



AB-43 Sub No 180X
E1-3207
DHW

**MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES**

October 09, 2007

Diana Wood
Surface Transportation Board, Case Control Unit
Washington, DC 20423

RE: DMR-080294; IC Petition for Exemption for abandonment of .46 miles of railroad track in Natchez, Mississippi

Dear Ms. Wood:

The Department of Marine Resources in cooperation with other state agencies is responsible under the Mississippi Coastal Program (MCP) for managing the coastal resources of Mississippi. Proposed activities in the coastal area are reviewed to insure that the activities are in compliance with the MCP.

The Department has received a request to review a proposed Petition for Exemption by the Illinois Central Railroad Company (IC) for IC to abandon .46 miles of railroad track located in Natchez, Mississippi, running from Milepost 148.21 to Milepost 148.67, and for IC to discontinue rail service over the Line. Based on the proposal as submitted, it appears that there will be no direct or indirect impacts to coastal wetlands; therefore, the Department has no objections to the proposed abandonment. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your project.

For more information or questions concerning this correspondence, contact James Davis with the Bureau of Wetlands Permitting at 228-523-4115 or james.davis@dmr.ms.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Willa Henriksen".

Willa Henriksen
Bureau Director, Wetlands Permitting

WH/jd