

FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

29 North Wacker Drive
Suite 920
Chicago, Illinois 60606-2832

MICHAEL J. BARRON, JR.
(312) 252-1511
mbarron@fletcher-sippel.com

Phone: (312) 252-1500
Fax: (312) 252-2400
www.fletcher-sippel.com

2/28/06

February 27, 2006

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



Re: Environmental Report, Historic Report and Required Certifications for
Docket No. AB-43 (Sub-No. 177X), Illinois Central Railroad Company.—
Notice of Exemption for Abandonment in Lawrence County, Mississippi

Dear Secretary Williams:

Illinois Central Railroad Company intends on filing a Notice of Exemption for the above-referenced proposed abandonment any time on or after March 20, 2006. Enclosed for the above-referenced Abandonment Exemption are the following, which are required by 49 C.F.R. Part 1105:

1. An original and ten copies of the Environmental/Historic Report
2. An original and ten copies of the transmittal letter that accompanied the reports, and
3. An original and ten copies of a certificate demonstrating compliance with the requirements of 49 C.F.R. Part 1105.

Please stamp and return the duplicate copy of this letter to my attention to indicate that you received the items listed. As shown in the Environmental Report, we conclude that the proposed abandonment is outside a coastal area, so Illinois Central Railroad Company concludes the proposed abandonment does not need a Coastal Zone Management Plan Consistency Review.

Feel free to call me if you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Attorney for Illinois Central
Railroad Company

Encls.

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Chicago, Illinois 60606-2832

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Phone: (312) 252-1500
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www.fletcher-sippel.com

February 27, 2006

Re: Illinois Central Railroad Company Notice of Exemption for Abandonment—Lawrence County, Mississippi—Docket AB-43 (Sub-No. 177X)

To Whom It May Concern:

Any time on or after March 20, 2006, Illinois Central Railroad Company ("IC") expects to file with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") a Notice of Exemption seeking authority to abandon a railroad line located between milepost 53.0 near Silver Creek and milepost 57.1 near Ferguson, a distance of 4.1 miles, in Lawrence County, Mississippi. Enclosed is an Environmental Report and a Historic Report describing the proposed action and any expected environmental and historical effects, as well as a map of the affected area.

We are providing this report so that you may review the information that will form the basis for the STB's independent environmental and historical analysis of this proceeding. If any of the information is misleading or incorrect, if you believe that pertinent information is missing, or if you have any questions about the STB's environmental and historic review process, please contact their Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA), at the Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20423-0001, (202) 565-1545, and refer to the above docket number.

IC will file the Environmental Report and Historic Report with the STB on or about February 27, 2006. Because the applicable statutes and regulations impose stringent deadlines for processing this action, your written comments to the STB (with a copy to the undersigned) would be appreciated within three weeks. Your comments will be considered by the STB in evaluating the environmental and historical impact of the contemplated action.

If there are any questions concerning this proposal, please contact the undersigned directly at (312) 252-1511 or by mail at the above address.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Attorney for Illinois Central
Railroad Company

Encls.

BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DOCKET NO. AB-43 (SUB-NO. 177X)

ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY
— ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION —
IN LAWRENCE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

ENVIRONMENTAL/HISTORIC REPORT

Illinois Central Railroad Company ("IC") submits this Environmental/ Historic Report in compliance with the reporting requirements of 49 C.F.R. §§ 1105.7 and 1105.8. Supporting correspondence is attached. It is the conclusion of this report that the proposed abandonment, if implemented, will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT – 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7(e)

1. **Proposed Action and Alternatives.** IC seeks to abandon its line of railroad, referred to herein as the "Lawrence County Line" between milepost 53.0 near Silver Creek and milepost 57.1 near Ferguson, a distance of 4.1 miles, in Lawrence County, Mississippi.

The Lawrence County Line travels through timberland, with a scattering of houses.

Following abandonment, 4 at-grade public crossings can be removed.

There are no buildings located within the abandonment area, but there is a bridge at milepost 53.3, going over Silver Creek. It is an open deck timber bridge.

