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238302

April 30, 2015

VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS

Ms. Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W., Room 1034
Washington, DC 20024

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
May 1, 2015
Part of
Public Record

Re: **Docket No. AB-550 (Sub-No. 3X)**
R.J. Corman Railroad Company/Allentown Lines, Inc. –
Abandonment Exemption -- In Lehigh County, Pennsylvania

Dear Ms. Brown:

Enclosed for filing in the above-captioned proceeding are an original and ten copies of the **Petition for Exemption of R.J. Corman Railroad Company/Allentown Lines, Inc.** A check in the amount of \$6,600, representing the appropriate fee for this filing, is attached.

In accordance with 49 C.F.R. § 1152.60(c), a computer disk containing the text of the draft *Federal Register* notice of this petition for exemption (Exhibit B to the Petition) in MS Word 2010 format also is enclosed. For convenience, this disk also contains the text of the Petition for Exemption.

The original copy of the Environmental/Historic Report (Exhibit D to the Petition) has been provided directly to the Board's Office of Environmental Analysis.

If you have any questions regarding this filing, please feel free to contact me. Thank you for your assistance on this matter. Kind regards.

Respectfully submitted,



Audrey L. Brodrick
Attorney for R.J. Corman Railroad Company/
Allentown Lines, Inc.

Enclosures

cc: Ms. Victoria J. Rutson, Room 1106

FEE RECEIVED
May 1, 2015
SURFACE
TRANSPORTATION BOARD

FILED
May 1, 2015
SURFACE
TRANSPORTATION BOARD

BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DOCKET NO. AB-550 (SUB-NO. 3X)

R.J. CORMAN RAILROAD COMPANY/ALLENTOWN LINES, INC.
-- ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION --
IN LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

**ABANDONMENT PETITION FOR EXEMPTION OF
R.J. CORMAN RAILROAD COMPANY/ALLENTOWN LINES, INC..**

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**ATTORNEYS FOR
R.J. CORMAN RAILROAD
COMPANY/ALLENTOWN LINES, INC.**

Dated: May 1, 2015

BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DOCKET NO. AB-550 (SUB-NO. 3X)

R.J. CORMAN RAILROAD COMPANY/ALLENTOWN LINES, INC.
-- ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION --
IN LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

**PETITION FOR EXEMPTION OF
R.J. CORMAN RAILROAD COMPANY/ ALLENTOWN LINES, INC.**

Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 10502 and the regulations of the Surface Transportation Board (the “Board”) at 49 C.F.R. §§ 1121 and 1152.60, R.J. Corman Railroad Company/ Allentown Lines, Inc. (“RJC”) hereby petitions the Board for an exemption from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. § 10903 for RJC to abandon a line of railroad (referred to herein as the “Line”) located near milepost 93.18 and beginning at the south side of the Union Street Crossing (DOT marker 361714K), in Allentown, Pennsylvania and extending north to milepost 96.709, in or near Whitehall, Pennsylvania , a total distance of approximately 3.5 miles. The entirety of the Line is located in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. A map showing the location of the line to be abandoned is attached to this Petition as Exhibit A. A draft *Federal Register* notice of this Petition in the form prescribed by 49 C.F.R. § 1152.60(c) is attached hereto as Exhibit B.

After receiving authority to abandon, RJC will salvage the rails, ties, and other track material and will then convey its right, title and interest, if any, in the portion of the subject righty-of-way to Trestle Redevelopment Partners (“Trestle”) which plans to use that portion of the corridor in connection with a multi-faceted riverfront redevelopment project.

There is one shipper currently making use of the Line, American Carbonation (“AC”), who leases property adjacent to the right-of-way to conduct an unloading and loading transload operation.¹ AC is aware of RJC’s proposed abandonment and does not object to RJC’s proposed abandonment of the Line. See Exhibit C. RJC and AC have worked to re-locate AC’s transloading operation to a nearby RJC yard track not included within the scope of the instant abandonment. From this new location, RJC will serve AC directly at (or before) such time as RJC officially terminates operations over the Line. AC expects to be able to ship/receive carload traffic from/to this new location on or before May 31, 2015. See Exhibit C. Aside from existing rail traffic to AC, RJC does not foresee new traffic developing on the stub-ended Line.

As discussed further below, abandonment of the Line plainly satisfies the exemption criteria of 49 U.S.C. § 10502, and this petition should be granted.

In accordance with 49 C.F.R. § 1150.60(d), a copy of this petition has been served on the parties designated in 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50(d).

I. IDENTIFICATION OF PETITIONER

Petitioner RJC is a common carrier by rail which owns or operates approximately 6.73 miles of rail line in the vicinity of Allentown, Pennsylvania. See R.J. Corman Railroad Company/Allentown Lines, Inc. – Acquisition and Operation Exemption – Lines of Consolidated Rail Corporation, FD No. 32987 (STB served July 18, 1996).

The complete name and address of RJC is:

R.J. Corman Railroad Company/Allentown Lines, Inc.
P.O. Box 788
Nicholasville, Kentucky 40340

¹ RJC is serving AC with a copy of this abandonment petition, as is reflected in the Certificate of Service appended hereto.

II. DESCRIPTION OF LINE TO BE ABANDONED

R.J. Corman Railroad Company/Allentown Lines, Inc. was formed in 1996 to acquire from the Consolidated Rail Corporation (“Conrail”) and operates approximately 6.73 miles of rail line in the vicinity of Allentown, Pennsylvania. See R.J. Corman Railroad Company/Allentown Lines, Inc. – Acquisition and Operation Exemption – Lines of Consolidated Rail Corporation, FD No. 32987 (STB served July 18, 1996). In 1996, RJC acquired the Subject Line from Conrail pursuant to an Offer of Financial Assistance (“OFA”). See Consolidated Rail Corporation – Abandonment Exemption – in Erie County, NY, AB -167 (Sub- No. 1164X) (STB served Sept. 30, 1996).

The Line constitutes the northernmost end of the Lehighon Industrial Track. It is a single-track, stub-ended line segment connecting at its southern end with the balance of the RJC network. The area around the Line is flat and is located in an urban and industrial area that largely runs parallel to the Lehigh River. The right-of-way varies in width, with segments ranging from approximately 60 feet to approximately 80 feet in width. Pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 1152.60(d), RJC states that, based on information in its possession, the Line does not contain federally granted rights-of-way. Any relevant documentation on this subject in RJC’s possession will be made available promptly to those requesting it. The Line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Codes 18102 and 18052.

III. THE EXEMPTION STANDARDS AT 49 U.S.C. § 10502 HAVE BEEN MET

The Board has jurisdiction over the proposed abandonment of the Line pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 10903. Generally, a common carrier by rail must obtain authority from the Board under Section 10903 before abandoning a line of railroad. However, 49 U.S.C. § 10502 requires the Board to exempt a person, transaction or service from the statutory and regulatory

requirements otherwise applicable to a rail carrier when the Board determines that: (1) application of those requirements is not necessary to carry out the rail transportation policy of 49 U.S.C. § 10101; and (2) either (a) the transaction is of limited scope or (b) regulation is not needed to protect shippers from an abuse of market power. As demonstrated below, the proposed railroad line abandonment satisfies Section 10502's statutory criteria.

A. **Detailed Scrutiny Under 49 U.S.C. § 10903 Is Not Necessary To Carry Out The Rail Transportation Policy Of 49 U.S.C. § 10101**

Granting RJC's abandonment petition is consistent with the goals articulated in the National Rail Transportation Policy ("RTP") set forth at 49 U.S.C. § 10101.

The RTP clearly provides that, among its central goals is minimizing the need for federal regulatory control over the rail transportation system, expediting regulatory decisions, and reducing barriers to exit from the industry. 49 U.S.C. §§ 10101(2), (7), and (15). The statutory exemption procedure of Section 10502 eliminates the need for the expensive and time-consuming processes attendant to preparing and reviewing a formal application under Section 10903. Reliance here on the adequate and expeditious exemption procedures minimizes regulation and reduces the regulatory burden on RJC thereby furthering the policy considerations identified in Section 10101.

In addition, the proposed abandonment will allow RJC to more efficiently operate its railroad. As stated above, AC is the sole-shipper located on the Line, and it is in the process of relocating its transloading operation to a nearby RJC yard-track where it will continue its transloading operations and RJC rail-service. As a consequence of such relocation, RJC will have the opportunity through this abandonment to eliminate what would become surplus trackage on which shippers are no longer located. As such, the abandonment will facilitate more efficient RJC railroad operations in keeping with the objectives of 49 U.S.C. § 10101 (9).

Lastly, in addition to the policy considerations this abandonment will advance, none of the other RTP elements would be compromised by granting RJC's instant petition. For these reasons, the RJC's abandonment and its use of the individual petition for exemption procedures to obtain the requested relief are wholly consistent with the RTP.

B. The Proposed Abandonment Is Of Limited Scope

The transaction for which exemption is sought consists solely of the abandonment of a stub-ended Line totaling approximately 3.5 miles and which currently serves only one shipper which is actively in the process of re-location off the Line that is the subject of this abandonment. Additionally, RJC does not anticipate future rail traffic from other sources, and, because the Line is stub-ended, there is no overhead traffic that could be adversely affected by the abandonment. The proposed abandonment clearly is of limited scope.

C. Regulation Is Not Necessary To Protect Shippers From Market Power Abuse

Since this transaction is of limited scope, RJC need not demonstrate that regulation is unnecessary to protect shippers from market power abuse. Even so, it is clear that the abandonment will not and cannot subject shippers to any market power abuse. As stated above, there is only one shipper making use of the Line (for transloading purposes), and that shipper is re-locating to another RJC rail-served location. Accordingly, regulation by the Board of this abandonment is not and cannot be necessary to protect any shipper from an abuse of power.

IV. LEVEL OF LABOR PROTECTION TO BE IMPOSED

RJC anticipates no adverse impact on employment levels as a result of the proposed abandonment. Nevertheless, the interests of RJC employees who may be adversely

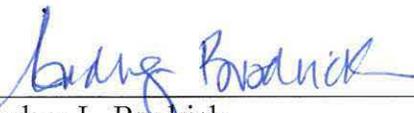
affected by the proposed abandonment will be adequately protected by the labor protective conditions in Oregon Short Line R. Co. -- Abandonment -- Goshen, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979).

V. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

In accordance with the requirements of 49 C.F.R. §§ 1105.7(a), 1105.8(a) and 1121.3(b), a combined Environmental and Historic Report is attached hereto as Exhibit D.

