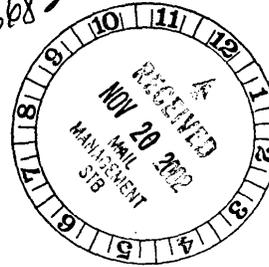




Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Counsel
Legal Department

Canadian National/Illinois Central
455 North Cityfront Plaza Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60611-5317
Telephone: (312) 755-7954
Fax: (312) 755-7669
Internet: Michael.Barron@cn.ca

206682



November 18, 2002

Mr. Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Re: Environmental Report, Historic Report and Required Certifications for
Docket No. AB-43 (Sub-No. 173X), Illinois Central Railroad Company—
Petition for Exemption for Abandonment in Forrest County, Mississippi

Dear Secretary Williams:

Illinois Central Railroad Company intends on filing a Petition for Exemption for the
above-referenced proposed abandonment any time on or after December 9, 2002.
Enclosed for the above-referenced Petition for Abandonment Exemption are the
following, which are required by 49 C.F.R. Part 1105:

1. An original and ten copies of the Environmental/Historic Report
2. An original and ten copies of the transmittal letter that accompanied the reports,
and
3. An original and ten copies of a certificate demonstrating compliance with the
requirements of 49 C.F.R. Part 1105.

Please stamp and return the duplicate copy of this letter to my attention to indicate that
you received the items listed. As shown in the Environmental Report, the proposed
abandonment is outside a coastal area, so Illinois Central Railroad Company concludes
the proposed abandonment does not need a Coastal Zone Management Plan Consistency
Review.

Feel free to call me if you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,


Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Counsel for Illinois Central
Railroad Company

Encls.

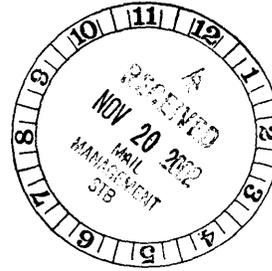
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Office of Proceedings

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Public Record



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Internet: Michael.Barron@cn.ca



November 18, 2002

**Re: Illinois Central Railroad Company Petition for Exemption for Abandonment—
Forrest County, Mississippi—Docket AB-43 (Sub-No. 173X)**

To Whom It May Concern:

Any time on or after December 9, 2002, Illinois Central Railroad Company ("IC") expects to file with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") a Petition for Exemption seeking authority to abandon a railroad line located between milepost MH 0.66 and MH 3.06 in Hattiesburg, Forrest County, Mississippi. Enclosed is an Environmental Report and a Historic Report describing the proposed action and any expected environmental and historical effects, as well as 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 STB's independent environmental and historical 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 STB's environmental and historic review process, please contact their Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA), at the Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20423-0001, (202) 565-1545, and refer to the above docket number.

IC will file the Environmental Report and Historic Report with the STB on or about November 18, 2002. Because the applicable statutes and regulations impose stringent deadlines for processing this action, your written comments to the STB (with a copy to the undersigned) would be appreciated within three weeks. Your comments will be considered by the STB in evaluating the environmental and historical impact of the contemplated action.

If there are any questions concerning this proposal, please contact the undersigned directly at (312) 755-7954 or by mail at the above address.

Sincerely,


Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Counsel for Illinois Central
Railroad Company

Encls.

BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DOCKET NO. AB-43 (SUB-NO. 173X)

ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY
— ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION —
IN FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI



ENVIRONMENTAL/HISTORIC REPORT

Illinois Central Railroad Company ("IC") 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 resources.

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

1. **Proposed Action and Alternatives.** IC seeks to abandon its line of railroad, referred to herein as "Central District Trackage," from milepost MH 0.66 (point of switch to the IC mainline) to current end of track at milepost MH 3.06 for a total of 2.4 miles, all located within the city limits of Hattiesburg, Forrest County, Mississippi. Central District Trackage is the easternmost remnant of IC's former Central District, originally running from Hattiesburg to Natchez, Mississippi, and is now severed from Hattiesburg to Silver Creek, Mississippi at milepost MH 53.0.

Central District Trackage crosses over a relatively flat terrain through residential, industrial and commercial areas as well as parts of the University of Southern Mississippi campus.

Following abandonment, sixteen at-grade crossings can be removed. Another crossing, an at-grade bridge under which U.S. Highway 49 travels, will remain in place.

There are no buildings or other structures (other than the bridge over U.S. Highway 49) located within the abandonment area.

Two customers are located on the proposed abandonment: Hercules Corporation which is served by a lead off the IC mainline, and Mississippi Tank who, for the year 2002 through May, generated only eight carloads, four inbound and four outbound. There is no reasonable possibility for the development of new rail traffic.

No alternatives to the proposed abandonment have been considered other than a possible conversion to trail use.

After abandonment, IC intends to salvage rail, ties and track material from the line.

A map showing the location of Central District Trackage is attached hereto as Appendix A.

2. Transportation System. IC does not anticipate that existing regional or local transportation systems or patterns will be adversely affected by the proposed abandonment. Comments have been requested from the Mississippi Department of Transportation; they have not yet responded. See correspondence attached hereto as Appendix B.

Two customers are located on the proposed abandonment:

- Hercules Corporation has two rail leads into their plant. One, off the proposed abandonment, has not carried traffic for many years. The other lead, off the IC mainline, will remain intact.
- Traffic history (in carloads) for the second customer, Mississippi Tank, is as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Inbound</u>	<u>Outbound</u>	<u>Total</u>
1999	4	Unknown	4
2000	7	Unknown	7
2001	6	6	12
2002 thru May	4	4	8

Service to these customers is by a 3-man road switcher assignment based in Hattiesburg and on an as-needed basis. No jobs will be lost or affected by this proposed abandonment.

As is typical with much of IC territory, the width of the right-of-way varies. For the area of the proposed abandonment, the right-of-way varies from a width of 25 ft. to a width of 240 ft. Nearly 80 per cent of the trackage has a width of 50 ft. or less, with the remainder being greater than 50 ft. Irregularly shaped parcels account for a great deal of the variance.

