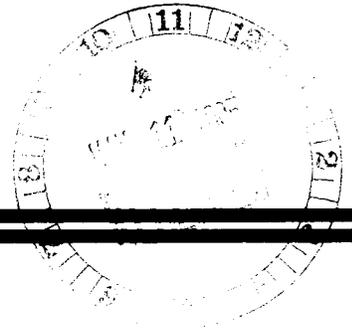




BOSTON & MAINE CORPORATION
MAINE CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY
SPRINGFIELD TERMINAL RAILWAY COMPANY

IRON HORSE PARK
NO. BILLERICA, MASS. 01862



LAW DEPARTMENT
(978) 663-1029

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

MAY 11 2005

Part of
Public Record

May 10, 2005

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

Re: AB 32 (Sub No. 98X) and AB 355 (Sub No. 32X)
Boston and Maine Corporation and Springfield Terminal Railway Company
Abandonment and Discontinuance of Service -- Watertown Branch,
Middlesex County, Massachusetts – Environmental/Historical Report

Dear Secretary Williams:

Enclosed for filing are the original and ten (10) copies of the Boston and Maine Corporation and Springfield Terminal Railway Company's Environmental/Historical Report regarding the above-captioned proceeding.

Copies of the Environmental/Historical report have been served upon all appropriate parties. If there are any questions, please direct them to the undersigned.

Sincerely,

Katherine E. Potter
Staff Attorney

Enc.

WATERTOWN BRANCH

ENVIRONMENTAL/HISTORICAL REPORT

Docket No.s AB 32 (Sub No. 98X) and AB 355 (Sub No. 32X)

I. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

The following information is provided in accordance with 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7 (e):

(1) **Proposed Action and Alternatives**

The Boston & Maine Corporation (B&M) and Springfield Terminal Railway Company ("ST") (collectively the "Applicants") propose to abandon and discontinue service over a 1.66-mile portion of the so-called "Watertown Branch" line of railroad ("Line"). A map of the proposed abandonment and discontinuance is attached.

Due to the inability to generate traffic over the Line, there is no reasonable alternative to abandonment and discontinuance.

(2) **Transportation System**

There will be no substantial effect on existing regional or local transportation systems or patterns.

(3) **Land Use**¹

(i) Based on available information, the proposed action will have no adverse effect on local land use plans.

(ii) The Applicants have contacted the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service for the region at issue, however have not received a response.

¹ The Applicants attach to this Environmental/Historical Report as an Appendix all correspondence received from, as well as follow up requests, to federal, state and local authorities and agencies in response to the Applicants original request for comments regarding the proposed abandonment and discontinuance of service at this location.

(iii) This Environmental/Historical Report serves as actual notice of this proposal in accordance with 49 C.F.R. § 1105.9 (a)(2) – Coastal Zone Management Act Requirements.

(iv) The Applicants are unsure whether the right-of-way is suitable for alternative public use under 49 U.S.C. § 10906.

(4) **Energy**

(i) The transportation of energy resources will not be affected by the proposed action.

(ii) The proposed action will have no effect on the movement and/or recovery of recyclable commodities.

(iii) The proposed action will increase overall energy efficiency in that it will allow Applicants to eliminate their potential responsibility for costly and energy-consuming maintenance operations for an unused portion of line.

(iv) The proposed action will not cause a diversion from rail to motor carrier in excess of the threshold levels set forth at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7 (e)(4)(iv)(A) or (B).

(5) **Air**

The proposed action will not result in any of the increases set forth at § 1105.7 (e)(5).

(6) **Noise**

The proposed action will not result in or exceed any of the thresholds set forth at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7 (e)(6).

(7) **Safety**

(i) The proposed action will have no known adverse effect on public health and safety.

(ii) No hazardous materials will be diverted to highway transportation.

(iii) No known hazardous waste sites or spills exist on the Line.

(8) **Biological Resources**

(i) Based on the comments provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the region at issue, the proposed action will have no effect or adverse impact.