WHEREFORE, RJC respectfully requests that the Board exempt from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. § 10903 RJC's abandonment of its line near milepost 93.2 and beginning at the south side of the Union Street Crossing (DOT marker 361714K), in Allentown, Pennsylvania and extending north to milepost 96.709, in or near Whitehall, Pennsylvania. An original verification testifying to the facts here to is attached hereto as Exhibit E.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Audrey L. Brodrick
Fletcher & Sippel LLC
29 North Wacker Drive, Suite 920
Chicago, Illinois 60606-2832
(312) 252-1500 Telephone
(312) 252-2400 Facsimile

**ATTORNEY FOR R.J. CORMAN RAILROAD
COMPANY/ALLENTOWN LINES, INC.**

Dated: May 1, 2015

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on April 30, 2015, a copy of the foregoing **Abandonment Petition for R.J. Corman Railroad Company/Allentown Lines, Inc.** was served by first class mail, postage prepaid, upon the agencies specified in 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50(d)(1) and the customer located on the line to be abandoned, as follows:

Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission
Transportation Division
Rodney D. Bender, Manager
PO Box 3265
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
Bureau of Rail and Freight
Keystone Building
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

National Park Service
Attn: Charlie Stockman
Org: 2220
1201 I (Eye) Street NW
Washington D.C. 20005

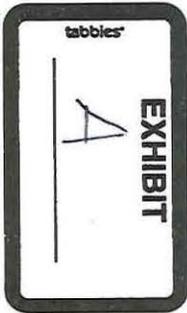
Mr. Tom Tidwell
Chief of the Forest Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20250-0003

Railroads for National Defense Program
Military Surface Deployment & Distribution Command
Transportation Engineering Agency
1 Soldier Way, Bldg. 1900W
Scott AFB, IL 62225- 5006

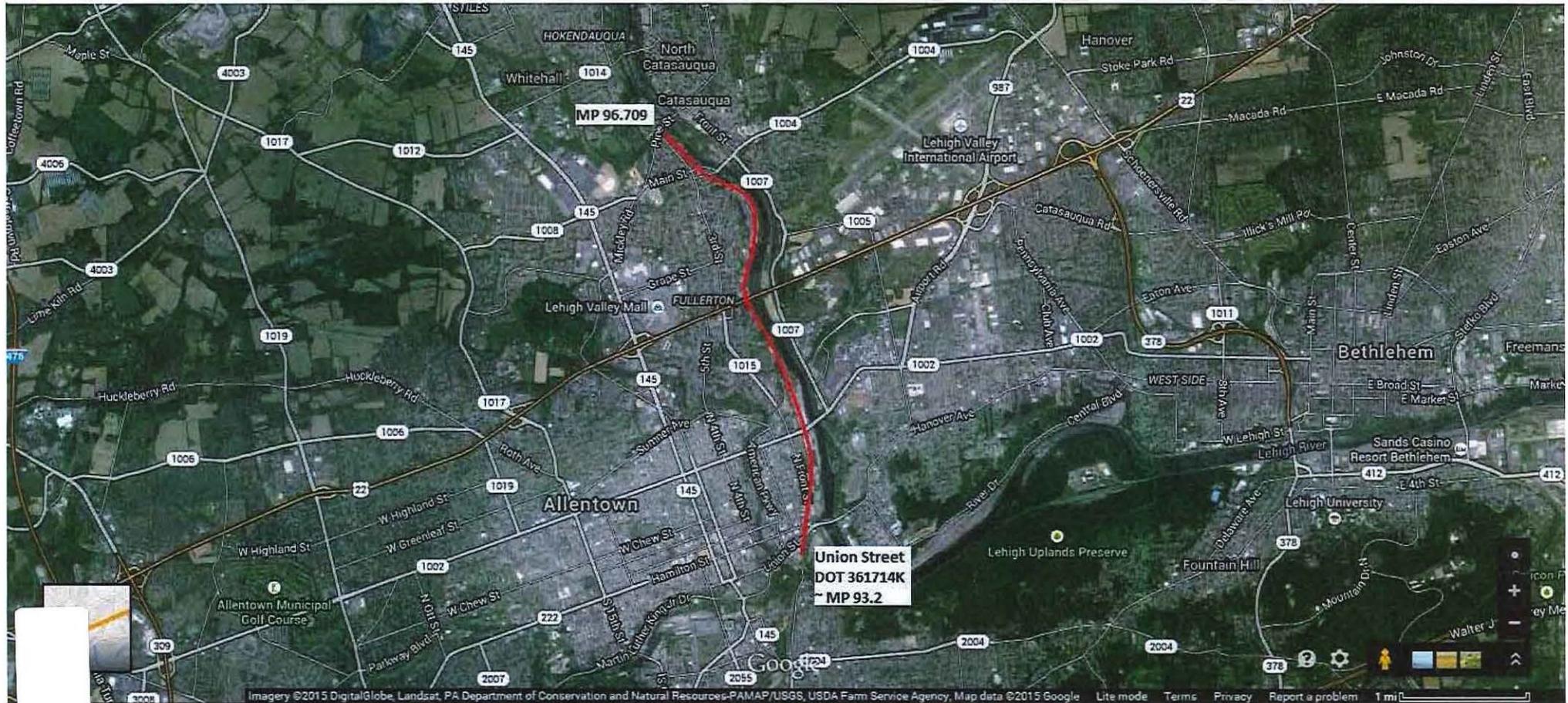
American Carbonation
19 Second Street
P.O. Box 719
Palmer Industrial park
Palmer, MA 01069



Audrey L. Brodrick



**R.J. Corman Railroad Company / Allentown Lines, Inc.
Abandonment in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania
AB 550 (Sub No. 3x)**



Draft Federal Register Notice

Docket No. AB-550 (Sub-No. 3X)

Notice of Petition for Exemption to Abandon

On May 1, 2015 R.J. Corman Railroad Company/Allentown Lines, Inc. ("RJC") filed with the Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423, a petition for exemption for RJC to abandon a line of railroad located near milepost 93.18 and beginning at the south side of the Union Street Crossing (DOT marker 361714K), in Allentown, Pennsylvania and extending north to milepost 96.709, in or near Whitehall, Pennsylvania, a total distance of approximately 3.5 miles. The line for which the abandonment exemption request was filed traverses United States Postal Service ZIP Codes 18102 and 18052.

The line does not contain federally-granted rights-of-way. Any documentation in the railroad's possession will be made available promptly to those requesting it.

The interest of railroad employees will be protected by the conditions specified in Oregon Short Line R. Co. -- Abandonment -- Goshen, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979).

All interested parties should be aware that following abandonment of rail service and salvage of the line, the line may be suitable for other public use, including interim trail use. In addition, all interested parties should be aware that RJC has filed the subject abandonment petition in the furtherance of redevelopment plans, which rely in significant part upon the redeployment of RJC's right-of-way following abandonment for various projects, including recreational trail use.

Any request for a public use condition and any request for trail use/rail banking will be due no later than 20 days after notice of the filing of the petition for exemption is published in the *Federal Register*.

Persons seeking further information concerning abandonment procedures may contact the Surface Transportation Board or refer to the full abandonment regulations at 49 CFR part 1152. Questions concerning environmental issues may be directed to the Board's Office of Environmental Analysis.

Any environmental assessment (EA) (or environmental impact statement (EIS), if necessary) prepared by the Office of Environmental Analysis will be served upon all parties of record and upon any agencies or other persons who commented during its preparation. Any other persons who would like to obtain a copy of the EA (or EIS) may contact the Section of Environmental Analysis. EAs in these abandonment proceedings normally will be made available within 60 days of the filing of the petition. The deadline for submission of comments on the EA will generally be within 30 days of its service.

American Carbonation Corporation

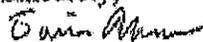
19 Second Street
P.O. Box 719
Palmer Industrial Park
Palmer, MA 01069

Re: R.J. Corman Railroad Company/ Allentown Lines, Inc. Petition for Exemption to Abandon
in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania AB - 550 (Sub-No. 3X)

Dear Members of the Surface Transportation Board:

I am one of the owners of American Carbonation ("AC"), a truck to rail and vice versa transloading company that operates on leased property which is rail-served by R.J. Corman Railroad Company / Allentown Lines, Inc.'s ("RJC") line of railroad located between about milepost 93.2 and 96.709 in Allentown, and Whitehall, Pennsylvania ("the Line") and that is the subject of the above captioned abandonment proceeding. Due to the impending abandonment, RJC and AC have worked together to re-locate AC to a nearby RJC track yard beyond the limits of the instant abandonment where RJC will directly serve AC. AC is in the process of re-locating its operations and expects to be fully operational at that new location on or before May 31, 2015. Given these circumstances, AC does not object to RJC's abandonment of the Line that is the subject of the above captioned proceeding.

If you need any more information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Daniel Koerner
Vice President of Operations
American Carbonation Corporation

BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DOCKET NO. AB 550 (SUB-NO. 3X)

R.J. CORMAN RAILROAD COMPANY/ALLENTOWN LINES, INC.
-- PETITION TO ABANDON--
IN LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

ENVIRONMENTAL/HISTORIC REPORT

R.J. Corman Railroad Company/Allentown Lines, Inc. ("RJC") submits this Environmental/Historic Report in compliance with the reporting requirements of 49 C.F.R. §§ 1105.7 and 1105.8. Supporting correspondence is attached. It is the conclusion of this Report that the proposed abandonment, if implemented, will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources¹.

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT - 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7(e)

1. Proposed Action and Alternatives. RJC seeks authority to abandon approximately 3.5 miles of railroad line near milepost 93.2 and beginning at the south side of the Union Street Crossing (DOT marker 361714K), in Allentown, Pennsylvania and extending north to milepost 96.709, in or near Whitehall, Pennsylvania ("the Line"). The entirety of the Line is located in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. A map showing the location of the Line and surrounding area is attached herein as Appendix A.

¹ The instant Environmental & Historic Report was served on the required parties on March 24, 2015. After service, it was discovered that the report and related correspondence incorrectly referenced this abandonment as AB 550 – (Sub No. 2x), rather than (Sub No. 3x). All parties on the service were list were notified of this mistake and provided the correct docket number. See Appendix M. The instant report contains the same substantive text and material as the March 24, 2015 report.

After receiving authority to abandon, RJC will salvage the rails, ties, and other track material and will then convey its right, title and interest, if any, in the portion of the subject right-of-way to Trestle Redevelopment Partners ("Trestle") which plans to use that portion of the corridor in connection with a multi-faceted redevelopment project. There is one shipper currently located on the Line, American Carbonation ("AC"). AC operates an inbound and outbound transloading operation of Carbon Dioxide on the Line. AC and RJC have reached an agreement pursuant to which AC will lease property from RJC at RJC's nearby yard track not included within the scope of the subject abandonment where AC will continue its transload operations. From this new location, RJC will serve AC directly at (or before) such time as RJC officially terminates operations over the Line. AC is in the process of relocating its transloading operation to the aforementioned RJC yard tracks in anticipation of the proposed abandonment and expects to be able to ship/receive carload traffic from/to this new location on or before May 31, 2015.

