

206804

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



December 10, 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. 174X), Illinois Central Railroad Company—
Notice of Exemption for Abandonment in Randolph County, Illinois

Dear Secretary Williams:

Illinois Central Railroad Company intends on filing a Notice of Exemption for the
above-referenced proposed abandonment any time on or after December 30, 2002.
Enclosed for the above-referenced Notice of 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

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
DEC 11 2002
Part of
Public Record

Encls.



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



December 10, 2002

**Re: Illinois Central Railroad Company Notice of Exemption for Abandonment—
Randolph County, Illinois—Docket AB-43 (Sub-No. 174X)**

To Whom It May Concern:

Any time on or after December 30, 2002, Illinois Central Railroad Company ("IC") expects to file with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") a Notice of Exemption seeking authority to abandon a railroad line located between milepost MM 602.55 and MM 603.0 near Baldwin in Randolph County, Illinois. 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 December 10, 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. 174X)

ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY
— NOTICE OF EXEMPTION FOR ABANDONMENT —
IN RANDOLPH COUNTY, ILLINOIS

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 “Baldwin Trackage,” from milepost MM 602.55, just west of Baldwin, Illinois to the current end of track at milepost MM 603.0 for a total of 0.45 miles. Baldwin Trackage is the eastern remnant of IC’s former Sparta District which used to continue west and north to East St. Louis, Illinois.

The terrain along Baldwin Trackage is generally flat and slightly sloping to the east towards the Kaskaskia River. The west end is primarily farmland with rural/weekend cabin-type residential areas at the east end.

There are no grade crossings located along the proposed abandonment.

There are no buildings, bridges or other structures located within the abandonment area.

No existing or former customers are located along Baldwin Trackage. The line was formerly used as a through-route to East St. Louis, Illinois.

A party has expressed interest in acquiring some of the track (rail, ties and track material) and property once IC has abandoned the line.

A map showing the location of Baldwin 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 Illinois Department of Transportation; they have not yet responded. See correspondence attached hereto as Appendix B.

Baldwin Trackage does not contain:

- customers (or former customers)
- grade crossings
- buildings, bridges or other structures

The width of the right-of-way is generally 50 feet on each side of the track centerline, or 100 feet.

3. Land Use.

(i) IC does not foresee any inconsistency with regional and/or local land use plans. IC has contacted the Village of Baldwin, however, they have not yet responded. See correspondence attached hereto as Appendix C.

The Randolph County (Illinois) Board of Commissioners states they are involved in a project with the Kaskaskia Port Authority and the proposed abandonment fits in with their

plans. They are supportive of the abandonment. See correspondence attached hereto as Appendix D.

(ii) IC believes that the proposed Baldwin Trackage abandonment will not impact any prime agricultural lands. The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service (Champaign, Illinois), is concerned only if IC removes the road bed and culvert at the western end of the trackage. That area is in a 100-year floodplain. IC does not intend to remove the road bed and culvert. See correspondence attached hereto as Appendix E.

(iii) Baldwin Trackage does not lie within a designated Coastal Zone Management Area and, accordingly, IC believes the proposed abandonment will not affect any land or water uses in such an area or result in any coastal impacts. The Illinois Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Land and Water Resources, offered recommendations primarily related to maintenance and drainage. See correspondence attached hereto as Appendix F.

(iv) The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency states they have no objections regarding the proposed abandonment as there are no historic properties affected. See correspondence attached hereto as Appendix G.

(v) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will not review the proposed abandonment of Baldwin Trackage at this time, and they reserve the right to reconsider undertaking a review in the future. See correspondence attached hereto as Appendix H.

4. Energy.

(i) The proposed abandonment will not have any effect on the transportation of energy resources. No energy resource commodities move over Baldwin 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 Baldwin 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. There is no rail freight traffic on Baldwin Trackage 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 Baldwin 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 Baldwin 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. There is no traffic on the proposed abandonment, thus 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) As there are no grade crossings on Baldwin Trackage, IC believes public health and safety will not be affected by the proposed abandonment. During any salvage operations on Baldwin Trackage, precautions will be taken to ensure public safety.

(ii) Not applicable. To IC's knowledge no hazardous commodities were handled on Baldwin Trackage in recent times. As there is no traffic at all, 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 Baldwin Trackage. There are no known environmental issues relating to this site.