(ii) No national or state parks or forests will be affected by the proposed action.

(9) **Water**

(i) No action inconsistent with federal, state and/or local water quality standards is contemplated by the Applicants.

(ii) The Applicants do not believe the proposed action will require any permits under § 404 of the Clean Water Act. No designated wetlands or 100-year flood plains will be affected by the proposed action.

(iii) Permits under § 402 of the Clean Water Act are not required for the proposed action.

(10) **Proposed Mitigation**

Because no adverse environmental impacts are expected to result from the proposed action, no mitigation will be needed or is planned.

(11) **Additional Information for Rail Constructions**

The proposed action is not a rail construction proposal, so this section does not apply.

II. **HISTORIC REPORT**

The following information is provided in accordance with 49 C.F.R.

§ 1105.8 (d):

(1) **Maps**

A United States Department of the Interior Geological Survey topographic map is attached hereto identifying the location of the proposed action.

(2) **Description of Right-of-Way**

The portion of Line at issue is approximately 1.66 miles in length. The property lines vary in width from 30 feet wide to 60 feet in some locations. The attached topographic map indicates the Line's topography.

(3) **Photographs of Railroad Structures**

There are no railroad structures located on the property that are 50 years or older.

(4) **Construction Dates**

There are no railroad structures on the line.

(5) **History of Operations**

The Line was constructed in the late 1890's and was acquired by B&M's predecessor in the mid-1920's. The line historically served as part of a local system of branch lines.

(6) **Summary of Useful Documents**

The Applicants possess standard valuation maps of all portions of the Line which indicate any and all culverts, bridges, and other structures that may exist.

(7) **Opinion as to Historical Significance**

The Massachusetts Historical Commission has determined that this project is unlikely to affect significant historic or archaeological resources.

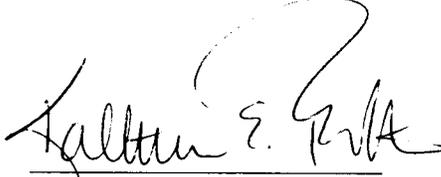
(8) **Description of Prior Subsurface Disturbance**

The Applicants know of no prior subsurface ground disturbance or fill, or environmental conditions that might affect the archeological recovery of resources and the surrounding terrain.

III. CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This certifies that the Applicants will serve copies of this Environmental/Historical Report upon and, prior to such service, consulted, or attempted to consult, with the government entities identified on the attached Service List.

This also certifies that the Applicants will serve a copy of this Environmental/Historical Report upon the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management providing actual notice of the proposal in accordance with 49 C.F.R. § 1105.9.


Katherine E. Potter

Dated: May 10, 2005

**Environmental/Historical Report Service List
Watertown Branch AB 32 (Sub No. 98X) and AB 355 (Sub No. 32X)**

Debra Jean, CDBG
Financial Assistant
Department of Housing and
Community Development
One Congress Street, 10th Floor
Boston, MA 02114

Ed Kunce, Regional Director
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Environmental Protection
Northeast Regional Office
One Winter Street
Boston, MA 02108

Jane W. Mead
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Environmental
Affairs
Coastal Zone Management Program
251 Causeway Street - Suite 900
Boston, MA 022114-2138

Mayor Michael A. Sullivan
City of Cambridge
City Hall
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

Michael J. Driscoll
Town Manager
Watertown Administration Building
129 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472

Stephan Perkins
Office Director
Office of Environmental Stewardship
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
New England, Region 1
One Congress Street, Suite 1100
Boston, MA 02114-2023

Michael Amaral
Endangered Species Specialist
New England Field Office
U.S. Department of Interior
Fish & Wildlife Service
70 Commercial Street - Suite 300
Concord, NH 03301-5087

Paul Sneeringer
Chief, Public Affairs Office
New England District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742-2751