Aside from the rail traffic to AC, there is no reasonable possibility for new rail traffic as the Line is stub-ended on the north-end at milepost 96.709, and RJC would discourage new traffic on this line segment in light of the above-referenced redevelopment plans for the right-of-way.

There are six at grade public crossings located on the Line. The public crossings are located at Union Street (milepost 93.18), Walnut Street (milepost 93.22), Hamilton Street (milepost 93.29), Linden Street (milepost 93.38) Front Street (milepost 93.44), and Pump Place (milepost 93.76). All public at grade crossings are equipped with crossbucks only. In addition to the six at grade public crossings identified above, there are two private crossings on the Line,

one is at Sycamore Street (milepost 93.98) and the other is at Furnace Street (milepost 94.12). Abandonment will allow the permanent closure of all public and private crossings on the Line.

There are no structures on the Line that are 50 years old or older. RJC has informed the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Bureau for Historic Preservation ("PHMC") of the proposed abandonment and the PHMC has responded that the proposed abandonment will have no adverse affect on any historic structures.

No alternatives to the proposed abandonment have been considered. RJC has contacted and requested comments from the Lehigh County Board of Supervisors. See correspondence attached herein as Appendix C. To date the Lehigh County Board has not responded.

2. Transportation System. RJC does not anticipate that existing regional or local transportation systems or patterns will be adversely affected by the proposed abandonment. AC is the only shipper on the Line, and AC is in the process of relocating its transloading operations to off-Line RJC trackage, which relocation will preserve AC's access to RJC rail service after abandonment of the Line. AC's relocation to RJC's off-Line nearby yard track is the only change to AC's current transloading operation that will occur as a result of the proposed abandonment. Thus, RJC expects that no rail traffic will be diverted to other modes of transportation as a result of this abandonment. Given its stub-ended configuration, RJC does not conduct overhead rail movements on the Line, and no passenger trains are operated over the Line.

RJC has contacted and requested comments from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation ("PDOT"). See correspondence attached hereto as Appendix D. PDOT has responded with comments about the abandonment. See Appendix D. Although RJC appreciates

PDOT's comments, none of the issues raised in PDOT's correspondence are within that consulting agency's jurisdiction nor is PDOT's position on those issues conclusive. PDOT's letter did not raise any issues with respect to state transportation impact. See Appendix D.

3. Land Use.

(i) RJC does not foresee any inconsistency with regional and/or local land use plans. In fact, the proposed abandonment is being undertaken to further land use redevelopment objectives for property located along the Lehigh River in the City of Allentown. Specifically, after abandonment, RJC will convey its right, title and interest, if any, in the right-of-way to Trestle as part of a multi-faceted riverfront redevelopment project, of which the Line's right-of-way has been determined to be an essential component. RJC has contacted and requested comments from the NOAA/National Geodetic Survey. The National Geodetic Survey has commented that one geodetic survey marker is located in the vicinity of the Line. Salvage activities with respect to the instant abandonment will not affect the geodetic survey marker located in the vicinity of the Line because the marker is located well outside the railroad right-of-way and thus any salvage operations. See correspondence attached herein as Appendix E.

(ii) RJC believes that the proposed abandonment of the Line will not affect any prime or unique agricultural land. RJC has contacted and requested comments from the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture. See correspondence attached herein as Appendix F. The Natural Resources Conservation Service has not responded.

(iii) This track does not appear to be within a designated Coastal Zone Management Area and, accordingly, the proposed abandonment will not affect any land or water uses in such an area or result in any coastal impacts. RJC has contacted the Office of Water

Planning within the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to determine whether the proposed abandonment is consistent with applicable federal, state and local water quality standards. See correspondence attached hereto as Appendix G. The Waterways and Wetlands Program Manager has responded. See Appendix G. Because there are no bridges on the Line, no Water Quality Certification under Section 401(a) is required. Additionally, no Chapter 105 Water Obstruction and Encroachment permit is required because RJC only intends to remove the tracks and ties during salvage operations.

(iv) RJC does not believe that the right-of-way of the Line would be suitable for alternative public use under 49 U.S.C. § 10905. As indicated above, abandonment is being undertaken in order to allow transfer of the track and right-of-way to a private party for redevelopment purposes.

4. Energy.

(i) The proposed abandonment will not have any effect on the transportation of energy resources. RJC does not transport energy resources over the Line, and RJC foresees little or no possibility that such on-line traffic would develop in the future.

(ii) The movement and/or recovery of recyclable commodities will not be adversely affected by this abandonment. No recyclable commodities move over the Line, and RJC foresees little possibility that any on-line recyclable commodity traffic would develop in the future.

(iii) Abandonment will not result in an increase or decrease in overall energy efficiency. The only customer located on the Line is in the process of relocating its transloading operations to another RJC-served location nearby in order to preserve its direct access to RJC service.

(iv) Not applicable. Abandonment of the Line will not cause the diversion of more than 1,000 rail carloads per year or an average of 50 rail carloads per mile per year to motor carriers.

5. Air.

(i) Not applicable. Abandonment will not result in (A) a minimum increase in rail traffic of 100% or eight trains per day on any segment of rail line, (B) an increase in rail yard activity of at least 100%, or (C) an average increase in truck traffic of more than 10% of the average daily traffic or 50 vehicles per day on any road segment.

(ii) Not applicable. Lehigh County is not a class I or nonattainment area under the Clean Air Act. In any event, abandonment of the Line will not result in traffic increases which exceed the thresholds specified in 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7(e)(5)(ii)(A), (B) or (C).

(iii) Not applicable. No ozone depleting materials are transported over the Line, and no such shipments would be diverted as a result of this abandonment.

RJC has contacted and requested comments from the Pennsylvania Environmental Protection Agency as well as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. See correspondence attached hereto as Appendices H and I. RJC has only received comments from the Pennsylvania Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Water as discussed above in section 3(iii). RJC has received no comments to date from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

6. Noise. Not applicable. As indicated above, none of the thresholds identified in 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7(e)(5)(i) will be exceeded as a result of the abandonment.

7. Safety.

(i) The proposed action will have no adverse effect upon public health or safety. All salvage activities will be undertaken in compliance with applicable rules and regulations

(ii) Not applicable. The proposed abandonment is not expected to result in the diversion of any hazardous materials to another mode of transportation or an increase in the transportation of any hazardous commodities by rail. To the extent it may be relevant to this proceeding, AC ships carbon dioxide by rail over the Line. Such shipments are expected to continue via RJC, albeit to a different loading/unloading track.

(iii) There are no known hazardous material spills on the right-of-way of the Line.

8. Biological Resources.

(i) The Line is located in an urban and industrial area and runs parallel to the Lehigh River. After abandonment, RJC will salvage the tracks, ties, and other track material. Salvage will not require any earth moving activities, dredging or filling. All salvage activities will be done from existing access points. Subsequent to abandonment and salvage, all of RJC's right, title and interest, if any, in the Line will be conveyed to Trestle for redevelopment purposes. (RJC understands that Trestle's proposed redevelopment project would be subject to any applicable state/local land use and permitting processes.) RJC does not believe that any critical habitat will be destroyed, altered or affected as a result of the proposed abandonment and track salvage that are the subject of this proceeding, or that any endangered or threatened species are present in the area or would be adversely affected thereby. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

has been contacted and has responded that the proposed abandonment will have no effect on any federally protected species within its jurisdiction. See Appendix J.

(ii) The Line does not pass through or adjacent to any wildlife sanctuaries or refuges or any national or state parks or forests and, accordingly, none will be adversely affected. RJC has contacted and requested comments from the National Park Service, as set forth in Appendix K. RJC has received no comments from the National Park Service to date.

9. Water. RJC does not believe that the proposed abandonment will adversely affect water quality. RJC does not anticipate discharge of any materials into navigable waters that would require permits under Sections 402 and 404 of the Clean Water Act. To RJC's knowledge, there are no wetlands located in or along the right-of-way of the Line, and RJC is unaware of any 100-year flood plains that would be affected by abandonment.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been contacted and RJC has received no comments to date. See correspondence attached hereto as Appendix L. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has also been contacted and has concluded that the proposed abandonment will have no effect on any federally listed species. See correspondence attached as Appendix J. Information on the proposed abandonment also has been provided to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Office of Water Planning within the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection as well as the Pennsylvania Environmental Protection Agency. See Appendices I, G, and H, respectively. The only agency to respond to date of the above mentioned is the Waterways and Wetlands Program Manager from the Pennsylvania Environmental Protection Agency. See discussion above in Section 3(iii).

HISTORIC REPORT - 49 C.F.R. § 1105.8(d)

1. Map. A map of the Line is attached hereto as Appendix A.

2. Description of Line. RJC seeks authority to abandon a line of railroad starting near milepost 93.2, and beginning at the south side of the Union Street Crossing (DOT marker 361714K), in Allentown, Pennsylvania and extending north to milepost 96.709, in or near Whitehall, Pennsylvania (“the Line”). The area around the Line is flat and is located in an urban and industrial area that runs parallel to the Lehigh River. The width of the right-of-way varies from approximately 60 to 80 feet in different locations.

3. Photographs. Not applicable. There are no buildings, bridges or other structures on the Line which are fifty years old or older.

4. Information on Structures. Not applicable. There are no buildings, bridges or other structures on the Line which are fifty years old or older.

5. History of Operations. R.J. Corman Railroad Company/Allentown Lines, Inc. was formed in 1996 by way of acquisition from the Consolidated Rail Corporation (“Conrail”) and operates approximately 6.73 miles of rail line in the vicinity of Allentown, Pennsylvania. See R.J. Corman Railroad Company/Allentown Lines, Inc. – Acquisition and Operation Exemption – Lines of Consolidated Rail Corporation, FD No. 32987 (STB served July 18, 1996). In 1996, RJC acquired the Subject Line from Conrail pursuant to an Offer of Financial Assistance (“OFA”). See Consolidated Rail Corporation – Abandonment Exemption – in Erie County, NY, AB -167 (Sub- No. 1164X) (STB served Sept. 30, 1996).

6. Engineering Documents. RJC will provide copies of any documents in its possession upon request.

7. Historic Criteria. RJC has contacted and requested comments from the PHMC. See correspondence attached as Appendix B. The PHMC has responded that no historic properties will be affected by the proposed abandonment. See Appendix B.

8. Ground Disturbances. RJC has reported there are no archaeological resources in the area. Moreover, RJC does not intend in the course of track salvage to engage in any ground disturbance that could affect archaeological resources (if any) along the Line. Access to the line is generally good.