There are no customers on the line and no revenue cars have originated or terminated on the line for at least two years. There is no overhead traffic on the Lawrence County Line as it is a line that stub ends at milepost 53.

The line used to continue further to the east, but the trackage east of the Lawrence County Line was abandoned in a previous docket. See AB-43 (Sub-No. 159X), Illinois Central Railroad Company — Abandonment Exemption — in Jefferson Davis and Lawrence Counties Mississippi.

No alternatives to the proposed abandonment have been considered.

After abandonment, IC intends to salvage rail, ties, and track material from the line, leaving the ballast in place.

A map showing the location of the Lawrence County Line is attached hereto as Appendix A.

2. Transportation System. IC does not anticipate that existing regional or local transportation systems or patterns will be adversely affected by the proposed abandonment as the line is currently not in use. Comments have been requested from the Mississippi Department of Transportation and from Lawrence County; they have not yet responded. See correspondence attached hereto as Appendices B and C.

The width of the right-of-way is generally 100 feet.

Abandonment of the Lawrence County Line will allow permanent closure of 4 public highway grade crossings as follows:

<u>Milepost</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>DOT No.</u>	<u>Warning Devices</u>
53.30	MS 43 (Silver Creek)	305 584R	None-crossing out of service
54.60	Co. Road (Silver Creek)	305 585X	Crossbucks
56.45	Co. Road (Ferguson)	305 586E	Crossbucks
57.10	Co. Road (Ferguson)	305 588T	Crossbucks

3. Land Use.

(i) IC does not foresee any inconsistency with regional and/or local land use plans. This is simply an abandonment of a line no longer used.

(ii) The Natural Resources Conservation Service has indicated that the proposed abandonment will not have any adverse impact on prime farmland. See correspondence attached hereto as Appendix D.

(iii) The Lawrence County Line does not lie within a designated Coastal Zone Management Area and, accordingly, the proposed abandonment will not affect any land or water uses in such an area or result in any coastal impacts. IC has contacted the Mississippi Coastal Program, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, but has not as yet received a response. See correspondence attached hereto as Appendix E.

(iv) The line would be suitable for a trail. It would not be suitable for highway purposes as there is already a developed highway system in this part of the State.

4. Energy.

(i) The proposed abandonment will not have any effect on the transportation of energy resources. No energy resource commodities move over the line, and IC foresees little or no possibility that such on-line traffic would develop in the future.

(ii) The movement and/or recovery of recyclable commodities will not be adversely affected by this abandonment. No such traffic has been handled on the line for years (if ever), and IC foresees little or no possibility that any on-line recyclable commodity traffic would develop in the future.

(iii) Abandonment will not result in an increase or decrease in overall energy efficiency. There is no current traffic originating or terminating on the line nor overhead traffic

on the line and thus there will be no changes in existing transportation patterns or energy usage as a result of the proposed abandonment.

(iv) Not applicable. Abandonment of the line will not cause the diversion of more than 1,000 rail carloads per year or an average of 50 rail carloads per mile per year to motor carriers.

5. Air.

(i) Not applicable. Abandonment will not result in (A) a minimum increase in rail traffic of 100% or eight trains per day on any segment of rail line, (B) an increase in rail yard activity of at least 100%, or (C) an average increase in truck traffic of more than 10% of the average daily traffic or 50 vehicles per day on any road segment.

(ii) Abandonment of the line will not result in traffic increases which exceed the thresholds specified in 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7(e)(5)(ii)(A), (B) or (C).

(iii) Not applicable. This is an abandonment of a line on which there has been no customers for at least two years and there is no overhead traffic on the line.

6. Noise. Not applicable. As indicated above, none of the thresholds identified in 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7(e)(5)(i) will be exceeded as a result of the abandonment.

7. Safety.

(i) The proposed action will have positive effects on public health and safety. Abandonment of the line will allow elimination of 4 public grade crossings. During any salvage operations on the Lawrence County Line, precautions will be taken to ensure public safety.

(ii) Not applicable. This is an abandonment of a line on which no traffic has originated or terminated for at least two years and there is no overhead traffic. Accordingly, the proposed abandonment will have no effect on the transportation of hazardous materials.