Regional Director
Northeast Region
National Park Service
U.S. Customs House
200 Chestnut St., 5th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Dan Lenthall
District Conservationist
USDA - NRCS
319 Littleton Road - Suite 205
Westford, MA 01886-4133

Richard A. Snay, Chief
Spatial Reference System Division
National Geodetic Survey
NOAA, N/NGS2
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3293

Jeffrey Harris
Preservation Planner
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Blvd.
Boston, MA 02125

AB 32 (Sub No. 98X)
AB 355 (Sub No. 32X)

APPENDIX TO
ENVIRONMENTAL/HISTORICAL REPORT

Watertown Branch Abandonment



Beginning of Abandonment
And Discontinuance
M.P. 4.28 = Sta. 0+00

End of Abandonment
And Discontinuance
M.P. 6.00 = Sta. 87-80

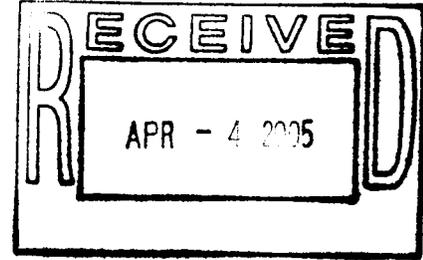
Springfield Terminal Railway Co.
Office of the Vice President – Engineering
Proposed Abandonment and Discontinuance
Of Track between M.P. 4.28 and 6.00
Watertown Branch
Cambridge & Watertown, MA
Valuation Section 36.2, Maps 1 & 2
March 15, 2005 Scale: 1"=2,000'



IN REPLY REFER TO

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Northeast Region
United States Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106



L7619 (NER-RSS/RP&C)

Boston & Maine Corporation
Mr. Robert B. Culliford, Corporate Counsel
Maine Central Railroad Company
Springfield Terminal Railway Company
Iron Horse Park
No. Billerica, Mass. 01862

Subject: Watertown Branch Abandonment and Discontinuance of Service
AB 32 (Sub No. 98X)
AB 355 (Sub No. 32X)

The National Park Service Northeast Regional Office has received your request for information. Due to the large number of requests received in this office, we regret that we are unable to provide an individual response to each requestor. Following is a list of the resources of interest to the National Park Service. It is your responsibility to determine if your proposed project is located in the vicinity of, and may potentially affect, any of the listed resources and contact the manager of the specific resource for more information.

National Parks

The National Park System is comprised of over 380 areas throughout the U.S. and its territories. Management responsibility for each National Park unit lies with the Superintendent of that unit. Units of the National Park System can be located by commonly available materials such as highway and county road maps, or USGS topographic maps. Information about specific National Park units and contact information can be found at www.nps.gov.

National Historic Landmarks

National Historic Landmarks (NHLs) are nationally significant historic resources that possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States. Information on NHLs can be found at <http://www.cr.nps.gov/nhl/INDEX.htm>. The primary contact regarding potential effects of your proposed project on NHLs is the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). Contact information for SHPOs by state can be found at <http://www.ncshpo.org/stateinfolist/fulllist.htm>. If your project could have an effect on a NHL you should include our Preservation Assistance Office/NHL Program Manager as an interested party and provide information regarding the issues that may affect NHLs. In the event that the SHPO determines your project will have an adverse effect on a NHL under the Historic Preservation Act's Section 106 review process, you must then contact the NHL Program Manager

and offer the NPS an opportunity to formally consult with your agency. Information on the 106 process should be sent to Bill Bolger at the National Park Service, 200 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 10106 or by e-mail to bill_bolger@nps.gov.

National Natural Landmarks

The National Natural Landmarks Program recognizes and encourages the conservation of outstanding examples of our country's natural history in both public and private ownership. The National Park Service administers the National Natural Landmark Program and, if requested, assists National Natural Landmark owners and managers with the conservation of these important sites. A guide to National Natural Landmarks by state and contact information for National Natural Landmarks can be found at <http://www.nature.nps.gov/nnl/>.

