

38914
DO

SERVICE DATE – APRIL 11, 2008

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Docket No. AB-254 (Sub-No. 9X)

PROVIDENCE AND WORCESTER RAILROAD COMPANY—ABANDONMENT
EXEMPTION—SLATERSVILLE SECONDARY TRACK (WOONSOCKET, RI AND
BLACKSTONE, MA)

Decided: April 10, 2008

Providence and Worcester Railroad Company (P&W) filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F—Exempt Abandonments to abandon an approximately 1.1-mile portion of the Slatersville Secondary Track extending from milepost 0.85 +/- at the north side of Boyden Street in Woonsocket, Providence County, RI, to a point that is 1,480 +/- feet northerly of the end of the track at milepost 0.00 in Blackstone, Worcester County, MA. Notice of the exemption was served and published in the Federal Register on March 26, 2007 (72 FR 14169-70). The exemption became effective on April 25, 2007.

By decision served on April 24, 2007, the proceeding was reopened at the request of the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) and the exemption was made subject to an environmental condition. The condition required P&W to retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the historic integrity of all sites, buildings, and structures within the project right-of-way that are eligible for listing or listed in the National Register of Historic Places (generally 50 years old or older) until the section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 470f, has been completed.¹

SEA has advised that, on March 19, 2008, it received determinations from the Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission and the Massachusetts Historical Commission, that, based on available information, the proposed abandonment would have no effect on significant historic or archaeological resources. Therefore, based on the information provided, SEA recommends that the section 106 historic preservation condition imposed in the April 24 decision be removed.

Accordingly, based on SEA's recommendation, the proceeding will be reopened and the previously imposed historic preservation condition will be removed.

¹ The exemption was also made subject to a 180-day public use condition permitting the City of Woonsocket, RI, or any other interested person, to negotiate for the acquisition of the line for public use. That condition expired on October 22, 2007.

This decision will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

It is ordered:

1. This proceeding is reopened.
2. Upon reconsideration, the section 106 historic preservation condition imposed in the April 24, 2007 decision is removed.
3. This decision is effective on its service date.

By the Board, David M. Konschnik, Director, Office of Proceedings.

Anne K. Quinlan
Acting Secretary