

June 27, 2014

Via Electronic Filing  
Ms Cynthia T. Brown  
Chief, Section of Administration  
Office of Proceedings  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20423

ENTERED  
Office of Proceedings  
June 27, 2014  
Part of  
Public Record

Re: Docket No. AB 1087 (Sub-No. 1X), Grenada, Railway LLC- Abandonment  
Exemption - In Yalobusha County, Miss.

Dear Ms Brown,

We respectfully submit this request and ask for your consideration for an additional 120-day extension of the due date for filing protests and comments on the above-referenced matter to allow the North Central Mississippi Regional Railroad Authority (NCMRRRA) to finalize negotiations with interested short line operators seeking an opportunity to invest in, and operate the above referenced rail line.

On May of 2014, the Governor of the State of Mississippi signed a bill into law that authorizes the sale of State of Mississippi Bonds, to be used in conjunction with other funds to complete the purchase of the Grenada Railroad Line that runs from Southaven, Mississippi to Canton, Mississippi. This line serves nine Mississippi Counties and is the second most important short line in the state in terms of economic impact.

The NCMRRRA worked together with federal, state, and regional leaders to secure the passage of the bond bill during the 2014 Mississippi legislative session. Currently, we are in negotiations with 2 interested short line operators considering providing equity funding to complete the purchase of the rail line at a previously agreed price between the NCMRRRA and Grenada Railway LLC.

It has only been six weeks since the Governor signed the bond bill thus affording us our first knowledge of how much additional funds were needed to complete the purchase. We are confident that within the time frame mentioned above a final deal can be agreed upon with a short line operator, but we currently find ourselves in need of further time to finalize required due diligence needed by the mentioned investors. In addition, the NCMRRRA is working with the Federal Railroad Administration in identifying other funds that will support the enhancement of the line once it has been acquired by the NCMRRRA and its selected short line operator.

Our desire is to keep the entire 175 plus mile line open and operating. The continuation of abandonment proceedings will have a disruptive effect on current negotiations, thus jeopardizing all previous progress in our quest to save this important railroad.

Grenada Railway LLC, has been cooperative with our efforts in recent months and did not oppose our previous requests for time extensions. We are appreciative of their patience and we hope that they will not oppose this time extension request, which we see as strictly necessary given that potential equity investors have not had enough time since passage of the bond bill to complete the necessary due diligence before signing a final deal. The passage of the bond bill that guarantees the availability of the \$30 million dollars was proof that we have used any previous time extensions in a productive manner. We plan to use the requested time extension to finalize our work and consummate the purchase of the entire line.

Sincerely,



Pablo Diaz, Chairman of the Board  
North Central Mississippi Regional Railroad Authority

## Certificate of Service

"I, Pablo Diaz, certify that I have mailed a copy of this letter dated June 27, 2014, via email or via first-class mail, to all parties of record."

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Pablo Diaz', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Pablo Diaz, Chairman of the Board  
North Central Mississippi Regional Railroad Authority