National Heritage Areas

National Heritage Areas are places where natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape arising from patterns of human activity shaped by geography. National Heritage Areas may be managed by a State or local agency, a commission, or a private nonprofit corporation. The National Park Service provides technical and financial assistance for a limited time (usually 10-15 years) following designation. A list of National Heritage Areas and contact information can be found at <http://www.cr.nps.gov/heritageareas/CNTC/INDEX.HTM>.

National Trails System

The National Trails System is the network of scenic, historic, and recreation trails created by the National Trails System Act of 1968. These trails provide for outdoor recreation needs, promote the enjoyment, appreciation, and preservation of open-air, outdoor areas and historic resources, and encourage public access and citizen involvement. The National Trails System Act made it Federal policy to recognize and promote trails by providing financial assistance, support of volunteers, coordination with States, and other authorities. As a result, 8 National Scenic Trails and 15 National Historic Trails have been established by act of Congress, and are administered by the National Park Service, the USDA Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management, depending on the trail, and over 800 national recreation trails have been designated through recognition by the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior; and 2 side-and-connecting trails have also been certified. More detail and contact information for these trails can be found at http://www.nps.gov/nts/nts_trails.html. A state-by-state list of National Recreational Trails with contact information can be found at <http://www.americantrails.org/nationalrecreationtrails>.

Land and Water Conservation Fund

The Land and Water Conservation Fund program provides matching grants to States and local governments for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. The Land and Water Conservation Fund is administered for the NPS through the state. Contact the State Liaison Officer directly for information regarding potential effects of your project. Contact information for State Liaison Officers can be found at http://www.nps.gov/nere/programs/lwcf/contact_list.html.

Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program

The Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program provides direct Federal assistance to urban localities for rehabilitation of critically needed recreation facilities. The Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program is administered by the National Park Service. A list of funded cities and contact information for the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program can be found at <http://www.nerc.nps.gov/uparr/>. If your project occurs in one of the funded or eligible cities, contact the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program directly for more information regarding potential effects of your project.

Wild and Scenic Rivers

The National Wild and Scenic Rivers System preserves certain rivers with outstanding scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural or other similar values in a free-flowing condition for the enjoyment of present and future generations. There are four primary federal agencies charged with protecting and managing wild and scenic rivers: the Bureau of Land Management, the US Forest Service, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Park Service. A list of designated rivers and contact information can be found at <http://www.nps.gov/rivers/wildriverslist.html#pa>. This website also contains information about the Nationwide Rivers Inventory (NRI), which is an additional list of river segments with significant natural and/or cultural values that should be considered in the planning process.

Wilderness Areas

The Wilderness Act of 1964 originated out of a national concern over trends affecting roadless areas on the national forests. But it was also applied to lands in the National Park System because of concerns about the erosion of roadless blocks within units of the National Park System. The Wilderness Act supplements the NPS's basic statutory authority. It serves as a permanent zoning device, with national legal sanction, determining where roads and structures will not intrude. A list of National Park Service Wilderness Areas and contact information can be found at <http://wilderness.nps.gov/maplocator.cfm>.

Thank you for your interest in the National Park Service and its programs.

Resource Planning and Compliance Program
National Park Service, Northeast Regional Office
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106



BOSTON & MAINE CORPORATION
MAINE CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY
SPRINGFIELD TERMINAL RAILWAY COMPANY

IRON HORSE PARK
NO. BILLERICA, MASS. 01862

LAW DEPARTMENT
(978) 663-1029

March 23, 2005

To: Service List

Re: Watertown Branch Abandonment and Discontinuance of Service
AB 32 (Sub No. 98X)
AB 355 (Sub No. 32X)

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Boston and Maine Corporation and Springfield Terminal Railway Company hereby give notice of their intention to file a Petition for Exemption with the Surface Transportation Board regarding the abandonment and discontinuance of service of an approximate 1.66 mile segment line of railroad known as the Watertown Branch located in Cambridge and Watertown, Massachusetts. A map depicting the portion of the line to be abandoned is attached.

