project will have no effect upon them). Attach necessary documentation, as described at 36 CFR 800.11.
- The proposed undertaking will have no adverse effect on one or more historic properties located within the project APE under 36 CFR 800.5. Attach necessary documentation, as described at 36 CFR 800.11.
- The proposed undertaking will result in an adverse effect to one or more historic properties and the applicant, or other federally authorized representative, will consult with the SHPO and other consulting parties to resolve the adverse effect per 36 CFR 800.6. Attach necessary documentation, as described at 36 CFR 800.11, with a proposed plan to resolve adverse effect(s).

Authorized Signature: Audrey L. Brodrick Date: May 6, 2014

Type or print name: Audrey L. Brodrick

IV. STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE COMMENTS

- Agree with the finding in section III above.
- Object to the finding for reasons indicated in attached letter.
- Cannot review until information is sent as follows: Does right of way go through reservation land? Please provide Township Range Section information

Authorized Signature: Sherman Barber Date: May 8, 2014

FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

29 North Wacker Drive
Suite 920
Chicago, Illinois 60606-2832

Phone: (312) 252-1500
Fax: (312) 252-2400
www.fletcher-sippel.com

AUDREY L. BRODRICK
(312) 252-1518
abrodric@fletcher-sippel.com

May 23, 2014

Mr. Sherman Banker
Wisconsin Historical Society
Division of Historic Preservation and Public History
816 State Street
Madison, WI 53706

Re: Docket AB 303 (Sub No. 44 X)--Wisconsin Central Ltd.--Proposed
Abandonment in Forest County, Wisconsin
WCH Case #14-0309/FR

Dear Mr. Banker:

Please accept this letter as a correction to my previous correspondence, dated May 8 responding to your May 7, 2014 correspondence. I am providing the following requested information regarding Wisconsin Central Ltd.'s proposed abandonment in the Crandon, Wisconsin area. First, the abandonment encompasses lands in Range 13 East, and in Townships 37 and 36 as follows:

Township 37: Sections 30 and 31
Township 36: Sections 6, 7, 18, 19, 20, and 29

As to the property issue as related to the tribal reservation, we're working with the tribe's counsel to clarify issues regarding land ownership. However, on this issue, we do know that the tribe's interest in the adjacent land did not arise until 2003.

If I can provide you more information, please let me know.

Very truly yours,


Audrey L. Brodrick

ALB:dg



WISCONSIN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

June 6, 2014

Ms. Audrey L Brodrick
Fletcher & Sippel, LLC
29 North Wacker Dr., Ste. 920
Chicago, IL 60606-2832

SHSW#: 14-0309/FR
RE: Wisconsin Central Ltd. Abandonment: MP 242.21 to MP 235.84

Dear Ms. Brodrick:

We have reviewed your submittal of May 23, 2014 regarding the above referenced project. We believe that the proposed undertaking will result in no historic properties affected pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1).

It is always possible that an accidental discovery of archaeological material may occur during construction. If archeological material is discovered, please stop all construction in that area and call me at (608) 264-6507.

Please call me at the above referenced telephone number if you have any questions concerning this matter.

Sincerely,

Sherman Banker
Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Office

Audrey Brodrick

From: Audrey Brodrick
Sent: Tuesday, June 10, 2014 11:18 AM
To: Banker, Sherman J - WHS (Sherman.Banker@wisconsinhistory.org)
Subject: WCL Forest County abandonment

Mr. Banker-

Per my voicemail today – please see the below correspondence where the Tribe states it has no property rights/interests in the underlying property on the Line WCL is seeking to abandon. If you could forward on your comment form as soon as possible it would be greatly appreciated.

Audrey Brodrick

From: Tom Healey [mailto:Tom.Healey@cn.ca]
Sent: Tuesday, June 10, 2014 9:52 AM
To: Audrey Brodrick; Brian Buchanan; Arthur Spiros; Rebecca Bott; Kevin Soucie
Cc: Paul Sauter
Subject: FW: 14C0907 Wisconsin Central LTD-CN

Good Morning:

Good news from tribal counsel Doug Huck. The tribe concurs with our conclusion that it has no ownership of the to-be-abandoned right of way. The abandonment should proceed with all possible haste.

