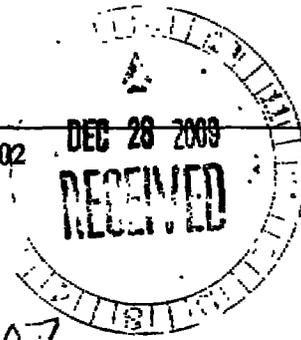




Indiana Trails Fund, Inc.

P. O. Box 402, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-0402
317-237-9348



226207

December 23, 2009

Cynthia T. Brown
Chief of the Section of Administration, Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423

Re: The Indiana Rail Road Company- Abandonment Exemption- Martin and Lawrence Counties,
Indiana AB 295 (Sub-No. 7X).

Dear Ms. Brown:

This request is filed on behalf of Indiana Trails Fund, which is an Indiana not-for-profit corporation and public interest organization interested in conversation, recreation, transportation, etc., hereinafter referred to as "proponent".

Proponent requests issuance of a Public Use Condition, as well as an Interim Trail Use Condition rather than an outright abandonment authorization over two line segments. One is called the Crane-Bedford Line, which runs between milepost 241.35 east of Crane, Indiana and milepost 262.50 in Bedford, Indiana, totaling 21.15 miles. The other segment is called the Bedford Industrial Track, which runs for approximately 1.65 miles away from milepost 262.40 on the Crane- Bedford Line.

A. Request For Public Use Condition

Proponent asks the STB to find that this property is suitable for other public use, specifically trail use and to place the following conditions on the abandonment:

1. An order prohibiting the carrier from disposing of the corridor, other than the tracks, ties, and signal equipment, except for public use on reasonable terms. Justification for this condition is that the line winds its way through a very hilly and forested part of Indiana. The line segment includes some bridges with some spectacular scenes, and an enchanting tunnel. Further, between the two termini of Crane and Bedford, this Line connects the communities of Indian Springs, Cale, Mt Olive, Williams, and Coxton. These rustic burgs will provide quite attractive spots, encouraging people to hike and explore parts of Southern Indiana.

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The time period sought is 180 days from the effective date of the abandonment authorization. Proponent needs this much time to assemble and begin carrying out a business plan.

2. An order barring removal or destruction of potential trail-related structures such as bridges, trestles, culverts and tunnels. The justification for this condition is that these structures have considerable value for recreational trail purposes. The time period requested is 180 days from the effective date of the abandonment authorization for the same reason as indicated above.

B. Request for Interim Trail use

The railroad right-of-way in this proceeding is suitable for railbanking. In addition to the public use conditions sought above, proponent also makes the following request:

STATEMENT OF WILLINGNESS TO ASSUME FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

In order to establish interim trail use and railbanking under section 8 (d) of the National Trails System Act, 16 U.S.C. 1247 (d), and 49 CFR 1152.29, the Indiana Trails Fund, Inc. is willing to assume full responsibility for management of, for any legal liability arising out of the transfer or use of (unless the user is immune from liability, in which case it need only indemnify the railroad against any potential liability), and for the payment of any and all taxes that may be levied or assessed against the right-of-way owned by and operated by the Indiana Trails Fund, Inc.

The property, known as the Crane-Bedford Line, extends from railroad milepost 241.35 near Crane to railroad milepost 262.50 near Bedford, a distance of 21.15 miles in Martin and Lawrence County. The right-of-way is part of a line of railroad proposed for abandonment in STB Docket No. AB- 295 (Sub-No.7 X).

A map depicting the right-of-way is attached.

The Indiana Trails Fund, Inc. acknowledges that use of the right-of-way is subject to the user's continuing to meet its responsibilities described above and subject to possible future reconstruction and reactivation of the right-of-way for rail service.

Indiana Trails Fund, Inc.
Trail Use Request.
December 18, 2009
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By my signature below, I certify service upon:

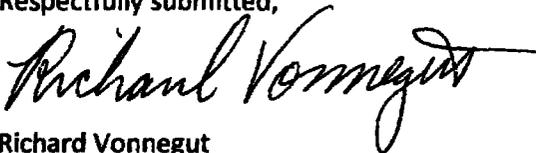
Mr. Thomas Hoback
President
The Indiana Railroad
101 West Ohio Street, # 1600
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204,

And to

Mr. John H. Broadley
John H. Broadley and Associates, P.C.
1054 31st Street NW #200
Washington D.C. 20007

by U.S. Mail, postage pre-paid, first class, this day of, Monday December 24, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard Vonnegut
President
Indiana Trails Fund, Inc.

Enclosures:

- 1 Original
- 10 Duplicates
- 1 Macro map
- 1 Micro map
- 1 Check for \$250 for Railbanking

