

**Pearl & Leaf Rivers Rails-To-Trails Recreational District**

*"Longleaf Trace"*  
P.O. Box 15187  
Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39404



September 24, 2003

ENTERED  
Office of Proceedings

Mr. Vernon A. Williams  
Secretary  
Surface Transportation Board  
1925 K. St., NW, Room 711  
Washington, DC 20423

SEP 25 2003

Part of  
Public Record

Re: Canadian National/Illinois Central-Abandonment-Forrest County Mississippi, STB  
Docket Number AB-43 (Sub-No. 173-X)

Dear Secretary Williams:

This correspondence is in response to the call from Josephine Gomillion requesting that we respond giving our reason for our request of extension made on September 22. Please be advised that the Pearl & Leaf Rivers Rails-to-Trails Recreational District(District), the City of Hattiesburg, MS, and the Mississippi Department of Transportation(MDOT) are each interested in acquiring the abandoned portion of the railroad referenced. The District had requested that MDOT make the initial contact with Canadian National concerning acquiring the abandoned railroad on behalf of the other two interested parties previously mentioned. We requested this of MDOT in as much as they initiated acquisition of the two previous abandonments and of which they acquired title. Regretfully, there obviously was a misunderstanding in as much as they failed to make contact with Canadian National thinking that the District was doing so. Our request, therefore, is to now make that request of extension in order to have time for the parties to reach understanding between them as to who is acquiring title and how the cost of acquiring this will be distributed among the entities named above. We sincerely regret the necessity of our making this request, but it will be attended to, if granted, as soon as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

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