

EI-1071
CD

March 4, 2004

Mr. Dave Geraci
Project Manager – Asset Management
CSX Transportation
500 Water Street
Jacksonville, FL 32202

**Re: CSX Transportation Inc., Proposed Line Abandonment in Floyd County, Kentucky
(Docket AB-55 (Sub No. 645X))**

Dear Mr. Geraci:

Thank you for providing the State Historic Preservation Office with additional information regarding structures over 50 years of age located on the above referenced rail line proposed for abandonment. It is the finding of this office that the following bridges are not eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places: Bridge No. 20, Bridge No. 39, Bridge No. 57, Bridge No. 68, Bridge No. 78, Bridge No. 79, Bridge No. 83, and Bridge No. 89. Further review of these structures will, therefore, no longer be required.

A segment of this rail line lies within the Middle Creek National Battlefield however, a National Historic Landmark with special protections. It has been brought to our attention that a notice of interim trail use (NITU) under the National Trails System Act has been submitted by the Middle Creek National Battlefield Foundation and approved. We are highly interested in this proposed reuse for a number of reasons. To begin with, the section of rail that traverses the battlefield could be more sensitively integrated into the landscape and help return that portion of the battlefield back to a more accurate appearance. It would also provide additional access to the public, heighten awareness of this important site and support increased visitation. It is our sincerest hope that this rails-to-trails proposal is given the highest priority for its immense benefit to the public and to cultural historic properties. Thank you for taking these comments into consideration. Should you have any questions or if we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Craig Potts of my staff at (502) 564-7005 ext. 121.

Sincerely,

David L. Morgan, Director
Kentucky Heritage Council and
State Historic Preservation Officer

Cc: Tom Fugate (KYSHPO)