Abandonment of Central District Trackage will allow permanent closure of sixteen highway grade crossings as follows (one grade separation will remain in place):

<u>Milepost</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>DOT No.</u>	<u>Warning Devices</u>
MH 0.89	Union Street	305-467V	Crossbucks
MH 0.99	Main Street	305-468C	Cantilevered Flashing Light Signals (C/FLS)
MH 1.19	West Street	305-469J	Crossbucks
MH 1.52	North Street	305-470D	Crossbucks
MH 1.97	Rawls Street	305-471K	Crossbucks
MH 2.11	Oliver Street	305-472S	Crossbucks

MH 2.28	Private	305-473Y	None
MH 2.33	Melba Street	305-474F	Crossbucks
MH 2.41	N. 19 th Street	305-475M	Stop Signs
MH 2.50	Private	305-476U	None
MH 2.55	Private	305-477B	Other signs or signals (non-powered)
MH 2.60	Private	305-478H	Other signs or signals (non-powered)
MH 2.73	Private	305-479P	Other signs or signals (non-powered)
MH 2.77	Private	305-480J	Other signs or signals (non-powered)
MH 2.80	25 th Avenue	305-481R	Crossbucks
MH 2.90	US Hwy 49 underpass	305-482X	Grade separation
MH 2.91	Northwood Drive	305-483E	Crossbucks

3. Land Use.

(i) IC does not foresee any inconsistency with regional and/or local land use plans. IC has contacted the City of Hattiesburg and they state they do not see any potential adverse effects on the environment, and wish to be consulted concerning any future plans for the abandoned rail property. See correspondence attached hereto as Appendix C.

The Forrest County (Mississippi) Board of Supervisors states they have no comments to offer concerning the environmental report. The Board has indicated an interest in seeing the abandoned property put to use in a manner conducive to the positive development of the community. They have requested to be notified should IC wish to dispose of the property. See correspondence attached hereto as Appendix D.

IC has contacted and requested comments from the University of Southern Mississippi as Central District Trackage crosses portions of the campus. They have not yet responded. See correspondence attached hereto as Appendix E.

(ii) Central District Trackage is located entirely within the City of Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and thus IC does not believe that the proposed abandonment will impact any prime agricultural lands. IC has contacted and requested comments from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service (Jackson, Mississippi), and has yet to receive a response. See correspondence attached hereto as Appendix F.

(iii) Central District Trackage does not lie 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. IC has contacted the Mississippi Coastal Program, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, but has not as yet received a response. See correspondence attached hereto as Appendix G.

(iv) The Mississippi Department of Archives and History states they have no reservations regarding the proposed abandonment and have received information that the property is being considered for a rails-to-trails project. They consider this to be an appropriate use of the property. IC would support this initiative. See correspondence attached hereto as Appendix H.

(v) IC has notified the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency of the proposed abandonment of Central District Trackage. They have not yet responded. See correspondence attached hereto as Appendix I.

4. Energy.

(i) The proposed abandonment will not have any effect on the transportation of energy resources. No energy resource commodities move over Central District Trackage, and IC 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 such traffic has been handled on Central District Trackage for many years (if ever), and IC foresees little or no 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. Rail freight traffic on Central District Trackage is virtually zero and thus there will be no changes in existing transportation patterns or energy usage as a result of the proposed abandonment.

(iv) Not applicable. Abandonment of Central District Trackage 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) Abandonment of Central District Trackage 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. Only twelve carloads of traffic were handled on Central District Trackage in the year 2001, and eight carloads through May in 2002, and to IC's knowledge, ozone-depleting materials were not transported over the line prior to that time. Accordingly, no shipments of ozone-depleting materials will be diverted as a result of this abandonment.

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 significant positive effects on public health and safety. Abandonment of Central District Trackage will allow elimination of no fewer than 16 grade crossings. During any salvage operations on Central District Trackage, precautions will be taken to ensure public safety.

(ii) Not applicable. To IC's knowledge no hazardous commodities were handled on Central District Trackage in recent times. Only twelve carloads of traffic were handled in the year 2001 and eight carloads thus far in 2002. Accordingly, the proposed abandonment will have no effect on the transportation of hazardous materials.

(iii) There are no known hazardous waste sites or sites where there have been known hazardous material spills on the right-of-way of Central District Trackage. There are no known environmental issues relating to this site.

8. Biological Resources.

(i) The Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks has indicated that it does not anticipate any significant adverse effects on wildlife, fisheries or vegetative resources as a result of the proposed abandonment. See correspondence attached hereto as Appendix J.

In response to IC's request for comments, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service states that no listed, proposed or candidate species are present. See correspondence attached hereto as Appendix K.

The Mississippi Natural Heritage Program has expressed concern about proximity of an endangered plant, Appendaged Lobelia (*Lobelia appendiculata*), to the proposed abandonment. Accordingly, should IC undertake salvage operations, and should the Appendaged Lobelia be found growing near the site of salvage operations, then measures will be taken to ensure no damage will be inflicted on the Appendaged Lobelia or its environment. See correspondence attached hereto as Appendix L.

(ii) Central District Trackage does not pass through or is not adjacent to any wildlife sanctuaries or refuges or any national or state parks or forests and, accordingly, none will be adversely affected.

9. Water.

(i) IC has contacted the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality ("MDEQ") to determine whether the proposed abandonment is consistent with applicable federal, state and local water quality standards. See correspondence attached hereto as Appendix M. While MDEQ has not responded, IC will be mindful of proper erosion control in the removal of track and other salvageable materials to minimize impact. IC intends on leaving bridges and culverts in place.

(ii) IC has contacted the Army Corps of Engineers to determine if the proposed abandonment requires permits under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The Corps' response is not conclusive in that IC's request is part of a 700-application backlog. IC does believe, however, that no Section 404 permit will be required. No work will be done in a navigable water of the United States, and no dredged or fill material will be discharged in any water of the United States, including wetlands. See correspondence attached hereto as Appendix N.

IC also believes that removal of rails and ties will not affect any existing wetlands. In addition, abandonment should not impact any 100-year floodplain if no additional fill is placed in any floodplain.

(iii) Based on IC's plans for disposal and recycling of track material, IC concludes that no permits under Section 402 of the Clean Water Act are required. No material will be disposed of into waterways as part of the abandonment.

10. Proposed Mitigation.

Since IC anticipates no adverse environmental impact from this proposed transaction, no mitigation actions are proposed.