(iii) IC has not received notice of any hazmat sites on the Lawrence County Line, nor are they the subject of any environmental enforcement actions on the line. In a telephone conversation on November 14, 2005, with Mr. Jerry Banks of the Groundwater Assessment and Remediation Section of the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Mr. Banks indicated to me that he has no concerns with the abandonment.

8. Biological Resources.

(i) In response to IC's request for comments, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service states that no impacts are anticipated on federal listed species as a result of the abandonment and that there are no significant adverse wetland impacts. See correspondence attached hereto as Appendix F.

IC contacted the Mississippi Natural History Program, which responded that there will be no impacts on wilderness areas or wildlife preserves. See correspondence attached herein as Appendix G.

IC also contacted the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, but has not received a response. See correspondence attached herein as Appendix H.

(ii) The Lawrence County Line does not pass through or is not adjacent to any wildlife sanctuaries or refuges or any national or state parks or forests and, accordingly, none will be adversely affected.

9. Water.

(i) IC has contacted the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality ("MDEQ") to determine whether the proposed abandonment is consistent with applicable federal, state and local water quality standards. See correspondence attached hereto as Appendix I. MDEQ responded that they did not see any adverse impact arising from the abandonment.

(ii) IC has contacted the Army Corps of Engineers to determine if the proposed abandonment requires permits under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The Corps responded in a letter by indicating that no Section 404 permit nor a permit under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 should be required. See correspondence attached hereto as Appendix J.

IC also believes that removal of rails will not affect any existing wetlands. In addition, abandonment should not impact any 100-year floodplain if no additional fill is placed in any floodplain.

(iii) Based on IC's plans for disposal and recycling of track material, IC concludes that no permits under Section 402 of the Clean Water Act are required. No material will be disposed of into waterways as part of the abandonment. IC contacted the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regarding the proposed abandonment. The EPA responded that they have no objections, but gave some recommended best practices. See correspondence attached herein as Appendix K.

10. Proposed Mitigation.

Since IC anticipates no adverse environmental impact from this proposed transaction, no mitigation actions are proposed.

HISTORIC REPORT — 49 C.F.R. § 1105.8(d)

1. Map. A map of the Lawrence County Line is attached hereto as Appendix A.
2. Description of Line. The Lawrence County Line runs between milepost 53.0 near Silver Creek and 57.1 near Ferguson in a generally east-west direction, a distance of 4.1 miles, in Lawrence County, Mississippi. The line is a part of IC's Central District, which used to run from

Natchez to Hattiesburg. Now, the eastern termination is at Silver Creek. There have been no revenue cars originating or terminating on the Lawrence County Line for at least two years.

The Lawrence County Line travels through timberland, with a scattering of houses.

3. Photographs.

No photographs are enclosed.

4. Information on Structures.

There are no buildings on the Lawrence County Line, but there is an open deck timber bridge over Silver Creek at milepost 53.3. It is a common wood pile, wood caps and wood stringers bridge and is of no historical interest.

5. History of Operations.

1896	Pearl & Leaf Rivers Railroad incorporates to build a railroad west from Hattiesburg, Mississippi to Sumrall, Mississippi
1905	Reorganized as Mississippi Central Railroad
1908	Natchez & Eastern Railway completes the line westward to Natchez
1909	Mississippi Central Railroad absorbs Natchez & Eastern Railway

The line from Hattiesburg to Natchez became known as IC's Central District. Subsequently, the segment between Silver Creek and Hattiesburg was abandoned. IC now seeks to abandon the segment from the current end of track at Silver Creek west to milepost 57.1 near Ferguson.

6. Engineering Documents.

To the best of IC's knowledge, it does not have any relevant engineering documents for the Lawrence County Line.

