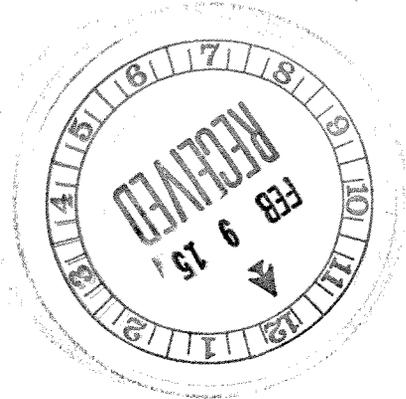


December 4, 2014

237707

Cynthia T. Brown  
Chief of the Office of Administration  
Office of Proceedings  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20423

ENTERED  
Office of Proceedings  
February 9, 2015  
Part of  
Public Record



Re: STB Docket No. AB-277 (Sub-No. 1X)  
West Virginia Northern Railroad

Dear Ms. Brown:

This is to follow-up and supplement the previous filing dated October 23, 2014, made by Preston County Parks and Recreation Commission (PCPARC).

To clarify our request, PCPARC intends to purchase the abandoned railroad right-of-way known as the West Virginia Northern Railroad in Preston County, West Virginia, from its current owner Kern Valley Railroad Company (Kern Valley). Kern Valley is a salvage company who purchased the abandoned property and removed the rails. Kern Valley at the time of its acquisition of this property requested an abandonment exemption and maintained the property's status with the Surface Transportation Board in the above-referenced proceeding. Preston County Parks and Recreation Commission further intends to develop and operate the subject property as a recreational rail trail. PCPARC, in association with this filing, is seeking concurrence and an affirmative request from Kern Valley for PCPARC to become substitute trail sponsor in association with the contemplated conveyance of the railbanked right-of-way.

In accordance with the provisions of 49 CFR 1152.29(a), PCPARC submits the following Statement of Willingness to Assume Financial Responsibility:

In order to establish interim trail use and rail banking under 16 U.S.C. 1247(d) and 49 CFR 1152.29 with respect to the right-of-way owned by Kern Valley Railroad Company and operated by Kern Valley Railroad Company, Preston County Parks and Recreation Commission is willing to assume full responsibility for: (1) Managing the right-of-way, (2) any legal liability arising out of the transfer or use of the right-of-way (unless the sponsor is immune from liability, in which case it need only indemnify the railroad against any potential liability), and (3) the payment of any and all taxes that may be levied or assessed against the right of way. The property, known as West Virginia Northern Railroad, extends from railroad milepost 3 + 70 near Tunnelton, to railroad milepost 569 + 39, near Kingwood, a distance of 10 miles plus 650 feet in

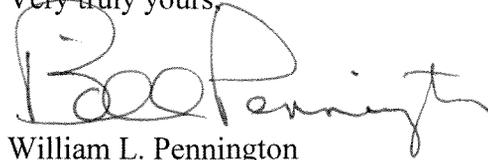
Cynthia T. Brown, Surface Transportation Board  
December 4, 2014  
page 2

Preston County, West Virginia. The right-of-way is part of a line of railroad proposed for abandonment in Docket No. STB AB-277 (Sub-No. 1X). A set of five maps of the property depicting the right-of-way are attached.

Preston County Parks and Recreation Commission acknowledges that use of the right-of-way is subject to the sponsor's continuing to meet its responsibilities described above and subject to possible future reconstruction and reactivation of the right-of-way for rail service. A copy of this statement is being served on the railroad(s) on the same date it is being served on the Board.

Please give me a call if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Pennington". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B".

William L. Pennington

cc: Tim Argabrite, Preston County Parks and Recreation Commission  
George Ross, Kern Valley Railroad Company  
Amanda Pitzer, Executive Director, Friends of the Cheat  
Connie Ervin, Preston Rail Trail Committee  
David P. Brown, Esq.