HISTORICAL REPORT — 49 C.F.R. § 1105.8(d)

1. Map. A map of Central District Trackage is attached hereto as Appendix A.

2. Description of Line. Central District Trackage runs in an east-west direction and starts at point of switch to IC's mainline (milepost MH 0.66), and ends at current end of track (milepost MH 3.06), all within the city limits of Hattiesburg, Forrest County, Mississippi. Topography is generally flat, and proposed abandonment crosses residential, industrial, and commercial areas, as well as portions of the University of Southern Mississippi campus.

The right-of-way varies from a width of 25 ft. to a width of 240 ft. Nearly 80 per cent of the trackage has a width of 50 ft. or less, with the remainder being greater than 50 ft. Irregularly shaped parcels account for a great deal of the variance.

3. Photographs. Attached as Appendix O are photostatic copies of photographs of the bridge over U.S. Highway 49 (milepost MH 2.9) which is estimated to be more than 50 years old. This bridge is the only structure of any kind located on Central District Trackage that is 50 years old or older. Color photographs of this bridge have been provided to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

4. Information on Structures. Information regarding the bridge on Central District Trackage that is 50 years old or older is as follows:

<u>Milepost</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Year Built</u>	<u>Type</u>
MH 2.9	U.S. Hwy 49	82 ft.	Unknown. Assume greater than 50 yrs. old.	Steel girders on concrete abutments. Hwy clearance 14'3".

The bridge over U.S. Highway 49 does not have any historical value or significance. IC has no current plans to remove or alter this structure in connection with the proposed abandonment.

5. History of Operations. A brief history is as follows:

1896	Pearl & Leaf Rivers Railroad (P&LRR) incorporated to build a logging railroad from Hattiesburg, MS to Sumrall, MS.
1905	P&LRR emerged from a reorganization as the Mississippi Central Railroad
1909	Mississippi Central Railroad absorbs Natchez & Eastern Railway who had completed the line from Hattiesburg to Natchez in 1908.
1967	Illinois Central Railroad Company purchases Mississippi Central Railroad and trackage is designated the Central District.
1993	Trackage from milepost MH 5.0 to milepost MH 32.1 is abandoned (AB-43 [Sub-No. 156X]).
1994	Trackage from milepost MH 32.1 to milepost MH 53.0 is abandoned (AB-43 [Sub-No. 159X]).

- 1997 Trackage from milepost MH 3.06 to milepost MH 5.0 is abandoned (AB-43 [Sub-No. 170X]).
- 1999 The Illinois Central Railroad Company merges with the Canadian National Railway Company.

6. Engineering Documents. IC does not possess engineering drawings of the U.S. Highway 49 bridge.

7. Historic Criteria. Based on readily available information in its possession, IC believes that no site or structure listed in or meeting the criteria for listing in the *National Register of Historic Places* is located on Central District Trackage or will be affected by the abandonment. The only structure on the line that IC believes to be 50 years old or older, the bridge over U.S. Highway 49, is not rare in character, style or composition or otherwise of historic significance. IC also believes that no culturally significant locations, archaeological sites or unique land forms will be affected by the abandonment. IC has contacted the Mississippi Department of Archives and History and requested a historical review. See correspondence attached hereto as Appendix H. Color photographs of the bridge over U.S. Highway 49 have been provided to the Department, and photographs are also provided with this report.

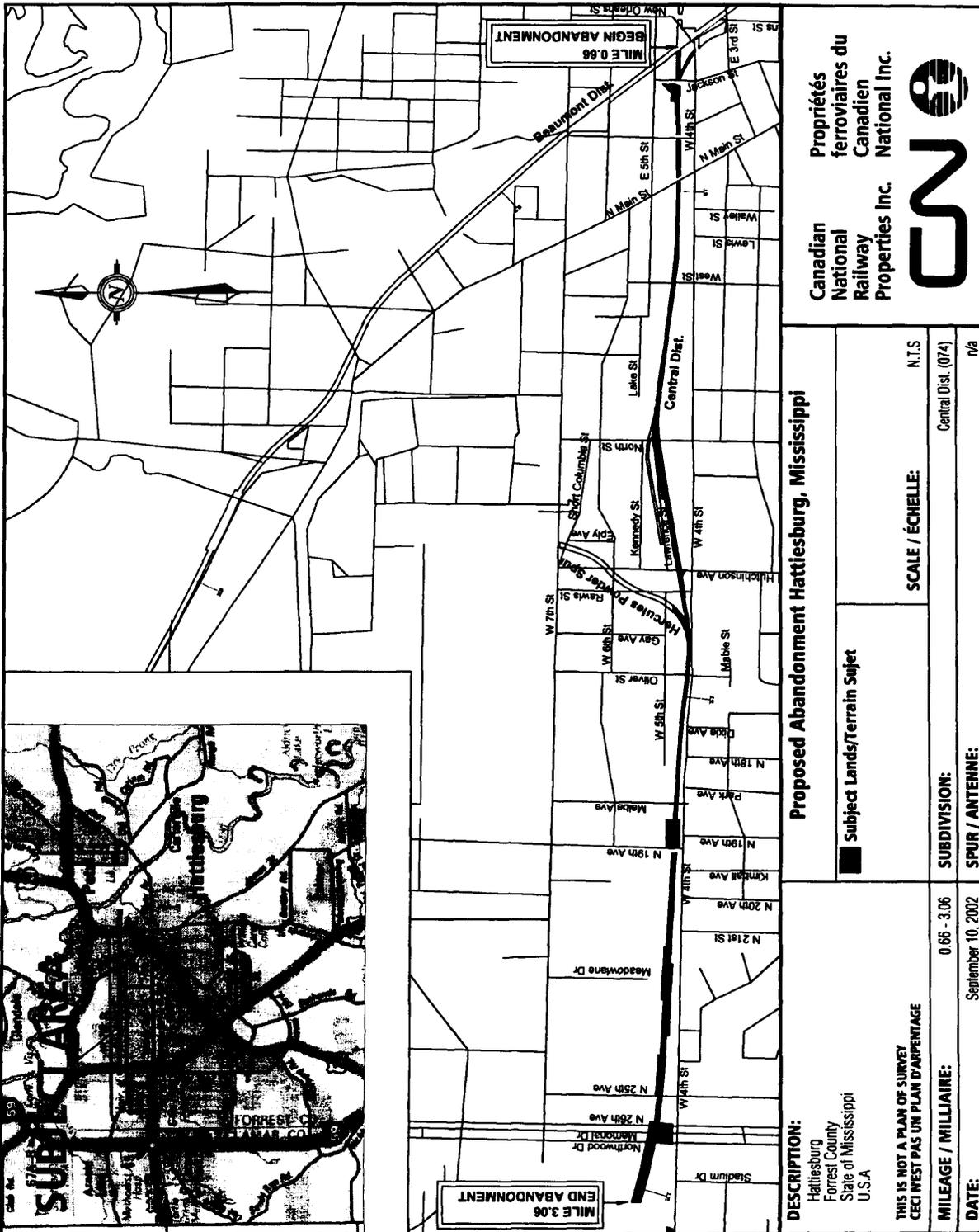
8. Ground Disturbance. IC is unaware of environmental conditions that might affect the archaeological recovery of resources. Access to the line is good.