7. Historic Criteria. Based on readily available information in its possession,

IC believes that no site or structure listed in or meeting the criteria for listing in the *National*

Register of Historic Places is located on the Lawrence County Line or will be affected by the abandonment. IC also believes that no culturally significant locations, archeological sites, or unique land forms will be affected by the abandonment. IC has contacted the Mississippi Department of Archives and History and requested a historical review. The Department responded by saying that no properties listed on or eligible for the National Register would be affected, and they have no reservations about the proposed abandonment. See correspondence attached hereto as Appendix L.

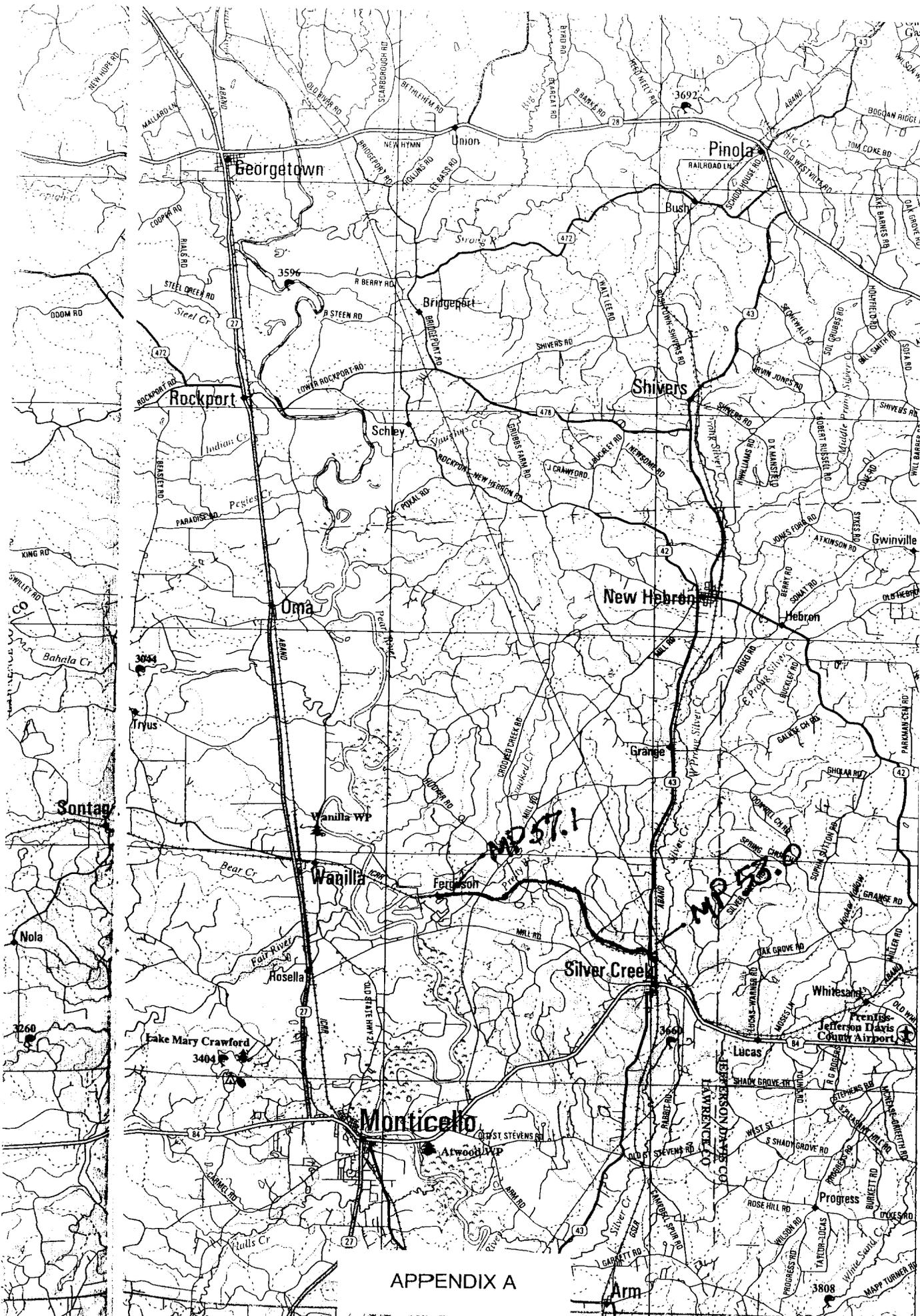
8. Ground Disturbance. IC is unaware of environmental conditions that might affect the archaeological recovery of resources. Access to the line is good.