8. Biological Resources.

(i) There has been no response to IC's request for comments from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. See correspondence attached hereto as Appendix I.

(ii) Baldwin 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 Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) to determine whether the proposed abandonment is consistent with applicable federal, state and local water quality standards. See correspondence attached hereto as Appendix J. While IEPA 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 culverts in place.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources has not responded to our request for comments. See correspondence attached hereto as Appendix K.

(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 has not yet responded. 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 L.

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 Baldwin Trackage is attached hereto as Appendix A.

2. Description of Line. Baldwin Trackage runs in a generally east-west direction and starts at milepost MM 602.55, and ends at current end of track (milepost MM 603.0), for a total of 0.45 miles, all just west of the city limits of Baldwin, Randolph County, Illinois. Topography is generally flat, gently sloping to the east towards the Kaskaskia River. Baldwin Trackage crosses through farmlands at the western end, and through weekend/rural cabin-type residential areas at the eastern end.

The right-of-way is generally 50 feet on either side of the center line of the track, or 100 feet.

3. Photographs. There are no buildings, structures, bridges, or anything of note within the proposed abandonment, thus no photographs are submitted.

Information on Structures. There are no buildings, structures, or bridges within the proposed Baldwin Trackage abandonment.

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

Unknown	St. Louis & Cairo Railroad built as a narrow-gauge line to serve coal fields of southern Illinois.
1886	Mobile & Ohio Railroad acquires St. Louis & Cairo Railroad and converts the line to standard gauge.
1940	Mobile & Ohio Railroad merges with Gulf, Mobile & Northern Railroad resulting in the formation of the Gulf, Mobile & Ohio Railroad.
1972	Illinois Central Railroad merges with the Gulf, Mobile & Ohio Railroad resulting in the formation of the Illinois Central Gulf.
1990	Name reverts to Illinois Central Railroad Company.
1999	The Illinois Central Railroad Company merges with the Canadian National Railway Company.

5. Engineering Documents. There are no engineering documents related to Baldwin Trackage.

6. 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 Baldwin Trackage or will be affected by the abandonment. As noted above, there are no buildings or structures located within the proposed abandonment area. IC also believes that no culturally significant locations, archaeological sites or unique land forms will be affected by the abandonment. IC has contacted the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency who has stated that no historic properties will be affected by the proposed abandonment. See correspondence attached hereto as Appendix G.

