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March 1, 2005

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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-792X; *Railroad Switching Service of Missouri, Inc. --
Abandonment Exemption -- Entire Rail Line in St. Louis, St. Louis County, MO*

Dear Mr. Williams:

On January 12, 2005, this office filed a Petition for Exemption in behalf of Railroad Switching Service of Missouri, Inc. for abandonment of its entire rail line, which is located in St. Louis, Missouri.

Enclosed are the original and 10 copies of an environmental comment in behalf of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, State Historic Preservation Office, dated February 17, 2005, advising that the proposed abandonment will have no adverse effect on the Murphy Blair Historic District, which is located adjacent to the rail line. The comment asks for additional information if the bridge on the rail line over I-70 is to be modified as a result of the abandonment. This is to advise the Commentor and the Board that there will be no such modification. This completes review of the proposed abandonment under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Very truly yours,

Tom McFarland

Thomas F. McFarland
*Attorney for Railroad Switching
Service of Missouri, Inc.*

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cc: Mr. Mark A. Miles - Director & Deputy State Historic Preservation Office
Mr. Barry McClure



Matt Blunt, Governor • Doyle Childers, Director

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

www.dnr.mo.gov

February 17, 2005

Mr. Barry S. McClure
Railroad Switching Service of Missouri, Inc.
102 Willow Drive, P.O. Box 99
O'Fallon, Illinois 62269

Re: **SHPO Project Number: 022-SLC-05 – Proposed rail abandonment, St. Louis City, Missouri (STB)**

Dear Mr. McClure:

Thank you for submitting information about the above-referenced project for our review pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (P.L. 89-665, as amended) and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's regulation 36 CFR Part 800, which require identification and evaluation of cultural resources.

Staff of the State Historic Preservation Office have reviewed the information provided for the proposed rail abandonment in St. Louis City, Missouri, located adjacent to the Murphy Blair Historic District which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Based on the information provided, we concur that the proposed project will have no adverse effect on the National Register of Historic Places listed district. However, it is our opinion that the bridge may be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. If any modifications are planned for the bridge, please provide additional information including clear photographs of the bridge, a map showing the location of the bridge, and a project scope.

Please be advised that, if the project area is increased, cultural materials are encountered during construction or adjacent areas that may contain significant cultural resources may be adversely impacted, appropriate information must be provided to this office for further review and comment.

If you have any questions please write Missouri Department of Natural Resources, State Historic Preservation Office, Attn: Review and Compliance, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102, or call Alison Dubbert at (573) 751-7958. Please be sure to include the SHPO Project Number (022-SLC-05) on all future correspondence relating to this project. If the information is provided via telephone call, please follow up in writing for our files.

Sincerely,

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

Handwritten signature of Mark A. Miles in cursive.

Mark A. Miles
Director and Deputy State
Historic Preservation Officer

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