CERTIFICATIONS - 49 C.F.R § 1105.7(c)

A certification that the foregoing Report has been served on each of the agencies designated in 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7(b) and that RJC has consulted with all appropriate agencies in preparing this Report is attached hereto as Appendix N. A certification that, in accordance with 49 C.F.R. § 1105.12, RJC has published notice of the proposed abandonment in a newspaper of general circulation in the county through which the Line passes is attached hereto as Appendix N.

**BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

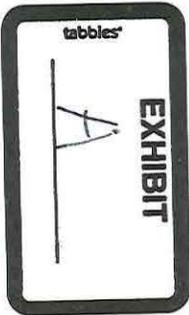
DOCKET NO. AB 550 (SUB-NO. 2X)

**R.J. CORMAN RAILROAD COMPANY/ALLENTOWN LINES, INC.
-- PETITION TO ABANDON--
IN LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

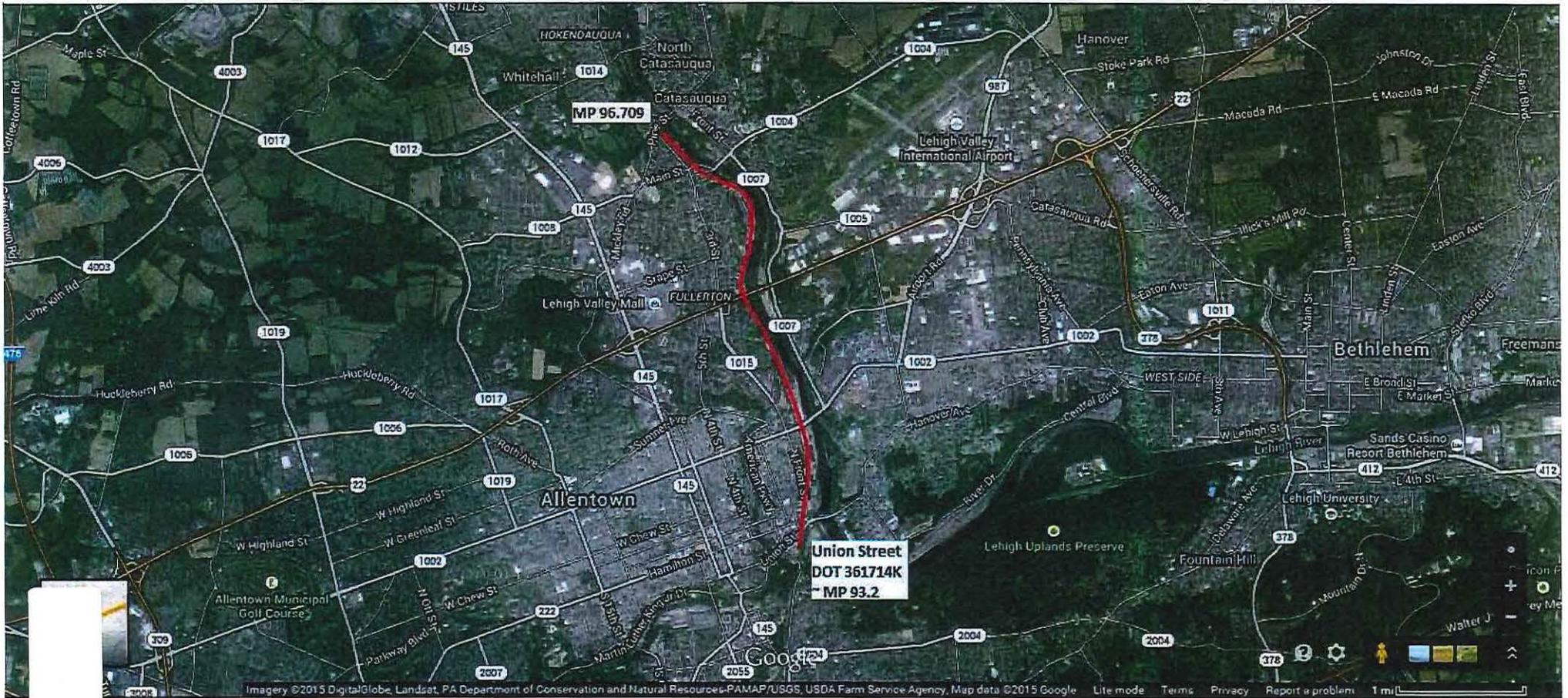
**APPENDICES TO
ENVIRONMENTAL/HISTORICAL REPORT**

Appendix

Map(s) showing Line location	A
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Notice and Response Letters.....	B
Lehigh County Board of Supervisors Notice Letter	C
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Notice and Response Letters.....	D
NOAA/National Geodetic Survey Notice and Response Letters	E
Natural Resources Conservation Letter Notice Letter	F
Office of Water Planning-Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Notice and Response Letters	G
Pennsylvania Environmental Protection Agency Notice Letter	H
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Notice Letter.....	I
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Notice and Response Letters.....	J
National Park Service Notice Letter	K
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Notice Letter	L
Correction Letter to Service List.....	M
49 C.F.R. Part 1105 Certificate of Compliance	N



R.J. Corman Railroad Company / Allentown Lines, Inc.
Abandonment in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania
AB 550 (Sub No. 3x)



FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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

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

AUDREY L. BRODRICK
(312) 252-1518
abrodrick@fletcher-sippel.com

January 26, 2015

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
Bureau of Historic Preservation
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re: Docket AB 550 (Sub No.- 2X) –R.J. Corman Railroad Company/Allentown Lines, Inc. Proposed Abandonment in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania

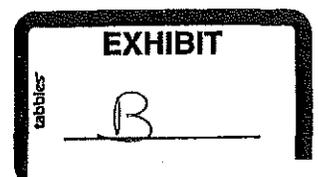
Dear State Historic Preservation Officer:

R.J. Corman Railroad Company/Allentown Lines, Inc., (“RJC”) expects to file with the Surface Transportation Board a petition for exemption for the abandonment of approximately 3.5 miles of railroad line starting near milepost 93.2, and beginning at the south side of the Union Street Crossing (DOT marker 361714K) in Allentown, Pennsylvania and extending north to milepost 96.709 in or near Whitehall, Pennsylvania (“the Line”). The entirety of the Line is located in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. The petition for exemption will be filed pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 10502 and 49 C.F.R. §§ 1121 and 1152.60. A map showing the location of the Line to be abandoned is attached for your reference. After abandonment, the track, ties and other track materials will be salvaged and the underlying property will be transferred to a private entity for redevelopment purposes.

In accordance with the Board’s environmental and historic preservation regulations, 49 C.F.R. § 1105.8, we are advising you of the proposed abandonment of the Line that you may determine whether this action will have any effect on any historic structures or sites. To our knowledge, there are no railroad buildings, bridges or other structures on the Line to be abandoned, and thus none should be adversely affected. RJC is also is unaware of any historic sites involved in the proposed abandonment.

Any written comments should reference Docket No. AB-550 (Sub-No. 2X) and be sent to the undersigned, as counsel for R.J. Corman Railroad Company/Allentown Lines, Inc.

In accordance with the Board’s regulations, a copy of the Environmental/Historic Report prepared in connection with this abandonment will be forwarded to you at least twenty days before RJC’s petition for exemption is filed at the Board.

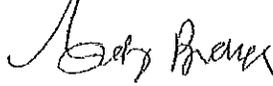


FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

State Historic Preservation Officer
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
January 26, 2015
Page 2

If you have any questions or need additional information in the meantime, please feel free to contact me at 312-252-1518. Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,



Audrey L. Brodrick
Counsel for R.J. Corman Railroad
Company/Allentown Lines, Inc.

ALB:dg
Enclosures



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
 Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
 Bureau for Historic Preservation
 Commonwealth Keystone Building, 2nd Floor
 400 North Street
 Harrisburg, PA 17120-0093
www.phmc.state.pa.us

February 11, 2015

Audrey L. Brodrick
 Fletcher & Sippel LLC
 29 North Wacker Drive, Suite 920
 Chicago, Illinois 60606-2832

TO CREDIT REVIEW USE
 SHIP REFERENCE NUMBER

Re: File No. ER 1998-2075-077-I
 STB Docket AB 550 (Sub No.-2X); R.J. Corman
 Railroad Company/Allentown Lines, Inc.
 Proposed Abandonment, Allentown, Whitehall
 Twp., Lehigh Co.

Dear Ms. Brodrick:

Thank you for submitting information concerning the above referenced project. The Bureau for Historic Preservation (the State Historic Preservation Office) reviews projects in accordance with state and federal laws. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, and the implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800) of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, is the primary federal legislation. The Environmental Rights amendment, Article 1, Section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution and the Pennsylvania History Code, 37 Pa. Cons. Stat. Section 500 et seq. (1988) is the primary state legislation. These laws include consideration of the project's potential effects on both historic and archaeological resources.

Historic Structures

We concur with the findings of the agency that the proposed project will have no adverse effect on the properties named below that are listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Lehigh Valley Railroad, Key No. 112381

Archaeology

In our opinion no archaeological resources will be affected by this project.

If you need further information in this matter please consult Emma Diehl at (717) 787-9121.

Sincerely,

Douglas C. McLearen, Chief
 Division of Archaeology &
 Protection

DCM/tmw

FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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Chicago, Illinois 60606-2832

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

AUDREY L. BRODRICK
(312) 252-1518
abrodrick@fletcher-sippel.com

January 26, 2015

Mr. Tom Muller, County Executive
Lehigh County
17 South 7th Street
Allentown, PA 18101

Re: Docket AB-550 (Sub. No. 2x) R. J. Corman Railroad Company/Allentown
Lines --Proposed Abandonment in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Muller:

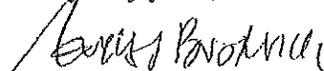
R.J. Corman Railroad Company/Allentown Lines Inc. ("RJC") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon approximately 3.5 miles of railroad line starting near milepost 93.2, and beginning at the south side of the Union Street Crossing (DOT marker 361714K) in Allentown, Pennsylvania and extending north to milepost 96.709 in or near Whitehall, Pennsylvania ("the Line"). The entirety of the Line is located in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. For your convenience, we have attached a map for your reference. RJC is advising you of the proposed action so you may assist us in identifying any potential effects of the proposed action on, among other things, the following:

1. Water quality;
2. Designated wetlands;
3. 100-year old flood plains;
4. Endangered or threatened species;
5. Critical habitats;
6. Wildlife sanctuaries or refuges;
7. National or state parks or forests;
8. Coastal zone management;
9. Soil and natural resource conservations;
10. Agricultural land;
11. Regional and/or local use plans; and
12. The need or permits under Sections 402 or 404 of the Clean Water Act.

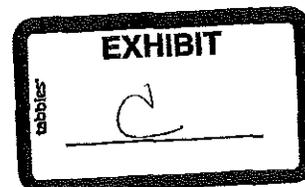
Because of the nature of the proposed action, we foresee no adverse effects. Nevertheless, we would appreciate your review and any comments you may wish to offer. We would appreciate a written response as soon as possible so that we may include it in the environmental report, which we will file with the STB. We intend on filing the Environmental Report in two weeks.

Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,



Audrey L. Brodrick
Counsel for R.J. Corman Railroad
Company/Allentown Lines, Inc.



ALB:dg
Enclosure

FLETCHER & SIPPEN LLC

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

AUDREY L. BRODRICK
(312) 252-1518
abrodrick@fletcher-sippel.com

January 26, 2015

Pennsylvania State Department of Transportation
Bureau of Rail Freight, Ports and Waterways
PO Box 2777
Harrisburg, PA 17105

Re: Docket AB-550 (Sub. No. 2x) R. J. Corman Railroad Company/Allentown
Lines --Proposed Abandonment in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania

Dear Sir/Madam:

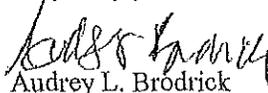
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11. Regional and/or local use plans; and
12. The need or permits under Sections 402 or 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Because of the nature of the proposed action, we foresee no adverse effects. Nevertheless, we would appreciate your review and any comments you may wish to offer. We would appreciate a written response as soon as possible so that we may include it in the environmental report, which we will file with the STB. We intend on filing the Environmental Report in two weeks.

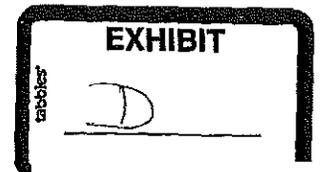
Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,


Audrey L. Brodrick

Counsel for R.J. Corman Railroad
Company/Allentown Lines, Inc.

ALB:dg
Enclosure





pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DATE: February 23, 2015

SUBJECT: R.J. Corman Railroad Company/Allentown Lines
Proposed Abandonment in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania
STB Docket AB-550 (Sub. No. 2x)

TO: Sarah L. Gulick, Director
Bureau of Rail Freight, Ports & Waterways
Keystone Building

FROM: Michael W. Rebert, PE 
District Executive
Engineering District 5-0

This is in response to your memo date February 2, 2015, concerning the aerial map sent from Ms. Audrey L. Broderick for R. J. Corman Railroad Company/Allentown Lines Inc. to the Department. As stated in the letter Ms. Broderick solicited comments for an Environmental Report to be submitted to the Surface Transportation Board. Comments from Engineering District 5-0 are as follows:

- R.J. Corman Railroad Company/Allentown Lines Inc. (RJC) operate on the former Lehigh Valley Railroad. The Lehigh Valley Railroad (Allentown to Wilkes Barre Section) is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
- Portions of the RJC may be within the 100 Year Flood Plain of the Lehigh River.
- Portions of the RJC may have elevated levels of asbestos in the soil as a result of both naturally occurring asbestos in area soils, but also from the practice of "side casting" burnt coal from steam engine locomotives.
- A nesting pair of peregrine falcons has been recorded on a bridge within 1000 feet of the RJC in the City of Allentown. Peregrine falcons are both a state protected bird and protected federally by the Migratory Bird Act.

Thank you for forwarding Ms. Broderick's letter and allowing us to comment. I hope the information contained in our reply is helpful.

Should you require any additional information, please contact District Environmental Manager Jerry Neal at 610.871.4458 or at eneal@pa.gov

050/JN/clb/STB Docket AB-550 (Sub. No. 2x), RJC Railroad Co/Allentown Lines

cc: M. Rebert, PE
J. Neal

Deborah Guzman

From: Deborah Guzman
Sent: Monday, January 26, 2015 1:47 PM
To: 'simon.monroe@noaa.gov'
Cc: Audrey Brodrick
Subject: Docket AB 550 (Sub No.-2X)-R.J. Corman Railroad Company/Allentown Lines, Inc. Proposed Abandonment in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania
Attachments: National Geodetic Notice Letter.pdf

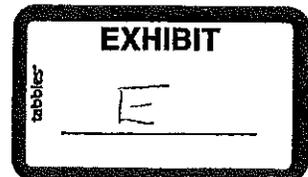
Dear Mr. Monroe:

Attached, for your review and comment, please find correspondence providing notice of the filing of a Petition for Exemption in connection with the abandonment of track in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania.

Thank you for your attention to this e-mail and its attachment(s).

Audrey L. Brodrick
Attorney for R.J. Corman Rail Company/Allentown Lines, Inc.

Deborah A. Guzman
Administrative Assistant to Audrey L. Brodrick
Fletcher & Sippel LLC
29 North Wacker Drive, Suite 920
Chicago, IL 60606-2832
(312) 252-1500 General
(312) 252-1541 Direct
(312) 252-2400 Facsimile



FLETCHER & SIPPEN LLC

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Chicago, Illinois 60606-2832

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www.fletcher-sippel.com

AUDREY L. BRODRICK
(312) 252-1518
abrodrick@fletcher-sippel.com

January 26, 2015

National Geodetic Survey
SSMC3 #9340
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3281

Re: Docket AB-550 (Sub. No. 2x) R. J. Corman Railroad Company/Allentown
Lines --Proposed Abandonment in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania

Dear Sir/Madam:

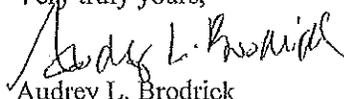
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3. 100-year old flood plains;
4. Endangered or threatened species;
5. Critical habitats;
6. Wildlife sanctuaries or refuges;
7. National or state parks or forests;
8. Coastal zone management;
9. Soil and natural resource conservations;
10. Agricultural land;
11. Regional and/or local use plans; and
12. The need or permits under Sections 402 or 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Because of the nature of the proposed action, we foresee no adverse effects. Nevertheless, we would appreciate your review and any comments you may wish to offer. We would appreciate a written response as soon as possible so that we may include it in the environmental report, which we will file with the STB. We intend on filing the Environmental Report in two weeks.

Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,



Audrey L. Brodrick
Counsel for R.J. Corman Railroad
Company/Allentown Lines, Inc.

ALB:dg
Enclosure

Deborah Guzman

From: Audrey Brodrick
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2015 4:20 PM
To: Deborah Guzman
Subject: FW: NGS Response, STB Docket AB-550 (SUB NO. 002X)

For file.

-----Original Message-----

From: Simon Monroe [mailto:simon.monroe@noaa.gov]
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2015 1:35 PM
To: Audrey Brodrick
Cc: Surface Transportation Board; Lucy Hall; simon Monroe
Subject: NGS Response, STB Docket AB-550 (SUB NO. 002X)

Thank you for sharing your railroad abandonment environmental report for ALLENTOWN, Lehigh County, PENNSYLVANIA.

Approximately 01 geodetic survey marks may be located in the area described.

If marks will be disturbed by the abandonment, [THE RAILROAD] shall consult with the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) at least 90 days prior to beginning salvage activities that will disturb, or destroy any geodetic station marks that are described on the attached file. Additional advice is provided at <http://geodesy.noaa.gov/marks/railroads/>

|---|-----|
-|-----|-----|-----|---|-----

|...|KV1687|. 3 |88/RESET...|N403824.....|W0752753.....|B...|G|L 46
RESET 1958

From: Audrey Brodrick
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2015 11:44 AM
To: Simon Monroe
Subject: RE: NGS Response, STB Docket AB-550 (SUB NO. 002X)

Mr. Monroe-

Thank you for your phone call on Friday and for sending this information. I have reviewed the data sheet at the below web-site with respect to the marker in the vicinity of the abandonment. The marker in that area is well outside the railroad's property and right-of-way such that salvage operations in this abandonment will have no effect on the marker.

Thank you for your assistance,
Audrey Brodrick

-----Original Message-----

From: Simon Monroe [mailto:simon.monroe@noaa.gov]
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2015 2:44 PM
To: Audrey Brodrick
Subject: Re: NGS Response, STB Docket AB-550 (SUB NO. 002X)

Hi Ms. Brodrick,

Go to the site below click PID input in the box your #(KV1687) scroll down and click submit. Highlight KV1687 and click Get Datasheet, the data sheet will provide location and directions.

<http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/datasheet.prl?Box=DATASHEETS>

On 3/17/2015 2:41 PM, Audrey Brodrick wrote:

> Mr. Monroe-

> In response to your email, I am looking for information as to where the geodetic survey mark referenced below is located so that I may determine whether salvage activities will affect that marker. For reference, attached is a map of the proposed abandonment.

>

> Thank you for your assistance,

> Audrey Brodrick

>

> -----Original Message-----

> **From:** Simon Monroe [mailto:simon.monroe@noaa.gov]

> **Sent:** Thursday, January 29, 2015 1:35 PM

> **To:** Audrey Brodrick

> **Cc:** Surface Transportation Board; Lucy Hall; simon Monroe

> **Subject:** NGS Response, STB Docket AB-550 (SUB NO. 002X)

>

>

>

>

> Thank you for sharing your railroad abandonment environmental report

> for

>

> ALLENTOWN, Lehigh County, PENNSYLVANIA.

>

- >
- >
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- > to
- >
- > beginning salvage activities that will disturb, or destroy any
- > geodetic station
- >
- > marks that are described on the attached file. Additional advice is
- > provided at
- >
- > <http://geodesy.noaa.gov/marks/railroads/>
- >
- > |---|-----|-
- > -|-----|-----|-----|---|-----
- >
- > |...|KV1687|. 3|88/RESET...|N403824.....|W0752753.....|B...|G|L 46
- > RESET 1958
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FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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

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

AUDREY L. BRODRICK
(312) 252-1518
abrodric@fletcher-sippel.com

January 26, 2015

National Resource Conservation Service-USDA
One Credit Union Place,
Suite 340
Harrisburg, PA 17110-2993

Re: Docket AB-550 (Sub. No. 2x) R. J. Corman Railroad Company/Allentown
Lines --Proposed Abandonment in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania

Dear Sir/Madam:

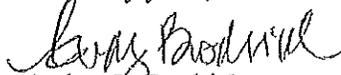
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Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,



Audrey L. Brodrick
Counsel for R.J. Corman Railroad
Company/Allentown Lines, Inc.

ALB:dg
Enclosure



FLETCHER & SIPPET LLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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

AUDREY L. BRODRICK
(312) 252-1518
abrodick@fletcher-sippel.com

January 26, 2015

Pennsylvania State Department of Environmental Protection
Water Planning Office
400 Market Street-15th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063

Re: Docket AB-550 (Sub. No. 2x) R. J. Corman Railroad Company/Allentown
Lines --Proposed Abandonment in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania

Dear Sir/Madam:

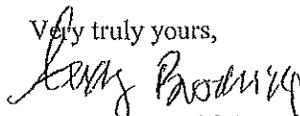
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Very truly yours,



Audrey L. Brodrick
Counsel for R.J. Corman Railroad
Company/Allentown Lines, Inc.