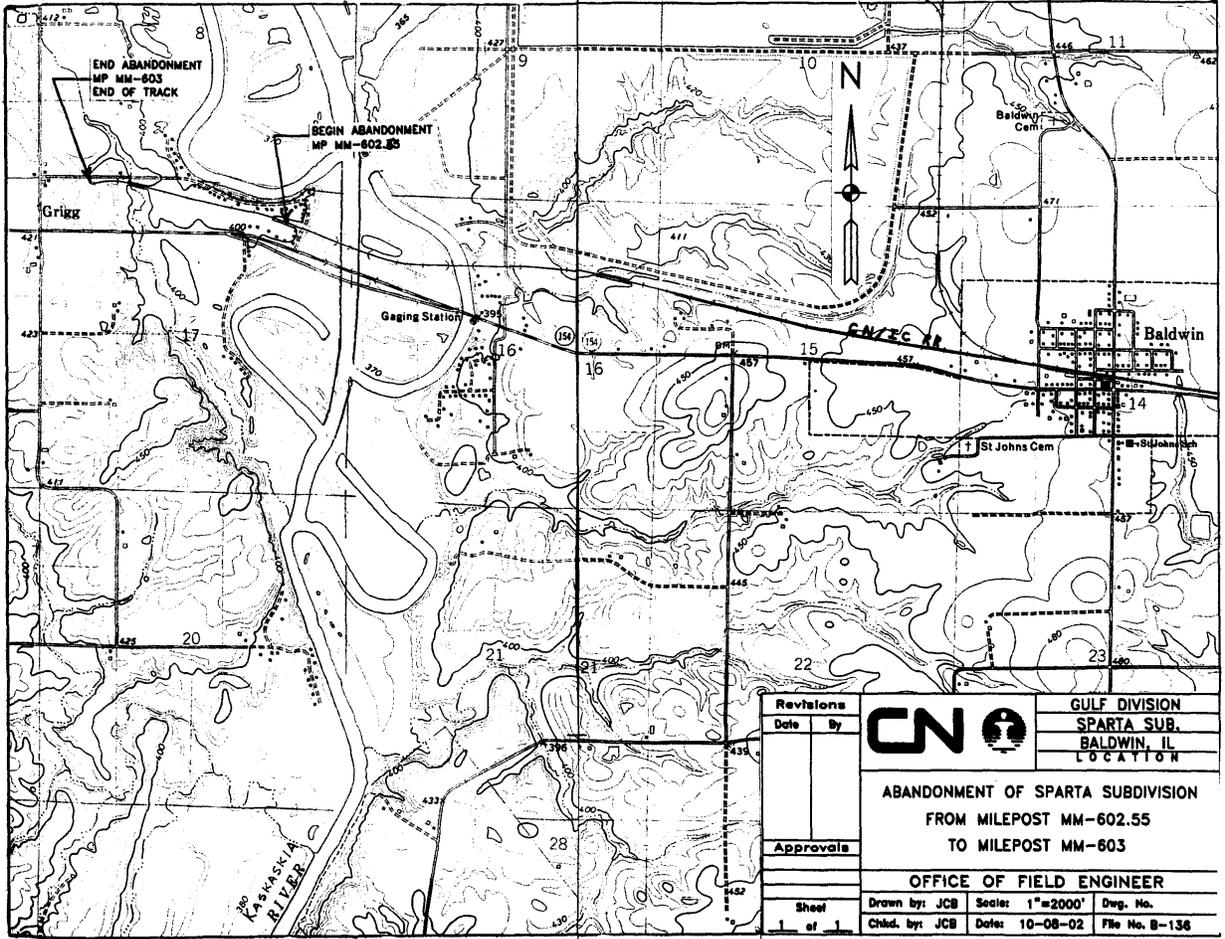
7. Ground Disturbance. IC is unaware of environmental conditions that might affect the archaeological recovery of resources. Access to the line is good.

Dated: December 10, 2002

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



Revisions	
Date	By



GULF DIVISION
SPARTA SUB.
BALDWIN, IL
LOCATION

ABANDONMENT OF SPARTA SUBDIVISION
FROM MILEPOST MM-602.55
TO MILEPOST MM-603

Approvals	

OFFICE OF FIELD ENGINEER

Sheet
1 of 1

Drawn by: JCB Scale: 1"=2000' Dwg. No.
Chkd. by: JCB Date: 10-08-02 File No. B-136

Appendix A



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

November 1, 2002

Ms. Linda M. Wheeler
Director, Office of Planning and Programming
Illinois Department of Transportation
2300 South Dirksen Parkway
Springfield, IL 62764

**Re: Illinois Central Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment in
Randolph County, Illinois**

Dear Ms. Wheeler:

Illinois Central Railroad Company ("IC") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon a 0.45 mile line of railroad in Baldwin, Randolph County, Illinois between milepost MM 602.55 and the current end of track at milepost MM 603. 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.
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

November 1, 2002

Mayor Jeff Rowold
Village of Baldwin
P.O. Box 28
Baldwin, IL 62217

**Re: Illinois Central Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment in
Randolph County, Illinois**

Dear Mayor Rowold:

Illinois Central Railroad Company ("IC") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon a 0.45 mile line of railroad in Baldwin, Randolph County, Illinois between milepost MM 602.55 and the current end of track at milepost MM 603. 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.

Appendix D

November 18, 2002, 2:47 pm

Phone message left for Michael J. Barron, counsel, Illinois Central Railroad Company

Re: Baldwin, Randolph County, IL proposed abandonment AB-43 (Sub-No. 174X)

From Ed Crow, Director of Economic Development, **Randolph County**, on behalf of
Chairman of the **County Board of Commissioners** (618) 826-5000, Ext. 136.

Message:

- They are involved in a project with Kaskaskia ~~Park District~~ **PORT AUTHORITY**
- Abandonment ties in.
- They are supportive of abandonment.

AB-43 (174X)

11-18-02

2:47 pm; Message to
Mike Barron
Ed Crow, Randolph
County Econ. Dev.
Director, on behalf
of Bd. of Commissioners

(Chairman

= Involved in project with
Kaskaskia Port District

= Abandonment ties in.