In connection with the Petition for Exemption, federal regulations at 49 CFR §1105.7 and §1105.8 require that we prepare an Environmental/Historical Report after consulting with and gathering information from your office regarding the anticipated impact of the proposed action on environmental and historical resources. Your input is welcome. Because time is of the essence, kindly forward any comments and any relevant information to me at your earliest convenience, and in any event, no later than two weeks from receipt of this letter.

If you know of no adverse effect that the proposed abandonment and discontinuance of service will have, and/or do not object to the proposed action, I would appreciate your notifying me in writing. Upon completion, I will send to your office a copy of the Environmental/Historical Report for review and comment.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

After review of MHC files and the materials you submitted, it has been determined that this project is unlikely to affect significant historic or archaeological resources.

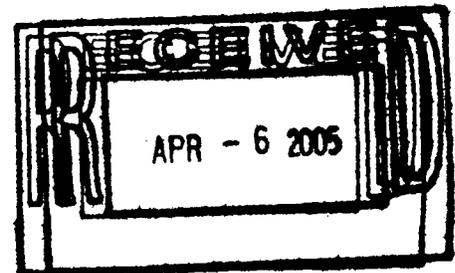
Sincerely,

Robert B. Culliford
Corporate Counsel

JH 4/4/5

Jeffrey Harris Date

Preservation Planner
Enclosure
Massachusetts Historical Commission





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE
National Geodetic Survey
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3282

MAR 31 2005

Ms. Victoria J. Rutson
Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

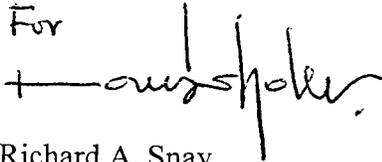
Dear Ms. Rutson:

The area in question on the map with the Environmental and Historic Reports for the proposed rail line abandonment of the Boston and Maine Corporation and Springfield Terminal Railway Company for 1.66 miles of rail line known as the Watertown Branch located in Cambridge and Watertown, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, STB Docket No. AB-32 (Sub-No. 98X) & AB-355 (Sub-No. 32X), has been reviewed within the areas of National Geodetic Survey (NGS) responsibility and expertise and in terms of the impact of the proposed actions on NGS activities and projects.

As a result of this review, no geodetic station markers have been identified that may be affected by the proposed abandonment.

If further information is needed, contact Mr. Frank C. Maida. His address is NOAA, N/NGS2, Room 8736, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3282, telephone: 301-713-3198, fax: 301-713-4324, e-mail: Frank.Maida@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

For


Richard A. Snay
Chief, Spatial Reference System Division

Enclosures

cc: N/NGS1 - G. Mitchell
Robert B. Culliford, Corporate Counsel



 *** TX REPORT ***

TRANSMISSION OK

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GUILFORD RAIL SYSTEM

BOSTON & MAINE CORPORATION
 MAINE CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY
 SPRINGFIELD TERMINAL RAILWAY COMPANY
 IRON HORSE PARK
 NO. BILLERICA, MA 01862
 (978) 663-1024
 FAX # (978) 663-1213

FACSIMILE COVER LETTER

PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING MATERIAL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

To: **ED KUNCE** Date: **5-4-05**
 Fax #: **617-574-6880** Pages: **4, including this cover sheet.**
 From: **Pam Primeau**
 Subject: **Watertown Branch Abandonment and Discontinuance of Service**
AB 32 (Sub No. 98X)
AB 355 (Sub No. 32X)
Cambridge and Watertown, MA

Attached please find a letter that was forwarded to your office on March 23, 2005 regarding the above-referenced abandonment and discontinuance of rail service as is required by 49 CFR 1105. Please provide your response as soon as possible.

Thank you for your assistance.

If this document does not transmit in full or if it is illegible, please contact us at (978) 663-1024. Thank you.