Dated: 11-18-02

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Counsel for Illinois Central Railroad Company
Canadian National/Illinois Central
455 North Cityfront Plaza Drive
Chicago, IL 60611-5317
(312) 755-7954



Canadian National Railway Properties Inc.
Propriétés ferroviaires du Canadien National Inc.



Proposed Abandonment Hattiesburg, Mississippi

Subject Lands/Terrain Suet

SCALE / ÉCHELLE:	N.T.S
SUBDIVISION:	Central Dist. (074)
SPUR / ANTENNE:	n/a
MILEAGE / MILLIAIRE:	0.66 - 3.06
DATE:	September 10, 2002

DESCRIPTION:
 Hattiesburg
 Forrest County
 State of Mississippi
 U.S.A

THIS IS NOT A PLAN OF SURVEY
 CECI N'EST PAS UN PLAN D'APPENTAGE



Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Counsel
Legal Department

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455 North Cityfront Plaza Drive
Chicago, Ilinois 60611-5317
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Internet: Michael.Barron@cn.ca

September 12, 2002

Mr. Marlin D. Collier
Director, Office of Intermodal Planning
Mississippi Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 1850
Jackson, MS 39215-1850

**Re: Ilinois Central Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment in
Forrest County, Mississippi**

Dear Mr. Collier:

Ilinois Central Railroad Company ("IC") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon a 2.4 mile line of railroad in Hattiesburg, Forrest County, Mississippi between milepost MH 0.66 and the current end of track at milepost MH 3.06. For your convenience, we have attached a map for your reference. IC 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 conservation
10. Agricultural land;
11. Regional and/or local land use plans; and
12. The need for 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 three weeks.

Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,


Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Counsel for Ilinois Central Railroad Company

Encl.

Appendix C

City Council

Betsy M. RowellWard One
Deborah L. DenardWard Two
Carter CarrollWard Three
C. E. "Red" BaileyWard Four
Henry E. NaylorWard Five



Post Office Box 1898
Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39403-1898
(601) 545-4501
Fax (601) 545-4608
Email: mayor@hattiesburgms.com
council@hattiesburgms.com
Website: www.hattiesburgms.com

City of Hattiesburg

Johnny L. DuPree, Mayor

September 20, 2002

Mr. Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Counsel, Legal Department
Canadian National / Illinois Central
455 North Cityfront Plaza Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60611-5317

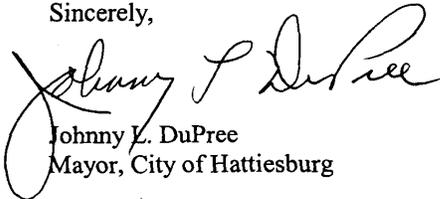
Dear Mr. Barron:

The City of Hattiesburg has reviewed your letter proposing the abandonment of the 2.4 mile line between milepost MH 0.66 and the end of the track at milepost MH 3.06. The city sees no potential adverse effects on environmental conditions resulting from the abandonment.

However, due to the important role rail lines and train traffic has played in the history of Hattiesburg the City would like to be consulted and given the opportunity for comment concerning any future plans IC has for the rail line property. The rail line is located within some of Hattiesburg's oldest areas. Any potential use of the property is of significant interest to us as how it may impact our city's Comprehensive Plan regarding land use and neighborhood development.

I thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter and hope to continue to work closely with IC and other rail industry leaders in the future.

Sincerely,


Johnny L. DuPree
Mayor, City of Hattiesburg

JLD/msc



Michael J. Barron, Jr.
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Fax: (312) 755-7669
Internet: Michael.Barron@cn.ca

September 12, 2002

Mayor Johnny L. DuPree
City of Hattiesburg
P.O. Box 1898
Hattiesburg, MS 39403-1898

Re: Illinois Central Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment in
Forrest County, Mississippi

Dear Mayor DuPree:

Illinois Central Railroad Company ("IC") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon a 2.4 mile line of railroad in Hattiesburg, Forrest County, Mississippi between milepost MH 0.66 and the current end of track at milepost MH 3.06. For your convenience, we have attached a map for your reference. IC 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 conservation
10. Agricultural land;
11. Regional and/or local land use plans; and
12. The need for 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 three weeks.

Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Counsel for Illinois Central Railroad Company

Encl.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

DAVID ALLEN
DISTRICT 1

CHARLES MARSHALL
DISTRICT 2, VICE PRESIDENT

LYNN CARTLIDGE
DISTRICT 3, PRESIDENT

RODERICK WOULLARD
DISTRICT 4

BILLY HUDSON
DISTRICT 5

JEFFREY T. HOLLIMON
ATTORNEY

BETTY CARLISLE
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR



641 MAIN STREET
P. O. BOX 1310
HATTIESBURG, MISSISSIPPI 39403-1310

PHONE (601) 545-6000
FAX (601) 545-6095

October 17, 2002

Mr. Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Legal Department
Canadian National/Illinois Central
455 North City Front Plaza Drive
Chicago, IL 60611-5317

RE: Illinois Central Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment in
Forrest County, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Barron:

This is to advise that Forrest County has no comments to offer concerning the environmental report to be filed by IC with the Service Transportation Board in connection with the intent to abandon a 2.4 mile line of railroad in Hattiesburg between Mile Post MH0.66 and the current end of track at Mile Post MH3.06. However, we are interested in seeing the abandoned rail line property put to use in a manner conducive to the positive development of the Community.

