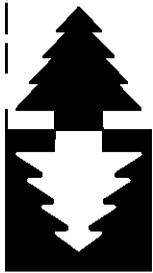


East Coast



Greenway.

New Jersey Committee
For The East Coast Greenway

PO Box 10505
New Brunswick, NJ 08906
908-405-3357
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Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
Washington, DC 20423

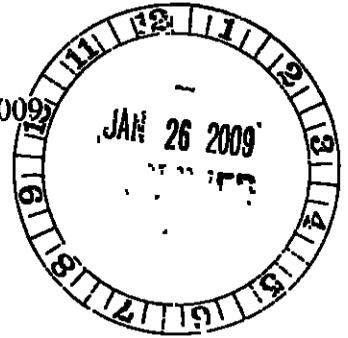
Victoria Rutson, Chief
Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re:
**Consolidated Rail Corporation -
Abandonment Exemption -
In Hudson County, NJ**

**CSX Transportation, Inc. -
Discontinuance Exemption -
In Hudson County, NJ**

**Norfolk Southern Railway Co -
Discontinuance Exemption -
In Hudson County, NJ**

January 23, 2009



ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

JAN 26 2009

Part of
Public Record

224405
AB 167 (Sub-no. 1189X)

224406
AB 55 (Sub-no. 686X)

224407
AB 290 (Sub-no. 306X)

On January 6, 2009, a Notice of Exemption was filed in the cases referred to above. At the same time, Conrail et al. filed "Comments" and "Motion to Stay Effective Date of Verified Notices of Exemption and to Waive Pre-Filing Notification Requirements".

The East Coast Greenway Alliance believes that abandonment authorization is barred by NHPA Section 110 (k) since Conrail and its developer partner have engaged in anticipatory demolition of rail assets. Because this case is controversial for this and other reasons, this organization opposes class exemption procedures. An abandonment authorization within the schedule Conrail et al. suggest cannot be done in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) section 106 and 110 (k), 16 U.S.C. 470f and 470 h-2(k) or the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) section 102.42 U.S.C. 4332.

Secretary
Surface Transportation Board

- 2 -

January 23, 2009

Victoria Rutson, Chief
Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board

We call for a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to address the many issues raised by this potential abandonment

Our organization further requests consulting party status in an NHPA Section 106 Review

The East Coast Greenway Alliance is the nation's first long-distance urban trail system, a city-to-city transportation corridor for cyclists, walkers and other non-motorized users. The trail through New Jersey is 48% complete and new sections are being completed regularly. The Harsimus Branch Embankment is planned to be a vital link in the trail from Trenton across the state. In addition, this former transportation corridor will provide a way for local residents to commute by cycle to and from work and thus it will have a significant positive effect on the reduction of our carbon footprint.

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that on January 23, 2009, I caused a copy of this correspondence to be served by first class mail on those appearing on the attached Service List



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Co-Chair – NJ Committee for the East Coast Greenway
Post Office Box 10505
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