= Phone message in support of
abandonment

618-826-5000 ext 136



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

November 1, 2002

Commissioner Terry Moore
Chair
Randolph County Board of Commissioners
1 Taylor Street
Chester, IL 62233

**Re: Illinois Central Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment in
Randolph County, Illinois**

Dear Commissioner Moore:

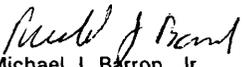
Illinois Central Railroad Company ("IC") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon a 0.45 mile line of railroad in Baldwin, Randolph County, Illinois between milepost MM 602.55 and the current end of track at milepost MM 603. For 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.

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
2118 West Park Court
Champaign, Illinois 61821
Phone: 217/353-6600 Fax: 217/353-6675

November 20, 2002

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

RE: Illinois Central Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment in Randolph County, Illinois

Dear Mr. Barron, Jr.,

The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service has reviewed the Illinois Central Railroad Company proposed abandonment in Randolph County, Illinois.

We have the following comments on this abandonment. One concern would be that the low area or draw that runs through the railroad bed on the west end is located in the 100 year floodplain. At that point, there is a very large culvert running under the railroad bed and tracks. If the abandonment is to only remove the rails and railroad ties, there would not be a negative impact on this area. If the bed is removed, then there could be possible impacts in the floodplain dealing with potential wetlands. We see no other detrimental impact to this railroad abandonment.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William J. Gradle".

WILLIAM J. GRADLE
State Conservationist

cc:

Bill Lewis, Acting Assistant State Conservationist, NRCS, Champaign, IL
Karl Visser, Acting Planning Team Leader, NRCS, Champaign, IL
Paul Krone, Environmental Specialist, NRCS, Champaign, IL
Andy Schlichting, District Conservationist, NRCS, Sparta, IL

pk:barron railroad aband.doc



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

November 1, 2002

Mr. William J. Gradle
State Conservationist
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
1902 Fox Drive
Champaign, IL 61820

**Re: Illinois Central Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment in
Randolph County, Illinois**

Dear Mr. Gradle:

Illinois Central Railroad Company ("IC") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon a 0.45 mile line of railroad in Baldwin, Randolph County, Illinois between milepost MM 602.55 and the current end of track at milepost MM 603. 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.



George H. Ryan, Governor • Joe Hampton, Director

Bureau of Land and Water Resources

State Fairgrounds • P.O. Box 19281 • Springfield, IL 62794-9281 • 217/782-6297 • TDD 217/524-6858 • Fax 217/557-0993

November 15, 2002

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

Re: Illinois Central Railroad Company
Proposed Abandonment
Randolph County, Illinois

Dear Mr. Barron:

The Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDA) received your notice of the proposed abandonment of 0.45 miles of railroad approximately two miles west of Baldwin in Randolph County, Illinois. You asked for the IDA's assistance in identifying any potential effects of the proposed action.

The IDA would recommend that the Illinois Central Railroad consider the following things as it abandons the section of track.

1. If the adjacent land is agricultural land, the railroad should consider reclaiming the right-of-way for agricultural use and offering it for sale to adjacent landowners and/or deeding the land back to the owner of the parcel that once comprised the right-of-way.
2. Every effort should be made to ensure that the surface and/or subsurface drainage on adjacent agricultural land is not adversely affected by the railroad's abandonment.
3. Weeds should be controlled on the abandoned right-of-way in the event the land is not sold or deeded to another party.
4. Any debris, including ballast, rails, ties, spikes, litter, etc. should be completely removed for the right-of-way to prevent their dispersal onto adjacent farmland.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jim Hartwig of my staff at 217-785-4470.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Frank".

Steve Frank, Chief
Bureau of Land and Water Resources

SF:JH



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

November 1, 2002

Mr. Terry Savko
Bureau of Land & Water Resources
Illinois Department of Agriculture
P.O. Box 19281
Springfield, IL 62794-9281

**Re: Illinois Central Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment in
Randolph County, Illinois**

Dear Mr. Savko:

Illinois Central Railroad Company ("IC") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon a 0.45 mile line of railroad in Baldwin, Randolph County, Illinois between milepost MM 602.55 and the current end of track at milepost MM 603. 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,

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

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

November 1, 2002

Ms. Anne E. Haaker
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
Preservation Services Division
1 Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield, IL 62701-1507

Re: Illinois Central Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment in
Randolph County, Illinois

Dear Ms. Haaker:

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 Randolph County between milepost MM 602.55 and the current end of track at milepost MM 603. IC is advising you of the proposed action so you may assist us in performing a historical review process. There are no structures or bridges on the line. A map of the area slated for abandonment is 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.