The proposed abandonment area is at the end of the railroad property previously purchased by the Mississippi Department of Transportation and turned into an extensive "Rails-To-Trails" project. Prior to disposal of this additional property, we request Canadian National/Illinois Central to grant the option to purchase it to the Mississippi Department of Transportation, or Peal & Leaf Rivers Rails-To-Trails Recreational District, or the City of Hattiesburg. We will appreciate it if this is kept in mind for the time disposal of the property becomes an issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lynn Cartlidge".

Lynn Cartlidge, President
Forrest County Board of Supervisors

LC/jw
cc:

Johnny L. DuPree
Bennie Sellers
Herlon Pierce
Stone Barefield



Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Counsel
Legal Department

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Internet: Michael.Barron@cn.ca

September 12, 2002

Mr. Lynn Cartlidge
President
Forrest County Board of Supervisors
P.O. Box 1310
Hattiesburg, MS 39401

Re: Illinois Central Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment in
Forrest County, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Cartlidge:

Illinois Central Railroad Company ("IC") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon a 2.4 mile line of railroad in Hattiesburg, Forrest County, Mississippi between milepost MH 0.66 and the current end of track at milepost MH 3.06. For your convenience, we have attached a map for your reference. IC 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 conservation
10. Agricultural land;
11. Regional and/or local land use plans; and
12. The need for 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 three weeks.

Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,


Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Counsel for Illinois Central Railroad Company

Encl.



Michael J. Barron, Jr.
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Fax: (312) 755-7669
Internet: Michael.Barron@cn.ca

September 12, 2002

Dr. Shelby F. Thames
President
The University of Southern Mississippi
2701 Hardy Street
Hattiesburg, MS 39406

Re: Illinois Central Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment in
Forrest County, Mississippi

Dear Dr. Thames:

Illinois Central Railroad Company ("IC") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon a 2.4 mile line of railroad in Hattiesburg, Forrest County, Mississippi between milepost MH 0.66 and the current end of track at milepost MH 3.06. For your convenience, we have attached a map for your reference. IC 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:

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5. Critical habitats
6. Wildlife sanctuaries or refuges;
7. National or state parks or forests;
8. Coastal zone management
9. Soil and natural resource conservation
10. Agricultural land;
11. Regional and/or local land use plans; and
12. The need for 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 three weeks.

Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,


Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Counsel for Illinois Central Railroad Company

Encl.



Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Counsel
Legal Department
Canadian National/Illinois Central
455 North Cityfront Plaza Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60611-5317
Telephone: (312) 755-7954
Fax: (312) 755-7669
Internet: Michael.Barron@cn.ca

September 12, 2002

Mr. Homer L. Wilkes
State Conservationist
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
100 West Capitol Street, Room 1321
Jackson, MS 39269

Re: Illinois Central Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment in
Forrest County, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Wilkes:

Illinois Central Railroad Company ("IC") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon a 2.4 mile line of railroad in Hattiesburg, Forrest County, Mississippi between milepost MH 0.66 and the current end of track at milepost MH 3.06. For your convenience, we have attached a map for your reference. IC 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:

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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 three weeks.

Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael J. Barron, Jr.', written in a cursive style.

Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Counsel for Illinois Central Railroad Company

Encl.



Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Counsel
Legal Department

Canadian National/Illinois Central
455 North Cityfront Plaza Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60611-5317
Telephone: (312) 755-7954
Fax: (312) 755-7669
Internet: Michael.Barron@cn.ca

September 12, 2002

Mr. Jerry Brashier
Director of Wetland Permitting
Mississippi Coastal Program
Mississippi Dept. of Marine Resources
1141 Bayview Avenue, Suite 101
Biloxi, MS 39530

Re: Illinois Central Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment in
Forrest County, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Brashier:

Illinois Central Railroad Company ("IC") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon a 2.4 mile line of railroad in Hattiesburg, Forrest County, Mississippi between milepost MH 0.66 and the current end of track at milepost MH 3.06. For your convenience, we have attached a map for your reference. IC 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:

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Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,


Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Counsel for Illinois Central Railroad Company

Encl.



Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Counsel
Legal Department
Canadian National/Illinois Central
455 North Cityfront Plaza Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60611-5317
Telephone: (312) 755-7954
Fax: (312) 755-7669
Internet: Michael.Barron@cn.ca

September 12, 2002

Mr. Thomas H. Waggener
Review and Compliance Officer
Mississippi Dept. of Archives and History
Historic Preservation Division
P.O. Box 571
Jackson, MS 39205-0571

Re: Illinois Central Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment in
Forrest County, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Waggener:

Illinois Central Railroad Company ("IC") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board for approval to abandon its rail line in Forrest County between milepost MH 0.66 and the current end of track at milepost MH 3.06. IC is advising you of the proposed action so you may assist us in performing a historical review process. A map of the area slated for abandonment and photographs of the only structure within the abandonment area, the bridge over US Hwy 49, are enclosed.

Thank you for your assistance. Please call me if you have questions.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Michael J. Barron, Jr.'.

Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Counsel for Illinois Central Railroad Company

Encls.



Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Historic Preservation Division

PO Box 571 • Jackson, MS 39205-0571 • 601 / 359-6940 • Fax 601 / 359-6955 • mdah.state.ms.us

September 30, 2002

Mr. Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Counsel for Illinois Central Railroad Company
455 North Cityfront Plaza Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60611-5317

Dear Mr. Barron:

RE: Illinois Central Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment in Forrest County

We have reviewed your September 12, 2002, cultural resources assessment request for the above referenced project proposal in accordance with our responsibilities pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and 36 CFR Part 800. It is our determination that no properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places will be affected. Therefore, we have no reservations with the proposal. We have received information that the abandoned right of way is being considered for a rails-to-trails project. We consider that this would be a very appropriate use of this property.

If we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Sincerely,

Elbert R. Hilliard
State Historic Preservation Officer

By: Thomas H. Waggener
Review and Compliance Officer

cc: Clearinghouse for Federal Programs



Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Counsel
Legal Department
Canadian National/Illinois Central
455 North Cityfront Plaza Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60611-5317
Telephone: (312) 755-7954
Fax: (312) 755-7669
Internet: Michael.Barron@cn.ca

September 12, 2002

Mr. John H. Hankinson
Regional Administrator, Region IV
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
100 Alabama Street, N.W.
Atlanta, GA 30313

Re: Illinois Central Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment in
Forrest County, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Hankinson:

Illinois Central Railroad Company ("IC") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon a 2.4 mile line of railroad in Hattiesburg, Forrest County, Mississippi between milepost MH 0.66 and the current end of track at milepost MH 3.06. For your convenience, we have attached a map for your reference. IC 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:

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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 three weeks.

Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael J. Barron, Jr.'.

Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Counsel for Illinois Central Railroad Company

Encl.



**MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND PARKS**

SAM POLLES, Ph.D.
Executive Director

September 17, 2002

Mr. Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Counsel for Illinois Central Railroad Company
Canadian National / Illinois Central
455 North Cityfront Plaza Drive
Chicago, IL 60611-5317

RE: Illinois Central Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment in Forrest County,
Mississippi

Dear Mr. Barron:

Based on the information submitted for the above referenced project, the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks does not anticipate any significant adverse effects on wildlife, fisheries or vegetative resources as a result of the proposed project activities. State and federally listed endangered or threatened species and rare species proposed for listing are not covered by this clearance letter.

For determination of the potential presence of state or federally listed species please contact Ms. Alison Sherman with the Mississippi Natural Heritage Program at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science, 2148 Riverside Drive, Jackson, Mississippi 39202.

Should you have any questions, please call me at (601) 432-2118.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. S. Alonzo".

Christopher S. Alonzo
Director of Environmental Programs, MDWFP

pc: File C:\A_Environment illinois central



Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Counsel
Legal Department

Canadian National/Illinois Central
455 North Cityfront Plaza Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60611-5317
Telephone: (312) 755-7954
Fax: (312) 755-7669
Internet: Michael.Barron@cn.ca

September 12, 2002

Mr. Christopher A. Alonzo
Director, Environmental Programs
Mississippi Dept. of Wildlife,
Fisheries and Parks
1505 Eastover Drive
Jackson, MS 39211-6322

Re: Illinois Central Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment in
Forrest County, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Alonzo:

Illinois Central Railroad Company ("IC") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon a 2.4 mile line of railroad in Hattiesburg, Forrest County, Mississippi between milepost MH 0.66 and the current end of track at milepost MH 3.06. For your convenience, we have attached a map for your reference. IC 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:

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Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Counsel for Illinois Central Railroad Company

Encl.



Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Counsel
Legal Department
Canadian National/Illinois Central
455 North Cityfront Plaza Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60611-5317
Telephone: (312) 755-7954
Fax: (312) 755-7669
Internet: Michael.Barron@cn.ca

RECEIVED
SEP 16 2002

U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE
JACKSON, MS

September 12, 2002

Ms. Kathy W. Lunceford
Environmental Coordinator
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
6578 Dogwood View Parkway, Suite A
Jackson, MS 39213

Re: Illinois Central Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment in
Forrest County, Mississippi

Dear Ms. Lunceford:

Illinois Central Railroad Company ("IC") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon a 2.4 mile line of railroad in Hattiesburg, Forrest County, Mississippi between milepost MH 0.66 and the current end of track at milepost MH 3.06. For your convenience, we have attached a map for your reference. IC 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:

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Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,


Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Counsel for Illinois Central Railroad Company

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Significant adverse wetland impacts
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No listed, proposed or candidate species present
<i>Kathy W. Lunceford</i>
Environmental Coordinator U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
02-932 9/17/02
Log No. Date

Encl.



Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Counsel
Legal Department

Canadian National/Illinois Central
455 North Cityfront Plaza Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60611-5317
Telephone: (312) 755-7954
Fax: (312) 755-7669
Internet: Michael.Barron@cn.ca

September 12, 2002

Ms. Cynthia Rickis-Gordon
Environmental Biologist
Mississippi Natural Heritage Program
Mississippi Museum of Natural Science
2148 Riverside Drive
Jackson, MS 39202-1353

Re: Illinois Central Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment in
Forrest County, Mississippi

Dear Ms. Rickis-Gordon:

Illinois Central Railroad Company ("IC") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon a 2.4 mile line of railroad in Hattiesburg, Forrest County, Mississippi between milepost MH 0.66 and the current end of track at milepost MH 3.06. For your convenience, we have attached a map for your reference. IC 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:

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Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Counsel for Illinois Central Railroad Company

Encl.



MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND PARKS

September 24, 2002

SAM POLLES, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Michael J. Barron
Canadian National / Illinois Central
455 North Cityfront Plaza Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60611-5317

Re: **Proposed Railroad Abandonment
Hattiesburg, Mississippi**

Dear Mr. Barron:

In response to your request for information dated September 12, 2002, I have searched our database for occurrences of state or federally listed or proposed endangered or threatened plants and animals on the site referenced above.