Audrey, please pass along my exchange with Mr. Huck to Sherman Banker, indicating that we have reached agreement on the lack of tribal interest in the land ownership.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Tom

From: Tom Healey
Sent: Tuesday, June 10, 2014 9:48 AM
To: 'Douglas W. Huck'
Cc: Casey Swanson; Susie Sawyer
Subject: RE: 14C0907 Wisconsin Central LTD-CN

Doug:

I greatly appreciate your response. We will proceed with the abandonment on the assumption that the tribe does not claim ownership to any of the underlying right of way.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Tom Healey
708.332.4381

From: Douglas W. Huck [mailto:Douglas.Huck@fcpotawatomi-nsn.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, June 10, 2014 9:45 AM
To: Tom Healey
Cc: Casey Swanson; Susie Sawyer
Subject: RE: 14C0907 Wisconsin Central LTD-CN

Tom,

We have reviewed the documents you provided to us. The only two documents that affect our property are the same ones we previously had-the 1910 Right of Way Deed, and the 1906 Quit Claim Deed. Those two documents demonstrate that the described property conveyed in those deeds do not belong to the Tribe, and were properly excepted out from coverage by the title insurance company when the Tribe acquired the adjoining properties in 2003.

Thanks for your assistance with this.

Doug Huck
Attorney
FCPC Legal Department
P.O. Box 340
Crandon, WI 54520

Phone (715) 478-4819
Fax (715) 478-7266
douglas.huck@fcpotawatomi-nsn.gov

Wisconsin State Bar Number 1032236

Please note the hours for the Crandon Legal Office are from 7:00a.m. to 5:00p.m. Monday through Thursday.

This electronic mail and the information contained herein are intended for the named recipient only. This is a transmission from the Forest County Potawatomi Legal Department and may contain information which is privileged, confidential, and protected by the attorney-client or attorney work product privileges. If you are not the addressee, note that any disclosure, copying, distribution, or use of the contents of this message is prohibited. If you received this transmission in error, please immediately notify the sender by replying to this electronic mail or call (715) 478-7258.

From: Tom Healey [<mailto:Tom.Healey@cn.ca>]
Sent: Monday, May 05, 2014 3:57 PM
To: Douglas W. Huck
Cc: Casey Swanson; Susie Sawyer; Kevin Soucie
Subject: RE: 14C0907 Wisconsin Central LTD-CN

Doug:

Thanks for your research and note. I'll check with my Real Estate folks and get back with you.
Tom

From: Douglas W. Huck [<mailto:Douglas.Huck@fcpotawatomi-nsn.gov>]
Sent: Monday, May 05, 2014 1:36 PM
To: Tom Healey
Cc: Casey Swanson; Susie Sawyer; Kevin Soucie
Subject: RE: 14C0907 Wisconsin Central LTD-CN

Tom,

The Tribe acquired the property in 2003, which was part of a very large land acquisition involving the Crandon mine properties.

In 2003, the title insurance excepted out two items:

Right of Way Deed, 1910: Northern Land Co. to Wisconsin and Northern Railroad Co., Vol. 27, Deeds page 311.
SW ¼ SE ¼, Section 31, T 37N-R13E.

Quit Claim, signed 1906, recorded in 1921: Trustee of Green Bay, Oshkosh, Madison and Southwestern Railway Co to Wisconsin and Northern Railroad Co., Vol. 32, Deeds page 156.
W ½ NE ¼ and NW ¼ SE ¼, Section 6, T36N-R13E.

Do you have other deeds or documentation prior to 1910 and 1906, or any other relevant documentation?

Thanks,

WISCONSIN CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY

PETITION FOR EXEMPTION FOR
ABANDONMENT IN FOREST
COUNTY, WISCONSIN

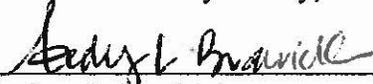
To: Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20024

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE WITH 49 C.F.R. PART 1105

I hereby certify that on June 13, 2014 copies of the Environmental Report and Historic Report for the above-captioned proceeding were served on the agencies listed at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7(b), all agencies consulted in preparing the reports, and on the Wisconsin Historical Society. A service list and copy of the letter sent to all such agencies is attached and incorporated into this certificate as Attachment A. The reports have been sent within the time period specified, as Wisconsin Central Ltd. is filing its Petition for Exemption more than 20 days after it served its Environmental Report and Historic Report. All appropriate agencies as listed in 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7(e) have been consulted well in advance of preparing the Environmental Report.

I also certify that a newspaper notice was published on April 10, 2014 in *The Forest Republican*, a newspaper of general circulation in Forest County, Wisconsin. The notice alerted the public to the proposed abandonment, to possible reuse alternatives, and to procedures for participating in the STB proceeding. A copy of the text of the notice is attached to this certificate as Attachment B.