ALB:dg
Enclosure



February 25, 2015

Ms. Audrey L. Brodeck
Counsel for R.J. Corman Railroad Company/Allentown Lines, Inc.
29 North Wacker Drive
Suite 290
Chicago, IL 60606-2832

Re: Abandonment of Railroad Operations
R. J. Corman Railroad Company/Allentown
Lehigh County

Dear Attorney Brodeck

This is in response to your request of January 26, 2015, regarding the abandonment of 3.5 miles of railroad line starting near milepost 93.2 in the City of Allentown, Lehigh County.

The abandonment of railroad operations is reviewed by DCNR Office of Chief Counsel, Mr. Richard Morrison, DCNR, Bureau of State Parks, Resources Management and Planning Division, PO Box 8551, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8551. Details on railroad line abandonment should be sent to Attorney Morrison for the DCNR's comments.

The following additional information may be helpful:

1. If the railroad intends to operate and maintain the existing bridges, or if the railroad intends to transfer ownership of the existing bridges to someone else who will operate and maintain them, then no Chapter 105 Water Obstruction and Encroachment Permit (WO&E) would be required. Since there would be no construction activity associated with the operation and maintenance of the bridges, there would be no requirement to obtain water quality certification under Section 401(a) of the Federal Clean Water Act (33 USC).
2. If the railroad intends to remove the existing bridges on its right-of-way, then Water Quality Certification under Section 401(a) would be required. In order to obtain this water quality certification, the railroad would need to apply to this office for a WO&E permit. A permit application is enclosed.

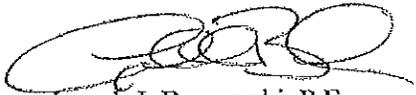
Also, a plan for controlling accelerated erosion and sedimentation during construction must be submitted to and approved by the Lehigh County Conservation District, at 4184 Dorney Park Road, Allentown, PA 18104, prior to starting work. The Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission's Southeast Regional Office must be notified at P.O. Box 9, Elm, Pa 17521.

3. If the railroad intends to remove the tracks or ties, then no Chapter 105 Water Obstruction and Encroachment Permit would be required.

As a construction material, railroad ties can be sold or given away. Otherwise, railroad ties should be disposed of as residual waste at a municipal waste landfill accepting residual waste. If you have questions regarding the disposal of other waste, please contact Mr. Roger Bellas, Environmental Program Manager, Waste Management Program, Department of Environmental Protection, Northeast Regional Office, 2 Public Square, Wilkes-Barre, Pa, 18701.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please call Mr. Kevin White, P.E., Environmental Group Manager, at 570-826-2015.

Sincerely,



Joseph J. Buczynski, P.E.
Environmental Program Manager
Waterways and Wetlands Program

cc: Attorney Richard Morrison/DCNR, Bureau of State Parks

FLETCHER & SIPPEN LLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

29 North Wacker Drive
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Chicago, Illinois 60606-2832

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AUDREY L. BRODRICK
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abrodrick@fletcher-sippel.com

January 26, 2015

Pennsylvania State Department of Environmental Protection
Northeast Regional Office
2 Public Square
Wilkes-Barre, Pa 18711-0790

Re: Docket AB-550 (Sub. No. 2x) R. J. Corman Railroad Company/Allentown
Lines --Proposed Abandonment in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania

Dear Sir/Madam:

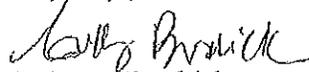
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1. Water quality;
2. Designated wetlands;
3. 100-year old flood plains;
4. Endangered or threatened species;
5. Critical habitats;
6. Wildlife sanctuaries or refuges;
7. National or state parks or forests;
8. Coastal zone management;
9. Soil and natural resource conservations;
10. Agricultural land;
11. Regional and/or local use plans; and
12. The need or permits under Sections 402 or 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Because of the nature of the proposed action, we foresee no adverse effects. Nevertheless, we would appreciate your review and any comments you may wish to offer. We would appreciate a written response as soon as possible so that we may include it in the environmental report, which we will file with the STB. We intend on filing the Environmental Report in two weeks.

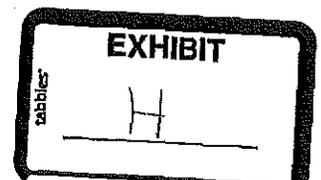
Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,



Audrey L. Brodrick
Counsel for R.J. Corman Railroad
Company/Allentown Lines, Inc.

ALB:dg
Enclosure



FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

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January 26, 2015

Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029

Re: Docket AB-550 (Sub. No. 2x) R. J. Corman Railroad Company/Allentown
Lines --Proposed Abandonment in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania

Dear Sir/Madam:

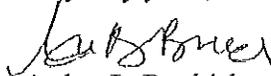
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Audrey L. Brodrick
Counsel for R.J. Corman Railroad
Company/Allentown Lines, Inc.

ALB:dg
Enclosure



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AUDREY L. BRODRICK
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abrodick@fletcher-sippel.com

January 26, 2015

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Northeast Regional Office
300 Westgate Center Drive
Hadley, MA 01035-9587

Re: Docket AB-550 (Sub. No. 2x) R. J. Corman Railroad Company/Allentown
Lines --Proposed Abandonment in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania

Dear Sir/Madam:

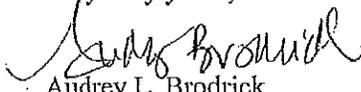
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Audrey L. Brodrick
Counsel for R.J. Corman Railroad
Company/Allentown Lines, Inc.

ALB:dg
Enclosure



2015-0378



FLETCHER & SIPP
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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

AUDREY L. BRODRICK
(312) 252-1518
abrodrick@fletcher-sippel.com

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
 Pennsylvania Field Office
 316 South Allen Street, Suite 322
 State College, Pennsylvania 16801-4850

No federally listed species under our jurisdiction is known or likely to occur in the project area. This determination is valid for two years. Should project plans change, or if additional information on listed species become available, this determination may be reconsidered.

[Signature], Supervisor 3/11/15

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

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Northeast Regional Office
300 Westgate Center Drive
Hadley, MA 01035-9587

Re: Docket AB-550 (Sub. No. 2x) R. J. Corman Railroad Company/Allentown Lines --Proposed Abandonment in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania

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[Signature]

Audrey L. Brodrick
Counsel for R.J. Corman Railroad
Company/Allentown Lines, Inc.

ALB:dg
Enclosure

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AUDREY L. BRODRICK
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abrodick@fletcher-sippel.com

January 26, 2015

National Park Service, Northeast Region
Attention: Mike Caldwell, Regional Director
200 Chestnut Street, Fifth Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Re: Docket AB-550 (Sub. No. 2x) R. J. Corman Railroad Company/Allentown
Lines --Proposed Abandonment in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Caldwell:

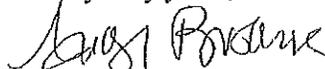
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AUDREY L. BRODRICK
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January 26, 2015

U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Philadelphia District
Wanamaker Building
100 Penn Square East
Philadelphia, PA 19107-3390

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Lines --Proposed Abandonment in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania

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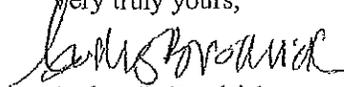
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www.fletcher-sippel.com

April 14, 2015

Pennsylvania State Department of Transportation
Bureau of Rail Freight, Ports and Waterways
P.O. Box 2777
Harrisburg, PA 17105

Re: Docket AB-550 (Sub. No. 3x)-R. J. Corman Railroad Company/Allentown Lines --Proposed Abandonment in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania

Dear Sir/Madam:

On or around March 24, 2015, you were provided with an Environmental & Historic Report concerning R.J. Corman Railroad Company/Allentown Lines Inc.'s ("RJC") Petition to Abandon approximately 3.3 miles of railroad beginning near milepost 93.18 and beginning at the south side of the Union Street Crossing (DOT marker 361714K), in Allentown, Pennsylvania and extending north to milepost 96.709, in or near Whitehall, Pennsylvania, in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. It has come to our attention that our correspondence and enclosed Environmental & Historic Report contained an incorrect reference to Sub No. 2x as the docket number for RJC's abandonment, when it should be **Sub No. 3x**. Notwithstanding the incorrect docket number, the entirety of the information provided in that report is accurate. Please note that the correct docket number for RJC's Abandonment in Allentown and Whitehall Pennsylvania is Docket No. AB-550 (Sub No. 3x).

Please note that any and all correspondence or documents related to RJC's instant abandonment will reference Docket No. AB-550 (Sub No. 3x), and any and all correspondence related to the instant abandonment, either provided to RJC's counsel, or the Surface Transportation Board, should reference the same.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please call with any questions.

Very truly yours,



Audrey L. Brodrick
Attorney for R.J. Corman Railroad Company/
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ALB:dg



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April 14, 2015

Pennsylvania State Department of Environmental Protection
Northeast Regional Office
2 Public Square
Wilkes-Barre, Pa 18711-0790

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AUDREY L. BRODRICK
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April 14, 2015

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
Bureau of Historic Preservation
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

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April 14, 2015

National Resource Conservation Service-USDA
One Credit Union Place, Suite 340
Harrisburg, PA 17110-2993

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April 14, 2015

Mr. Tom Muller, County Executive
Lehigh County
17 South 7th Street
Allentown, PA 18101

Re: Docket AB-550 (Sub. No. 3x)-R. J. Corman Railroad Company/Allentown
Lines --Proposed Abandonment in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania

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AUDREY L. BRODRICK
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April 14, 2015

Pennsylvania State Department of Environmental Protection
Water Planning Office
400 Market Street-15th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063

Re: Docket AB-550 (Sub. No. 3x)-R. J. Corman Railroad Company/Allentown
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Very truly yours,



Audrey L. Brodrick
Attorney for R.J. Corman Railroad Company/
Allentown Lines, Inc.

ALB:dg

FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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

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

AUDREY L. BRODRICK
(312) 252-1518
abrodrick@fletcher-sippel.com

April 14, 2015

Mr. Ed Pawlowski
Mayor of Allentown, Pennsylvania
435 Hamilton Street
Allentown, PA 18101

Re: Docket AB-550 (Sub. No. 3x)-R. J. Corman Railroad Company/Allentown
Lines --Proposed Abandonment in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Pawlowski:

On or around March 24, 2015, you were provided with an Environmental & Historic Report concerning R.J. Corman Railroad Company/Allentown Lines Inc.'s ("RJC") Petition to Abandon approximately 3.3 miles of railroad beginning near milepost 93.18 and beginning at the south side of the Union Street Crossing (DOT marker 361714K), in Allentown, Pennsylvania and extending north to milepost 96.709, in or near Whitehall, Pennsylvania, in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. It has come to our attention that our correspondence and enclosed Environmental & Historic Report contained an incorrect reference to Sub No. 2x as the docket number for RJC's abandonment, when it should be **Sub No. 3x**. Notwithstanding the incorrect docket number, the entirety of the information provided in that report is accurate. Please note that the correct docket number for RJC's Abandonment in Allentown and Whitehall Pennsylvania is Docket No. AB-550 (Sub No. 3x).