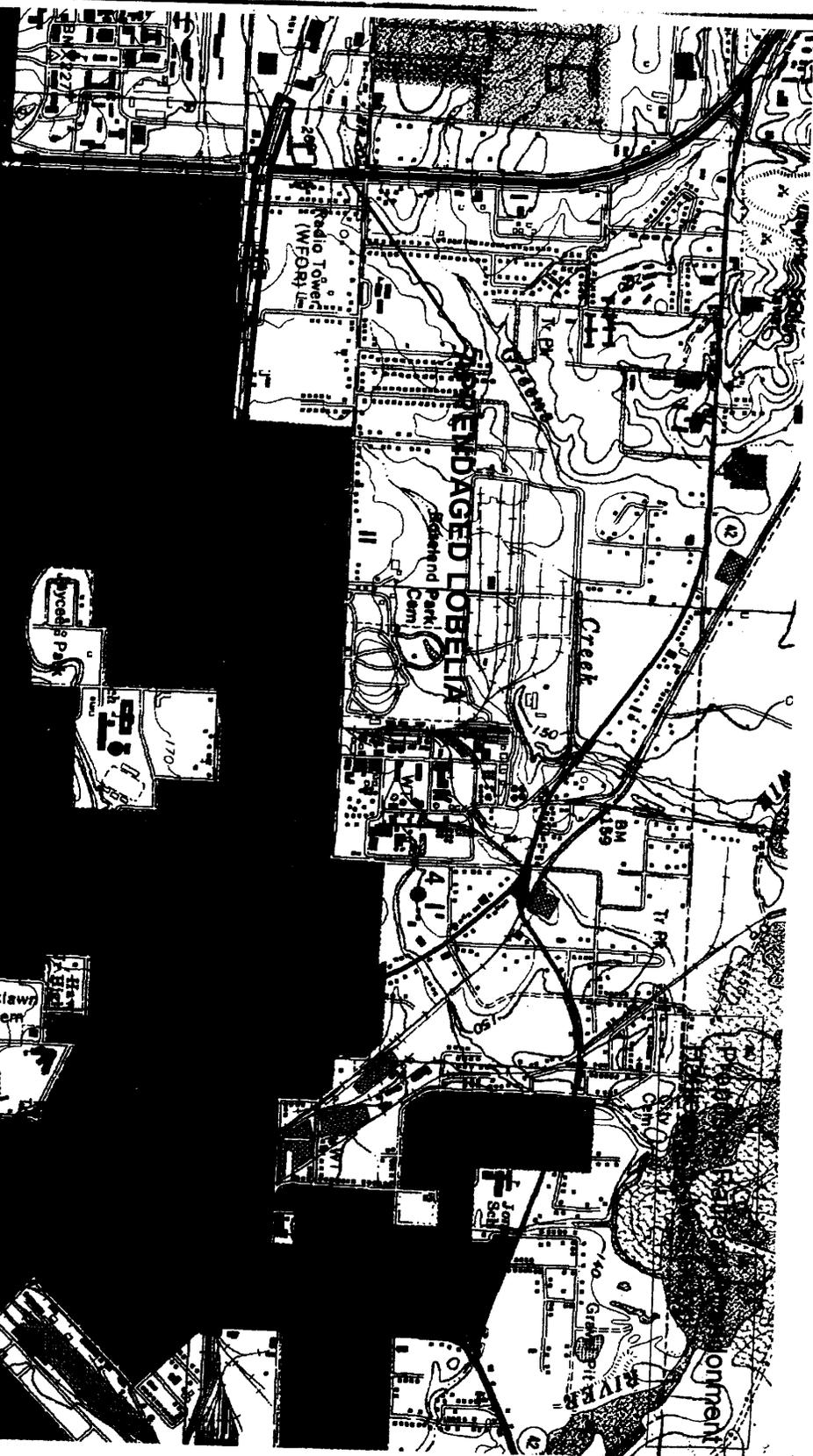
Located on the enclosed map within 2 miles of the proposed construction site is a reported occurrence of one species of special concern. The Appendaged Lobelia (*Lobelia appendiculata*) is not confined to the specific point location on the map. A survey of this species on the proposed construction area is suggested. It is critical that these species and or their environment not be disturbed during the construction.

The Mississippi Natural Heritage Program (MNHP) has compiled a database that is the most complete source of information about Mississippi's rare, threatened, endangered or otherwise significant plants, animals, plant communities and natural features. The quantity and quality of data collected by MNHP are dependent on the research and observations of many individuals and organizations. In many cases, this information is not the result of comprehensive or site-specific field surveys; most natural areas in Mississippi have not been thoroughly surveyed and new occurrences of plant and animal species are often discovered. Heritage reports summarize the existing information known to the MNHP at the time of the request and cannot always be considered a definitive statement on the presence, absence or condition of biological elements on a particular site.

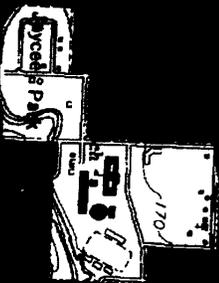
Please feel free to contact us if we can provide additional information.

Sincerely,


Bryon Moudy, Biological GIS Technician
Mississippi Natural Heritage Program



+ Species of Special Concern
[Symbol] Project Site





Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Counsel
Legal Department
Canadian National/Illinois Central
455 North Cityfront Plaza Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60611-5317
Telephone: (312) 755-7954
Fax: (312) 755-7669
Internet: Michael.Barron@cn.ca

September 12, 2002

Mr. James I. Palmer, Jr.
Executive Director
Mississippi Dept. of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 20305
Jackson, MS 39289-1305

Re: Illinois Central Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment in
Forrest County, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Palmer, Jr.:

Illinois Central Railroad Company ("IC") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon a 2.4 mile line of railroad in Hattiesburg, Forrest County, Mississippi between milepost MH 0.66 and the current end of track at milepost MH 3.06. For your convenience, we have attached a map for your reference. IC 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:

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Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,


Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Counsel for Illinois Central Railroad Company

Encl.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

MOBILE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS

P.O. BOX 2288

MOBILE, ALABAMA 36628-0001

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

October 1, 2002

Regulatory Branch
Operations Division

Canadian National/Illinois Central
Attention: Mr. Michael Barron
455 North Cityfront Plaza Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60611-5317

Dear Mr. Barron:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your request for the performance of a Jurisdictional Determination/Wetland Delineation.

I have been assigned as project manager for your permit action. My telephone number is (251) 694-3734, and your application has been given the number MSJ02-02862-C. Please refer to this number should you have any reason to contact this office.

In the event additional information is needed or problems arise pertaining to your application, I will contact you. Please be assured that every effort will be made to complete a site inspection in a timely manner. Currently, we are backlogged by approximately 700 applications. Therefore, your patience would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

151

Ms. Debra D. Archie
Project Manager
Permitting Section



Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Counsel
Legal Department

Canadian National/Illinois Central
455 North Cityfront Plaza Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60611-5317
Telephone: (312) 755-7954
Fax: (312) 755-7669
Internet: Michael.Barron@cn.ca

September 12, 2002

Ms. Elizabeth S. Guynes
Chief, Regulatory Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Vicksburg District, Operations Division
4155 Clay Street
Vicksburg, MS 39180-3435

Re: Illinois Central Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment in
Forrest County, Mississippi

Dear Ms. Guynes:

Illinois Central Railroad Company ("IC") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon a 2.4 mile line of railroad in Hattiesburg, Forrest County, Mississippi between milepost MH 0.66 and the current end of track at milepost MH 3.06. For your convenience, we have attached a map for your reference. IC 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:

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Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,


Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Counsel for Illinois Central Railroad Company

Encl.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

VICKSBURG DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
4155 CLAY STREET
VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI 39183-3435

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

<http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/>

September 24, 2002

Operations Division
Regulatory Branch

SUBJECT: Illinois Central Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment,
Forrest County, Mississippi

Mr. Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Canadian National/Illinois Central
455 North Cityfront Plaza Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60611-5317

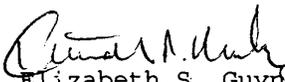
Dear Mr. Barron:

Your recent correspondence, subject as above, has been forwarded for action to the Mobile District, Corps of Engineers, since the proposed project falls within the geographic boundaries of their District.