*** TX REPORT ***

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RESULT OK



GUILFORD RAIL SYSTEM

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MAINE CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY
SPRINGFIELD TERMINAL RAILWAY COMPANY
IRON HORSE PARK
NO. BILLERICA, MA 01862
(978) 663-1024
FAX # (978) 663-1213

FACSIMILE COVER LETTER

PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING MATERIAL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

To: JANE MEAD Date: 5-4-05
Fax #: 617-626-1240 Pages: 4, including this cover sheet.
From: Pam Primeau
Subject: Watertown Branch Abandonment and Discontinuance of Service
AB 32 (Sub No. 98X)
AB 355 (Sub No. 32X)
Cambridge and Watertown, MA

Attached please find a letter that was forwarded to your office on March 23, 2005 regarding the above-referenced abandonment and discontinuance of rail service as is required by 49 CFR 1105. Please provide your response as soon as possible.

Thank you for your assistance.

*** TX REPORT ***

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GUILFORD RAIL SYSTEM

BOSTON & MAINE CORPORATION
MAINE CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY
SPRINGFIELD TERMINAL RAILWAY COMPANY
IRON HORSE PARK
NO. BILLERICA, MA 01862
(978) 663-1024
FAX # (978) 663-1213

FACSIMILE COVER LETTER

PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING MATERIAL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

To: STEPHAN PERKINS Date: 5-4-05
Fax #: 617-918-1809 Pages: 4, including this cover sheet.
From: Pam Primeau
Subject: Watertown Branch Abandonment and Discontinuance of Service
AB 32 (Sub No. 98X)
AB 355 (Sub No. 32X)
Cambridge and Watertown, MA

Attached please find a letter that was forwarded to your office on March 23, 2005 regarding the above-referenced abandonment and discontinuance of rail service as is required by 49 CFR 1105. Please provide your response as soon as possible.

Thank you for your assistance.

*** TX REPORT ***

TRANSMISSION OK

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GUILFORD RAIL SYSTEM

BOSTON & MAINE CORPORATION
MAINE CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY
SPRINGFIELD TERMINAL RAILWAY COMPANY
IRON HORSE PARK
NO. BILLERICA, MA 01862
(978) 663-1024
FAX # (978) 663-1213

FACSIMILE COVER LETTER

PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING MATERIAL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

To: Dan Lenthall Date: 5-4-05
Fax #: 413-253-4375 Pages: 4, including this cover sheet.
From: Pam Primeau
Subject: Watertown Branch Abandonment and Discontinuance of Service
AB 32 (Sub No. 98X)
AB 355 (Sub No. 32X)
Cambridge and Watertown, MA

Attached please find a letter that was forwarded to your office on March 23, 2005 regarding the above-referenced abandonment and discontinuance of rail service as is required by 49 CFR 1105. Please provide your response as soon as possible.

Thank you for your assistance.

 *** TX REPORT ***

TRANSMISSION OK

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 RESULT OK



GUILFORD RAIL SYSTEM

BOSTON & MAINE CORPORATION
 MAINE CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY
 SPRINGFIELD TERMINAL RAILWAY COMPANY
 IRON HORSE PARK
 NO. BILLERICA, MA 01862
 (978) 663-1024
 FAX # (978) 663-1213

FACSIMILE COVER LETTER

PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING MATERIAL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

To: Paul Smeeringer Date: 5-4-05
 Fax #: 978-318-8303 Pages: 4, including this cover sheet.
 From: Pam Primeau
 Subject: Watertown Branch Abandonment and Discontinuance of Service
 AB 32 (Sub No. 98X)
 AB 355 (Sub No. 32X)
 Cambridge and Watertown, MA

Attached please find a letter that was forwarded to your office on March 23, 2005 regarding the above-referenced abandonment and discontinuance of rail service as is required by 49 CFR 1105. Please provide your response as soon as possible.

Thank you for your assistance.