Please note that any and all correspondence or documents related to RJC's instant abandonment will reference Docket No. AB-550 (Sub No. 3x), and any and all correspondence related to the instant abandonment, either provided to RJC's counsel, or the Surface Transportation Board, should reference the same.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please call with any questions.

Very truly yours,



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ALB:dg

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AUDREY L. BRODRICK
(312) 252-1518
abrodric@fletcher-sippel.com

April 14, 2015

Mr. Edward D. Hozza, Jr.
Mayor of Whitehall Township
3219 MacArthur Road
Whitehall, PA 18052

Re: Docket AB-550 (Sub. No. 3x)-R. J. Corman Railroad Company/Allentown
Lines --Proposed Abandonment in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Hozza:

On or around March 24, 2015, you were provided with an Environmental & Historic Report concerning R.J. Corman Railroad Company/Allentown Lines Inc.'s ("RJC") Petition to Abandon approximately 3.3 miles of railroad beginning near milepost 93.18 and beginning at the south side of the Union Street Crossing (DOT marker 361714K), in Allentown, Pennsylvania and extending north to milepost 96.709, in or near Whitehall, Pennsylvania, in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. It has come to our attention that our correspondence and enclosed Environmental & Historic Report contained an incorrect reference to Sub No. 2x as the docket number for RJC's abandonment, when it should be **Sub No. 3x**. Notwithstanding the incorrect docket number, the entirety of the information provided in that report is accurate. Please note that the correct docket number for RJC's Abandonment in Allentown and Whitehall Pennsylvania is Docket No. AB-550 (Sub No. 3x).

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Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please call with any questions.

Very truly yours,



Audrey L. Brodrick
Attorney for R.J. Corman Railroad Company/
Allentown Lines, Inc.

ALB:dg

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AUDREY L. BRODRICK
(312) 252-1518
abrodrick@fletcher-sippel.com

April 14, 2015

Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029

Re: Docket AB-550 (Sub. No. 3x)-R. J. Corman Railroad Company/Allentown
Lines --Proposed Abandonment in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania

Dear Sir/Madam:

On or around March 24, 2015, you were provided with an Environmental & Historic Report concerning R.J. Corman Railroad Company/Allentown Lines Inc.'s ("RJC") Petition to Abandon approximately 3.3 miles of railroad beginning near milepost 93.18 and beginning at the south side of the Union Street Crossing (DOT marker 361714K), in Allentown, Pennsylvania and extending north to milepost 96.709, in or near Whitehall, Pennsylvania, in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. It has come to our attention that our correspondence and enclosed Environmental & Historic Report contained an incorrect reference to Sub No. 2x as the docket number for RJC's abandonment, when it should be **Sub No. 3x**. Notwithstanding the incorrect docket number, the entirety of the information provided in that report is accurate. Please note that the correct docket number for RJC's Abandonment in Allentown and Whitehall Pennsylvania is Docket No. AB-550 (Sub No. 3x).

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Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please call with any questions.

Very truly yours,



Audrey L. Brodrick
Attorney for R.J. Corman Railroad Company/
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AUDREY L. BRODRICK
(312) 252-1518
abrodric@fletcher-sippel.com

April 14, 2015

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Northeast Regional Office
300 Westgate Center Drive
Hadley, MA 01035-9587

Re: Docket AB-550 (Sub. No. 3x)-R. J. Corman Railroad Company/Allentown
Lines --Proposed Abandonment in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania

Dear Sir/Madam:

On or around March 24, 2015, you were provided with an Environmental & Historic Report concerning R.J. Corman Railroad Company/Allentown Lines Inc.'s ("RJC") Petition to Abandon approximately 3.3 miles of railroad beginning near milepost 93.18 and beginning at the south side of the Union Street Crossing (DOT marker 361714K), in Allentown, Pennsylvania and extending north to milepost 96.709, in or near Whitehall, Pennsylvania, in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. It has come to our attention that our correspondence and enclosed Environmental & Historic Report contained an incorrect reference to Sub No. 2x as the docket number for RJC's abandonment, when it should be **Sub No. 3x**. Notwithstanding the incorrect docket number, the entirety of the information provided in that report is accurate. Please note that the correct docket number for RJC's Abandonment in Allentown and Whitehall Pennsylvania is Docket No. AB-550 (Sub No. 3x).

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Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please call with any questions.

Very truly yours,



Audrey L. Brodrick
Attorney for R.J. Corman Railroad Company/
Allentown Lines, Inc.

ALB:dg

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AUDREY L. BRODRICK
(312) 252-1518
abrodick@fletcher-sippel.com

April 14, 2015

U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Philadelphia District
Wanamaker Building
100 Penn Square East
Philadelphia, PA 19107-3390

Re: Docket AB-550 (Sub. No. 3x)-R. J. Corman Railroad Company/Allentown
Lines --Proposed Abandonment in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania

Dear Sir/Madam:

On or around March 24, 2015, you were provided with an Environmental & Historic Report concerning R.J. Corman Railroad Company/Allentown Lines Inc.'s ("RJC") Petition to Abandon approximately 3.3 miles of railroad beginning near milepost 93.18 and beginning at the south side of the Union Street Crossing (DOT marker 361714K), in Allentown, Pennsylvania and extending north to milepost 96.709, in or near Whitehall, Pennsylvania, in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. It has come to our attention that our correspondence and enclosed Environmental & Historic Report contained an incorrect reference to Sub No. 2x as the docket number for RJC's abandonment, when it should be **Sub No. 3x**. Notwithstanding the incorrect docket number, the entirety of the information provided in that report is accurate. Please note that the correct docket number for RJC's Abandonment in Allentown and Whitehall Pennsylvania is Docket No. AB-550 (Sub No. 3x).

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Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please call with any questions.

Very truly yours,



Audrey L. Brodrick
Attorney for R.J. Corman Railroad Company/
Allentown Lines, Inc.

ALB:dg

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www.fletcher-sippel.com

AUDREY L. BRODRICK
(312) 252-1518
abrodick@fletcher-sippel.com

April 14, 2015

National Park Service, Northeast Region
Attention: Mike Caldwell, Regional Director
200 Chestnut Street, Fifth Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Re: Docket AB-550 (Sub. No. 3x)-R. J. Corman Railroad Company/Allentown Lines --Proposed Abandonment in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania

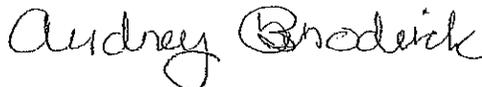
Dear Mr. Caldwell:

On or around March 24, 2015, you were provided with an Environmental & Historic Report concerning R.J. Corman Railroad Company/Allentown Lines Inc.'s ("RJC") Petition to Abandon approximately 3.3 miles of railroad beginning near milepost 93.18 and beginning at the south side of the Union Street Crossing (DOT marker 361714K), in Allentown, Pennsylvania and extending north to milepost 96.709, in or near Whitehall, Pennsylvania, in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. It has come to our attention that our correspondence and enclosed Environmental & Historic Report contained an incorrect reference to Sub No. 2x as the docket number for RJC's abandonment, when it should be **Sub No. 3x**. Notwithstanding the incorrect docket number, the entirety of the information provided in that report is accurate. Please note that the correct docket number for RJC's Abandonment in Allentown and Whitehall Pennsylvania is Docket No. AB-550 (Sub No. 3x).

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Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please call with any questions.

Very truly yours,



Audrey L. Brodrick
Attorney for R.J. Corman Railroad Company/
Allentown Lines, Inc.

ALB:dg

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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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www.fletcher-sippel.com

AUDREY L. BRODRICK
(312) 252-1518
abrodrick@fletcher-sippel.com

April 14, 2015

National Geodetic Survey
SSMC3 #9340
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3281
Attention: Mr. Simon Monroe

Re: Docket AB-550 (Sub. No. 3x)-R. J. Corman Railroad Company/Allentown
Lines --Proposed Abandonment in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Monroe:

On or around March 24, 2015, you were provided with an Environmental & Historic Report concerning R.J. Corman Railroad Company/Allentown Lines Inc.'s ("RJC") Petition to Abandon approximately 3.3 miles of railroad beginning near milepost 93.18 and beginning at the south side of the Union Street Crossing (DOT marker 361714K), in Allentown, Pennsylvania and extending north to milepost 96.709, in or near Whitehall, Pennsylvania, in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. It has come to our attention that our correspondence and enclosed Environmental & Historic Report contained an incorrect reference to Sub No. 2x as the docket number for RJC's abandonment, when it should be **Sub No. 3x**. Notwithstanding the incorrect docket number, the entirety of the information provided in that report is accurate. Please note that the correct docket number for RJC's Abandonment in Allentown and Whitehall Pennsylvania is Docket No. AB-550 (Sub No. 3x).

Please note that any and all correspondence or documents related to RJC's instant abandonment will reference Docket No. AB-550 (Sub No. 3x), and any and all correspondence related to the instant abandonment, either provided to RJC's counsel, or the Surface Transportation Board, should reference the same.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please call with any questions.

Very truly yours,



Audrey L. Brodrick
Attorney for R.J. Corman Railroad Company/
Allentown Lines, Inc.

ALB:dg

Docket No. AB-550 (Sub-No. 3X)
R.J. CORMAN RAILROAD COMPANY/ ALLENTOWN LINES, INC.

PETITION FOR EXEMPTION FOR
ABANDONMENT IN LEHIGH
COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

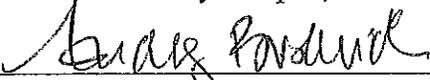
To: Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20024

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE WITH 49 C.F.R. PART 1105

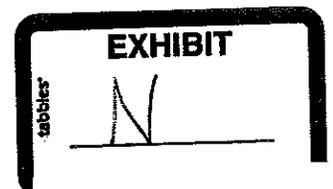
I hereby certify that on March 24, 2015 copies of the Environmental Report and Historic Report for the above-captioned proceeding were served on the agencies listed at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7(b), all agencies consulted in preparing the reports, and on the Pennsylvania Historical Society. Service list and copy of the letter sent to all such agencies is attached and incorporated into this certificate as Attachment A. The reports have been sent within the time period specified, as R.J. Corman Railroad Company/ Allentown Lines, Inc. is filing its Petition for Exemption more than 20 days after it served its Environmental Report and Historic Report. All appropriate agencies as listed in 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7(e) have been consulted well in advance of preparing the Environmental Report.