Their contact information is:

U.S. Army Engineer District, Mobile
Attention: Regulatory Branch
Post Office Box 2288
Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001
Telephone: 251-690-2658

Sincerely,


Elizabeth S. Guyres
Chief, Regulatory Branch

10

**Hattiesburg
Proposed Abandonment**



Looking westward at Bridge MH 2.9 (US Hwy 49)

11

**Hattiesburg
Proposed Abandonment**



Bridge MH 2.9 (US Hwy 49) - North face

Docket No. AB-43 (Sub-No. 173X)

ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD
COMPANY

- PETITION FOR EXEMPTION FOR
ABANDONMENT IN FORREST
COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

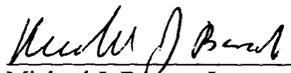
To: Mr. Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board (STB)
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

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

I hereby certify that on November 18, 2002, 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 Mississippi Department of Archives and History. A service list is attached and incorporated into this certificate as Attachment A. The reports have been sent within the time period specified, as Illinois Central Railroad Company intends to file its Petition for Exemption in the above-captioned matter no earlier than December 9, 2002. 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 a newspaper notice was published on September 6, 2002, in the *Hattiesburg American*, a newspaper of general circulation in Forrest County, Mississippi. The notices alerted the public to the proposed abandonment, to possible reuse alternatives, and to procedures for participating in the STB proceeding. A copy of the notice is attached to this certificate as Attachment B.

Dated this 18th day of November, 2002.



Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Counsel for Illinois Central
Railroad Company

Attachment A

Mr. Marlin D. Collier
Director, Office of Intermodal Planning
Mississippi Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 1850
Jackson, MS 39215-1850

Mr. Lynn Cartlidge
President
Forrest County Board of Supervisors
P.O. Box 1310
Hattiesburg, MS 39401

Mr. Homer L. Wilkes
State Conservationist
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
100 West Capitol Street, Room 1321
Jackson, MS 39269

Mr. Jerry Brashier
Director of Wetland Permitting
Mississippi Coastal Program
Mississippi Dept. of Marine Resources
1141 Bayview Avenue, Suite 101
Biloxi, MS 39530

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Executive Director
Mississippi Dept. of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 20305
Jackson, MS 39289-1305

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Regional Administrator, Region IV
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
100 Alabama Street, N.W.
Atlanta, GA 30313

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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
6578 Dogwood View Parkway, Suite A
Jackson, MS 39213

Ms. Cynthia Rickis-Gordon
Environmental Biologist
Mississippi Natural Heritage Program
Mississippi Museum of Natural Science
2148 Riverside Drive
Jackson, MS 39202-1353

Mr. Christopher A. Alonzo
Director, Environmental Programs
Mississippi Dept. of Wildlife,
Fisheries and Parks
1505 Eastover Drive
Jackson, MS 39211-6322

Ms. Debra D. Archie
Project Manager, Permitting Section
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Mobile District
P.O. Box 2288
Mobile, AL 36628-0001

Mayor Johnny L. DuPree
City of Hattiesburg
P.O. Box 1898
Hattiesburg, MS 39403-1898

Dr. Shelby F. Thames
President
The University of Southern Mississippi
2701 Hardy Street
Hattiesburg, MS 39406

Mr. Thomas H. Waggener
Review and Compliance Officer
Mississippi Dept. of Archives and History
Historic Preservation Division
P.O. Box 571
Jackson, MS 39205-0571

Mr. William D. Shaddox
Chief, Land Resources Division
National Park Service
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

Ms. Cathy Mallette
State Clearinghouse Officer
Mississippi Dept. of Finance and Administration
Office of Budget and Fund Management
P.O. Box 267
Jackson, MS 39201

Mr. Edward J. McKay
Chief, Spatial Reference System Division
National Geodetic Survey
Nat'l Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
1315 East West Highway, Room 8813
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282

Proof of Publication

The State of Mississippi

Forrest County

PASTE PROOF HERE

PERSONALLY appeared before me, the undersigned notary public in and for Forrest County, Mississippi,

Alex Walley

an authorized clerk of the HATTIESBURG AMERICAN, a daily newspaper published in the City of Hattiesburg, Forrest County, Mississippi who, being duly sworn, states that the notice, a true copy of which is hereto attached, appeared in the issues of said newspaper as follows:

Dates of Publication:

Friday, September 6, 2002

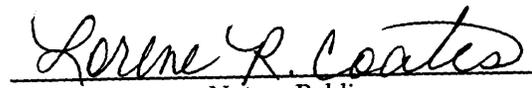
Lines:	86
Words:	353
Issues:	1
Total:	\$47.76

NOTICE
 ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY gives notice that on or after October 6, 2002, 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 permitting the abandonment of a 2.4 mile line of railroad between railroad milepost M11 0.66 and the current end of track at milepost 3.06 in Hattiesburg, Forrest County, Mississippi, which line traverses through U.S. Postal Zip Code 39401. The proceeding will be docketed as AS-43 (Sub No. 173X).
 The Board's Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis and Administration, Section of Environmental Analysis (OESEA) 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 the OESEA, Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street NW, Washington, DC 20423 or by calling that office at (202) 565-1545. 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 Office of the Secretary, 1925 K Street NW, Washington, DC 20423-0001 (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 Commission's Office of Public Assistance at (202) 565-1592. Copies of any comments or requests for conditions should be served on the applicant's representative: Michael J. Surran, Jr., (312) 755-7854 at 455 North Cityfront Plaza Drive, 20th floor, Chicago, IL 60611-5317.
 Publish Date: September 6, 2002.

Signed



 Authorized Clerk
 of the Hattiesburg



 Notary Public

SWORN to and subscribed before me on 9/6/2002
 Notary Public State of Mississippi At Large.
 My Commission Expires: May 24, 2006.
 Bonded thru Heiden, Brooks & Garland, Inc.

(SEAL)