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
 REGION V
 77 West Jackson Boulevard
 Chicago, IL 60604

Date: 11/19/02
 Document: ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY PROPOSED
 ABANDONMENT IN RANDOLPH COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Dear Interested Party:

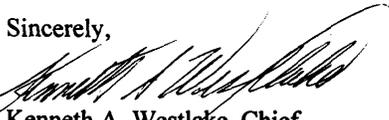
The Environmental Planning and Evaluation Branch has received the document listed above. Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality regulations, and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act; U.S. EPA reviews and comments on major federal actions. Typically, these reviews focus on Environmental Impact Statements, but we also have the discretion to review and comment on other environmental documents prepared under NEPA if interest and resources permit.

We did not undertake a detailed review of the document you sent to this office, and will not be generating comments because of the reason selected below.

- The document was not prepared under NEPA.
 The document was given a cursory review, but other workload priorities precluded us from undertaking a detailed review and generating comments.
 The document was given a cursory review, and we determined that there were no significant concerns meriting comment.
 We opted to wait for the next level of documentation on this project before deciding whether or not to comment.

We reserve the right to reconsider undertaking a review at future planning stages, or if significant new data on the project is made available by the sponsoring agency or other interested parties. Thank you for providing information on the project.

Sincerely,


 Kenneth A. Westlake, Chief
 Environmental Planning and Evaluation Branch



Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Counsel
Legal Department

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

November 1, 2002

Mr. Francis X. Lyons
Regional Administrator, Region 5
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60604-3507

**Re: Illinois Central Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment in
Randolph County, Ilinois**

Dear Mr. Lyons:

Ilinois Central Railroad Company ("IC") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon a 0.45 mile line of railroad in Baldwin, Randolph County, Ilinois between milepost MM 602.55 and the current end of track at milepost MM 603. 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.



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

November 1, 2002

Ms. Joyce Collins
Asst. Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
8588 Route 148
Marion, IL 62959-4565

**Re: Illinois Central Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment in
Randolph County, Illinois**

Dear Ms. Collins:

Illinois Central Railroad Company ("IC") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon a 0.45 mile line of railroad in Baldwin, Randolph County, Illinois between milepost MM 602.55 and the current end of track at milepost MM 603. 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.



ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

1021 NORTH GRAND AVENUE EAST, P.O. BOX 19276, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62794-9276

RENEE CIPRIANO, DIRECTOR

217/782-0547

November 18, 2002

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

Re: Illinois Central Railroad Company
Proposed Abandonment in Randolph County

Dear Mr. Barron:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Illinois Central Railroad Company proposed abandonment in Randolph County, Illinois. Since the Agency has no authority in the area of concern, no project review will be conducted.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bernard P. Killian".

Bernard P. Killian
Deputy Director

GEORGE H. RYAN, GOVERNOR

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER



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

November 1, 2002

Mr. Thomas V. Skinner
Director
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, IL 62794-9276

**Re: Illinois Central Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment in
Randolph County, Illinois**

Dear Mr. Skinner:

Illinois Central Railroad Company ("IC") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon a 0.45 mile line of railroad in Baldwin, Randolph County, Illinois between milepost MM 602.55 and the current end of track at milepost MM 603. 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.
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

November 1, 2002

Mr. Kirby Cottrell
Director, Office of Resource Conservation
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
600 North Grand Avenue West
Springfield, IL 62701

**Re: Illinois Central Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment in
Randolph County, Illinois**

Dear Mr. Cottrell:

Illinois Central Railroad Company ("IC") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon a 0.45 mile line of railroad in Baldwin, Randolph County, Illinois between milepost MM 602.55 and the current end of track at milepost MM 603. 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.
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

November 1, 2002

Col. C. Kevin Williams
St. Louis District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
1222 Spruce Street, Rm. 4.300
St. Louis, MO 63103-2833

**Re: Illinois Central Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment in
Randolph County, Illinois**

Dear Col. Williams:

Illinois Central Railroad Company ("IC") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon a 0.45 mile line of railroad in Baldwin, Randolph County, Illinois between milepost MM 602.55 and the current end of track at milepost MM 603. 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.

