

FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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

MICHAEL J. BARRON, JR.
(312) 252-1511
mbarron@fletcher-sippel.com



#E1-1889

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

November 17, 2005

VIA U.S. Mail and FAX (Fax # 202-565-9000)

Section on Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K. Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Attention: Ms. Diana Wood

Re: AB-43 (Sub-No. 176X) Illinois Central Railroad Company -- Abandonment Exemption --
Rankin County, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Wood:

In its decision served October 18, 2005, in this proceeding, the STB directed Illinois Central Railroad Company ("IC") to consult with Mississippi DEQ and the US EPA regarding potential contamination of the right-of-way, and determine whether any need exists for a 402 permit.

Even prior to the October 18 date, IC had sent additional inquiries to those agencies. Copies are enclosed.

EPA responded by letter on October 24, a copy of which is enclosed. The EPA raised no specific issues with the abandonment, gave some general guidelines and directed IC to work with Mississippi DEQ regarding ROW contamination and Section 402 permits.

On November 14, 2005, I spoke with Mr. Jerry Banks of the Groundwater Assessment and Remediation Division of Mississippi DEQ. He said Mississippi DEQ has no issue with this proposed abandonment, is not aware of any contamination issues on the right-of-way, and that Mississippi DEQ would not be sending any written response.

IC believes it has complied with the STB's condition of consultation with the EPA and Mississippi DEQ in this abandonment. IC will be mindful of the requirements if archaeological items, human remains, or other artifacts are encountered during salvage.

Please call me if you have questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael J. Barron, Jr.".

Michael J. Barron, Jr.

Encl.