I also certify that on April 14, 2015, a newspaper notice was published on in the *Express Times*, a newspaper of general circulation in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. The notice alerted the public to the proposed abandonment, to possible reuse alternatives, and to procedures for participating in the STB proceeding. A copy of the text of the notice is attached to this certificate as Attachment B.

Dated this 30th day of April, 2015.



Audrey L. Brodrick
Counsel for R.J. Corman Railroad Company/ Allentown Lines, Inc.



R.J. Corman Railroad Company/ Allentown Lines, Inc.
Abandonment in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania, AB 550 (Sub No. 3x)
SERVICE LIST

State Clearing House (or equivalent)

Pennsylvania State Department of Transportation
Bureau of Rail Freight, Ports and Waterways
PO Box 2777
Harrisburg, PA 17105

State Environmental Protection Agency

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Northeast Regional Office
2 Public Square
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711-0790

State Coastal Zone Management

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Water Planning Office
PO Box 2063
400 Market Street
15th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063

Head of Each County

Tom Muller, County Executive
Lehigh County
17 South 7th Street
Allentown, PA 18101

Head of Each Affected Town

Ed Pawlowski
Mayor of Allentown, Pennsylvania
435 Hamilton Street
Allentown, PA 18101

Edward D. Hozza, Jr.

Mayor of Whitehall Township
3219 MacArthur Road
Whitehall, Pennsylvania 18052

Regional EPA Office

Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Northeast Regional Office
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
300 Westgate Center Drive
Hadley, MA 01035-9587

U.S. Army Corp of Engineers

U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Philadelphia District
Wanamaker Building
100 Penn Square East
Philadelphia, PA 19107-3390

National Park Service

National Park Service, Northeast Region
Mike Caldwell, Regional Director
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street, Fifth Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19106

U.S. Soil Conservation Service – National Resource Conservation Service

National Resource Conservation Service – USDA
One Credit Union Place
Suite 340
Harrisburg, PA 17110-2993

National Geodetic Survey

National Geodetic Survey
SSMC3 #9340
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3281

State Historical Agency

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
Bureau of Historic Preservation
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

FLETCHER & SIPPEN LLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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

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

AUDREY L. BRODRICK
(312) 252-1518
abrodrick@fletcher-sippel.com

March 24, 2015

Pennsylvania State Department of Transportation
Bureau of Rail Freight, Ports and Waterways
PO Box 2777
Harrisburg, PA 17105

Re: Docket AB-550 (Sub. No. 2x) R. J. Corman Railroad Company/Allentown
Lines --Proposed Abandonment in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania

Dear Sir/Madam:

On or after April 15, 2015, R.J. Corman Railroad Company/Allentown Lines, Inc. ("RJC") expects to file with the Surface Transportation Board a Petition for Exemption for the abandonment of RJC's railroad line beginning near milepost 93.18 and beginning at the south side of the Union Street Crossing (DOT marker 361714K), in Allentown, Pennsylvania and extending north to milepost 96.709, in or near Whitehall, Pennsylvania, in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania, a distance of approximately 3.5 miles ("the Line"). Your review of and comments on this project were previously requested by letter dated January 26, 2015.

In accordance with 49 C.F.R. §§ 1105.7(b) and 1105.11, we are providing for your information the enclosed Environmental/Historic Report which will accompany the Petition for Exemption and which describes the proposed action and any expected environmental or historic effects. The Report also includes a map of the affected area.

We are providing this report so that you may review the information that will form the basis for the Board's independent environmental analysis of this proceeding. If any of the information is misleading or incorrect, if you believe that pertinent information is missing, or if you have any questions about the Board's environmental review process, please contact the Office of Environmental Analysis at the following address:

Surface Transportation Board
Office of Environmental Analysis
395 E Street, S.W., Room 1106
Washington, DC 20423-0001
(202) 245-0295

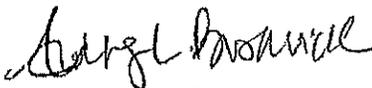
FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

Pennsylvania State Department of Transportation
Bureau of Rail Freight, Ports and Waterways
March 24, 2015
Page 2

Your comments should reference Docket No. AB-550 (Sub-No. 2X) and, if written, should include a copy to the undersigned. Because the applicable statutes and regulations impose stringent deadlines for processing this action, your written comments to the Office of Environmental Analysis would be appreciated within three weeks.

Your comments will be considered by the Board in evaluating the environmental and historic preservation impacts of the contemplated action. If there are any questions concerning this proposal, you should feel free to contact me directly at 312-252-1518. Thank you for your assistance on this matter. Kind regards.

Very truly yours,



Audrey L. Brodrick
Attorney for R.J. Corman Railroad Company/
Allentown Lines, Inc.

ALB:dg
Enclosure

FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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

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

AUDREY L. BRODRICK
(312) 252-1518
abrodick@fletcher-sippel.com

April 14, 2015

Pennsylvania State Department of Transportation
Bureau of Rail Freight, Ports and Waterways
P.O. Box 2777
Harrisburg, PA 17105

Re: Docket AB-550 (Sub. No. 3x)-R. J. Corman Railroad Company/Allentown Lines --Proposed Abandonment in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania

Dear Sir/Madam:

On or around March 24, 2015, you were provided with an Environmental & Historic Report concerning R.J. Corman Railroad Company/Allentown Lines Inc.'s ("RJC") Petition to Abandon approximately 3.3 miles of railroad beginning near milepost 93.18 and beginning at the south side of the Union Street Crossing (DOT marker 361714K), in Allentown, Pennsylvania and extending north to milepost 96.709, in or near Whitehall, Pennsylvania, in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. It has come to our attention that our correspondence and enclosed Environmental & Historic Report contained an incorrect reference to Sub No. 2x as the docket number for RJC's abandonment, when it should be **Sub No. 3x**. Notwithstanding the incorrect docket number, the entirety of the information provided in that report is accurate. Please note that the correct docket number for RJC's Abandonment in Allentown and Whitehall Pennsylvania is Docket No. AB-550 (Sub No. 3x).

Please note that any and all correspondence or documents related to RJC's instant abandonment will reference Docket No. AB-550 (Sub No. 3x), and any and all correspondence related to the instant abandonment, either provided to RJC's counsel, or the Surface Transportation Board, should reference the same.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please call with any questions.

Very truly yours,



Audrey L. Brodrick
Attorney for R.J. Corman Railroad Company/
Allentown Lines, Inc.

ALB:dg

NOTICE

NOTE: Please be advised that the notice published on March 17, 2015 in connection with R.J. Corman Railroad Company/Allentown Lines, Inc.'s proposed abandonment referenced an incorrect docket sub-number. The correct docket number is AB 550-Sub No. 3x. The remaining content of the notice remains unchanged.

R.J. Corman Railroad Company/ Allentown Lines, Inc. gives notice that on or after April, 15, 2015, it intends to file with the Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423, a petition for exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502 from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 10903, et seq., permitting the abandonment of approximately 3.5 miles railroad line starting at approximately milepost 92.835 and beginning at the south side of the Union Street Crossing (DOT marker 361714K), in Allentown, Pennsylvania and extending north to milepost 96.709, in or near Whitehall, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania and traversing United States Postal Service ZIP Codes 18102 and 18052. The proceeding will be docketed as No. AB-550 (Sub -No. 3X).

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) will generally prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA), which will normally be available 60 days after the filing of the petition for exemption. Comments on environmental and energy matters should be filed no later than 30 days after the EA becomes available to the public and will be addressed in a Board decision. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA or make inquiries regarding environmental matters by writing to OEA, Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423 or by calling SEA at 202-245-0295.

Appropriate offers of financial assistance to continue rail service can be filed with the Board. Requests for environmental conditions, public use conditions, or rail banking/trails use also can be filed with the Board. An original and 10 copies of any pleading that raises matters other than environmental issues (such as trails use, public use, and offers of financial assistance) must be filed directly with the Board's Section of Administration, Office of Proceedings, 395 E Street, SW., Washington, DC 20423 [See 49 CFR 1104.1(a) and 1104.3(a)], and one copy must be served on applicant's representative [See 49 CFR 1104.12(a)]. Questions regarding offers of financial assistance, public use or trails use may be directed to the Board's Office of Public Assistance, Governmental Affairs, and Compliance at 202-245-0238. Copies of any comments or requests for conditions should be served on the applicant's representative: Fletcher & Sippel LLC, Attention: Audrey L. Brodrick, 29 N. Wacker Dr., Suite 920, Chicago, IL 60606.

3917417

*Proof of Publication Notice in The Express Times
Under Act No. 587, approved May 16, 1929

117.1999

State of Pennsylvania
County of Northampton

I, April Clark being duly sworn, deposes and says that The Express Times is a daily newspaper published at 30 N. 4th St, Northampton County, Easton, Pennsylvania which was established in the year 1855, since which date said daily newspaper has been regularly published and distributed in said County, and that copy of the printed notice of publication is attached hereto exactly as the same was printed and published in the regular editions and issues of said daily newspaper on the following date

4/14

Affiant further deposes and says that she is an employee of The publisher of said newspaper and has been authorized to Verify the foregoing statement and that she is not interested In the subject matter of the aforesaid notice of publication, and that all allegations in the foregoing statement as to time, place and character of publication are true.



Sworn to and subscribed before me
this 20 Day of April, 2015



Notary Public
My Commission Expires:

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Notarial Seal
Pamela J. James, Notary Public
City of Easton, Northampton County
My Commission Expires Sept. 26, 2017
MEMBER, PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF NOTARIES

NOTICE

NOTE: Please be advised that the notice published on March 17, 2015, in connection with R.J. Corman Railroad Company/Allentown Lines, Inc.'s proposed abandonment referenced an incorrect docket sub-number. The correct docket number is AB-550-Sub No. 3X. The remaining content of the notice remains unchanged.

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The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) will generally prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA), which will normally be available 60 days after the filing of the petition for exemption. Comments on environmental and energy matters should be filed no later than 30 days after the EA becomes available to the public and will be addressed in a Board decision. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA or make inquiries regarding environmental matters by writing to OEA, Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423 or by calling SEA at 202-245-0295.

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EXHIBIT E

VERIFICATION

State of Kentucky)
)
County of Jessamine)

SS:

Deborah J. Hawley being duly sworn, deposes and says that he/she is the Real Estate Manager for R.J. Corman Railroad Company/ Allentown Lines, Inc. that he/she has read the foregoing Petition for Exemption and knows the facts asserted therein, and that the same are true as stated.

Deborah J. Hawley

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO
before me this 28th day
of April, 2015.

Lisa Barger
Notary Public
My Commission expires: 1/2/2018

LISA G. BARGER
NOTARY PUBLIC
STATE AT LARGE, KENTUCKY
COMM. # 503046
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES JANUARY 2, 2018