Docket No. AB-43 (Sub-No. 174X)

ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD
COMPANY

- NOTICE OF EXEMPTION FOR
ABANDONMENT IN RANDOLPH
COUNTY, ILLINOIS

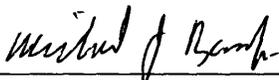
To: Mr. Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board (STB)
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

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

I hereby certify that on December 10, 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 Illinois Historic Preservation Agency. 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 Notice of Exemption in the above-captioned matter no earlier than December 30, 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 November 6, 2002, in the *Sparta News-Plaindealer*, a newspaper of general circulation in Randolph County, Illinois. 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 10th day of December, 2002.



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

Attachment A

Linda M. Wheeler
Director, Office of Planning and Programming
Illinois Department of Transportation
2300 South Dirksen Parkway
Springfield, IL 62764

Thomas V. Skinner
Director
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, IL 62794-9276

Kirby Cottrell
Director, Office of Resource Conservation
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
600 North Grand Avenue West
Springfield, IL 62701

C. Kevin Williams
St. Louis District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
1222 Spruce Street, Rm. 4.300
St. Louis, MO 63103-2833

Joyce Collins
Asst. Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
8588 Route 148
Marion, IL 62959-4565

Francis X. Lyons
Regional Administrator, Region 5
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60604-3507

Terry Moore
Chair
Randolph County Board of Commissioners
1 Taylor Street
Chester, IL 62233

Jeff Rowold
Village of Baldwin
P.O. Box 28
Baldwin, IL 62217

William J. Gradle
State Conservationist
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
2118 W. Park Ct.
Champaign, IL 61821-2986

Terry Savko
Bureau of Land & Water Resources
Illinois Department of Agriculture
P.O. Box 19281
Springfield, IL 62794-9281

Anne E. Haaker
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
Preservation Services Division
1 Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield, IL 62701-1507

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

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

Virginia Bova
State Single Point of Contact
Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs
100 West Randolph, Suite 3-400
Chicago, IL 60601

Certificate of Publication

State of Illinois, Randolph County, ss.

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that I am an authorized representative of a corporation doing business under the firm name of Sparta News-Plaindealer, Inc., publishers of the

Sparta News-Plaindealer, Inc.

that said newspaper is a public and secular newspaper of general circulation published weekly in the City of Sparta, County of Randolph and State of Illinois, and that the same has been regularly published for at least one year prior to the date of the first publication of the notice hereinafter mentioned.

I further certify that said newspaper is a newspaper as defined in "an Act to revise the law in relation to notices" as amended by Act approved July 17, 1959.—Ill. Revised Statutes, Chap. 100, Para. 1 & 5.

I further certify that a notice (or advertisement), of which the annexed is a true printed copy, has been regularly published in said paper ONE times, once in each week for ONE successive weeks, the first publication thereof having been made in the issue of the said paper on the 6 day of NOVEMBER, A. D. 2002 and the last publication thereof having been made in the issue of said newspaper published on

6 day of NOVEMBER, A. D. 2002

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand at Sparta, in said county and state this _____ day of _____

A. D. _____

Sparta News-Plaindealer, Inc.

Per Linda Bird

PRINTER'S FEE \$ 52.00

Received payment _____

Publishers

LEGALS

ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY gives notice that on or after December 15, 2002, it intends to file with the Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423, a notice of examination under part F—Exempt Abandonment, pertaining to the abandonment of a 0.45 mile line of railroad between milepost MM 402.45, just west of Baldwin, Randolph County, Illinois and current end of track at milepost MM 402, which line traverses through U.S. Postal Zip Code 62317. The proceeding will be docketed as AB-43 (Sub No. 174X). The Board's Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis and Administration, Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) will generally prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA), which will normally be available 25 days after the filing of the notice of examination. Comments on environmental and other matters should be filed no later than 15 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 SEA, Surface Transportation Board, 1225 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 trail use, 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. Barron, Jr., (312) 755-7954 at Illinois Central Railroad Company, 455 North Cityfront Plaza Drive, 20th floor, Chicago, IL 60611-5317.

45-1u