Dated this 7TH day of July, 2014.



Audrey L. Brodrick
Counsel for Wisconsin Central Ltd.



Docket No. AB-303 (Sub-No. 44X)
Wisconsin Central Ltd.—Proposed Abandonment—near Crandon, Forest County, Wisconsin

SERVICE LIST

U.S. Army Corp of Engineers
St. Paul District (CEMVPA-PA)
190 Fifth Street East
St. Paul, MN 55101-1638

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Water
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Mr. Kenneth A. Westlake
Chief, NEPA Implementation Section
U.S. EPA Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60604

National Park Service
Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

National Geodetic Survey Information Services
Simon.Monroe@noaa.gov

Mr. David M. Kennedy
Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management
NOAA Ocean Service
1305 East-West Highway
Silver Springs, Maryland 20910

Mr. Gregory Hines
RC&D Coordinator
National Resource Conservation Service
3071 Voyager Drive, Suite E
Green Bay, WI 54311-8343

Mr. Rob Jaeger, Mayor of Crandon
601 W. Washington Street
P.O. Box 335
Crandon, WI 54520
mayor@cityofcrandon.com

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
2800 Lake Shore Drive East-Suite B
Ashland, WI 54806-2427

Jonathan.Simonsen@wisconsin.gov
Mr. Jon Simonsen, Environmental Review Coordinator
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Bureau of Energy, Transportation & Environmental Analysis
Central Office
PO Box 7921
Madison WI 53707-7921

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Northern Region
107 Sutliff Ave
Rhinelander, WI 54501

Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Hill Farms State Transportation Bldg.
4802 Sheboygan Avenue
P.O. Box 7910
Madison, WI 53707-7910

Wisconsin Department of Administration
P.O. Box 7868
101 East Wilson Street, 6th Floor
Madison, WI 53707-7868

Wisconsin Coastal Management Program
Department of Administration
P.O. Box 8944
101 East Wilson Street
Madison, WI 53708-8944

Wisconsin Historical Society
Division of Historic Preservation
Office of Preservation Planning
816 State Street
Madison, WI 53706

Paul Millan, Forest County Board Chairman
8490 Millan Rd
Armstrong Creek, Wisconsin 54103

Mr. Doug Huck
Attorney
FCPC Legal Department
P.O. Box 340
Crandon, WI 54520

NOTICE

Wisconsin Central Ltd. gives notice that on or after May 22, 2014 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 approximately 6.4 miles of railroad line starting at MP 242.21 on the Pembine Sub (formerly milepost 243.00 on the old Shawano Sub) in or around Argonne, Wisconsin and ending at MP 235.84 on the Pembine Sub (formerly milepost 249.38 on the Old Shawano Sub) in Crandon, Wisconsin and which traverses through United States Postal Service ZIP Codes 54511 and 54520 in Forest County, Wisconsin. The proceeding will be docketed as No. AB 303 (Sub-No. 44X).

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, 395 E. Street, SW., Washington, DC 20423 [See 49 CFR 1104.1(a) and 1104.3(a)], and one copy must be served on applicants' 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 202-245-0230. Copies of any comments or requests for conditions should be served on the applicant's representative: Fletcher & Sippel LLC, Attention: Audrey L. Brodrick, 29 N. Wacker Dr., Suite 920, Chicago, IL 60606.

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 Section of Administration, Office of Proceedings, 395 E Street, SW., Washington, DC 20423-0001 [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 Public Assistance, Governmental Affairs, and Compliance at 202-245-0238. Copies of any comments or requests for conditions should be served on the applicant's representative: Fletcher & Sippel LLC, Attention: Audrey L. Brodrick, 29 N. Wacker Dr., Suite 920, Chicago, IL 60606.

Affidavit of Publication

The Forest Republican
Hank Murphy, Publisher
Phone (715) 528-3276 or 800 339-9080

The authorized representative, signed below, of The Forest Republican, a weekly newspaper, published in the City of Crandon, County of Forest and State of Wisconsin, does attest and swear that the notice or advertisement described herein was published in the full edition of said paper on the following date(s):

Edition of Paper
4/10/2014

Notice Published
Notice

Signed: Melissa Monte
Authorized Representative

Date: 4/10/14



Signed before me this 10 day of April, 2014 the
above named Melissa Monte

Christina Straley, Notary Public State of Wisconsin,
County of Forest

My commission expires: 04-07-17

LEGAL NOTICES

PUBLISHED HERE BECAUSE CITIZENS HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW—WNAXLP

DATED: March 19, 2014

Gray & Associates, L.L.P.
Attorneys for Plaintiff
16345 West Glendale Drive
New Berlin, WI 53151-2841
(414) 224-8404
Please go to www.gray-law.com to obtain the bid for this sale

John Dennee
Forest County Sheriff

Gray & Associates, L.L.P. is attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. If you have previously received a discharge in a chapter 7 bankruptcy case, this communication should not be construed as an attempt to hold you personally liable for the debt.

