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THOMAS F. McFARLAND

February 4, 2005

By electronic mail

Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
Case Control Unit, Suite 713
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: Docket No. AB-384 (Sub-No. 1X), *Delta Southern Railroad, Inc. -- Abandonment Exemption -- Portion of the Lake Providence Line*

Dear Mr. Williams:

In a decision in the above proceeding served January 28, 2005, the Board established the compensation and conditions for financial assistance. Pursuant to that decision, the Offerors^{1/} are required to notify the Board and Delta Southern Railroad, Inc. (DSR), on or before February 7, 2005, whether they accept the compensation and conditions as so established.

DSR and the Offerors are engaged in discussions which hopefully will lead to an agreement on such compensation and conditions. In the absence of such agreement, there is a prospect for additional litigation before the Board and in federal and/or state courts. DSR and Offerors believe that it would be in the public interest to extend the date for Offerors to accept or reject the compensation and conditions established by the Board in order that sufficient time is allowed for them to reach agreement, if possible.

Consequently, DSR hereby respectfully requests that Board extend by 30 days the date for Offerors to accept or reject such compensation and conditions. DSR is authorized to state that Offerors concur in that requested extension. DSR acknowledged that such an extension would

^{1/} Offerors are Southeast Arkansas Economic Development District, Lake Providence Port Commission and Madison Parish Port Commission.

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have the effect of extending correspondingly the date on which the Board would issue a decision reinstating abandonment authority in the event that such compensation and conditions were to be rejected.

Very truly yours

/s/

Thomas F. McFarland

Attorney for Delta Southern Railroad, Inc.

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