WNAXLP
TFR 3/27/2014, 4/10/2014, 4/10/2014

Notice

Wisconsin Central Ltd. gives notice that on or after May 22, 2014 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 approximately 6.4 miles of railroad line starting at MP 242.21 on the Pembine Sub (formerly milepost 243.00 on the old Shawano Sub) in or around Argonne, Wisconsin and ending at MP 235.84 on the Pembine Sub (formerly milepost 249.38 on the Old Shawano Sub) in Crandon, Wisconsin and which traverses through United States Postal Service ZIP Codes 54511 and 54520 in Forest County, Wisconsin. The proceeding will be docketed as No. AB 303 (Sub-No: 44X).

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, 395 E. Street, SW., Washington, DC 20423 [See 49 CFR 1104.1(a) and 1104.3(a)], and one copy must be served on applicants' 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 202-245-0230. Copies of any comments or requests for conditions should be served on the applicant's representative: Fletcher & Sipfel LLC, Attention: Audrey L. Brodrick, 29 N. Wacker Dr., Suite 920, Chicago, IL 60606.

WNAXLP
TFR 4/10/2014

Notice of Pending Application for Proposed Bridge

The Forest County Forestry Department, 200 E. Main St., Crandon, WI 54520 has applied to the Department of Natural Resources for a permit to construct a bridge over Little Poppo River.

The project is located in the SE1/4 of the SE1/4 of Section 14, Township 38 North, Range 14 East, Town of Poppo River, Forest County.

The project will consist of the reconstruction/repair of an existing snowmobile/ATV bridge across the Little Poppo River. The bridge span will be shortened from 90 feet to 78 feet and will be reinstalled on top of 4 reinforced concrete piers/abutments. Approximately 350 square feet of wetlands will be impacted.

The Department will review the proposal provided by the applicant and any information from public comment and a public informational hearing, if requested. The Department will determine whether the proposal complies with ss. 1.11 and 30.123(8), Stats., and ch. NR 150, Wis. Adm. Code, and ensure that the required

30 days after the date this notice is published on the Department website. If you are requesting a public informational hearing, the request must be emailed or postmarked within 20 days after the date this notice is published on the Department's website. A request for hearing must include the docket number or applicant name and specify the issues that the party desires to be addressed at the informational hearing.

If no hearing is requested, the Department may issue a decision without a hearing. If a public informational hearing is held comments must be postmarked no later than 10 days following the date on which the hearing is completed.

The final decision may be appealed as indicated in the decision document.

Docket Number IP-NO-2014-21-00570

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
For the Secretary
Wendy Henniges
Water Management Specialist
April 1, 2014

WNAXLP
TFR 4/10/2014

Obits

Continued from Page 15

Edward Francis Breaker

Edward Francis Breaker passed away tragically on Thursday, April 3 at the age of 66.

Ed was born in Laona on Nov. 27, 1947, the oldest of seven children born to Eugene (Gene) Breaker and Audrey Whisman Breaker. He was a lifelong resident of Laona. He attended school in Laona and graduated from Laona High School in 1967. Ed was employed by the Connor Company mills in Laona until his retirement in 2008. This is over forty years of dedicated service. He will always be remembered as a hard worker who gave 110 percent.

Ed enjoyed life. He was a very happy-go-lucky man with a very unique sense of humor. Anyone who knew him liked him and they were the richer for having

per. He will be greatly missed.

Ed is survived by his mother, Audrey Breaker Ratty; three sisters, Vicki (Jim) Lemerande of Laona, Chris (Mike) Geske of Wabeno and Penny (Jack) Carter of Crandon; and three brothers, Eugene (Skeeter) and Paul Breaker of Laona and Joe (Sherri) Breaker of Phoenix, Ariz. He is also survived by his nieces and nephew whom he loved very much: Cory Lemerande, Tricia Rocole, Chad Lemerande, Courtney Hauser, Ashley Carter, Brittney Carter, Jake Geske, Emilee Breaker and Amanda Breaker.

He was preceded in death by his father, Gene Breaker; stepfather, Max