Dated: February 27, 2006

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Attorney for Illinois Central Railroad Company
Fletcher & Sippel LLC
29 North Wacker Drive
Suite 920
Chicago, IL 60606-2832
312-252-1500



APPENDIX A



www.cn.ca

Michael J. Barron

17641 S. Ashland Avenue
Homewood, IL 60430-1339

Telephone: 312-252-1511
Fax: 708-332-4361

October 18, 2005

Mr. Marlin D. Collier
Director, Office of Intermodal Planning
Mississippi Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 1850
Jackson, MS 39115-1850

Re: Illinois Central Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment in Lawrence County, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Collier:

Illinois Central Railroad Company. ("IC") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon an approximately 4.1 mile line of railroad starting at MP 53.0 and ending at MP 57.1 in Lawrence County, Mississippi. For your convenience, we have attached a map for your reference. IC is advising you of the proposed action so you may assist us in identifying any potential effects of the proposed action on, among other things, the following:

1. Water quality;
2. Designated wetlands;
3. 100-year-old flood plains;
4. Endangered or threatened species;
5. Critical habitats;
6. Wildlife sanctuaries or refuges;
7. National or state parks or forests;
8. Coastal zone management;
9. Soil and natural resource conservation;
10. Agricultural land;
11. Regional and/or local use plans; and
12. The need for permits under Sections 402 or 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Because of the nature of the proposed action, we foresee no adverse effects. Nevertheless, we would appreciate your review and any comments you may wish to offer. We would appreciate a written response as soon as possible so that we may include it in the environmental report, which we will file with the STB. We intend on filing the Environmental Report in four weeks.

Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

Michael J. Barron, Jr.

Encl.

APPENDIX B



www.cn.ca

Michael J. Barron

17641 S. Ashland Avenue
Homewood, IL 60430-1339

Telephone: 312-252-1511
Fax: 708-332-4361

October 18, 2005

Clerk
Lawrence County Courthouse
P.O. Box 1160
Monticello, MS 39654-1160
ATTENTION: County Executive

Re: Illinois Central Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment in Lawrence County, Mississippi

Dear Sir/Madam:

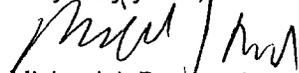
Illinois Central Railroad Company. ("IC") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon an approximately 4.1 mile line of railroad starting at MP 53.0 and ending at MP 57.1 in Lawrence County, Mississippi. For your convenience, we have attached a map for your reference. IC is advising you of the proposed action so you may assist us in identifying any potential effects of the proposed action on, among other things, the following:

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Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,



Michael J. Barron, Jr.

Encl.

APPENDIX C



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Michael J. Barron

17641 S. Ashland Avenue
Homewood, IL 60430-1339

Telephone: 312-252-1511
Fax: 708-332-4361

October 18, 2005

Mr. Homer L. Wilkes
State Conservationist
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
100 West Capitol Street, Room 1321
Jackson, MS 39269

Re: Illinois Central Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment in Lawrence County, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Wilkes:

Illinois Central Railroad Company. ("IC") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon an approximately 4.1 mile line of railroad starting at MP 53.0 and ending at MP 57.1 in Lawrence County, Mississippi. For your convenience, we have attached a map for your reference. IC is advising you of the proposed action so you may assist us in identifying any potential effects of the proposed action on, among other things, the following:

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Because of the nature of the proposed action, we foresee no adverse effects. Nevertheless, we would appreciate your review and any comments you may wish to offer. We would appreciate a written response as soon as possible so that we may include it in the environmental report, which we will file with the STB. We intend on filing the Environmental Report in four weeks.

Thank you for your assistance.

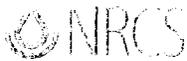
Very truly yours,


Michael J. Barron, Jr.

APPENDIX D

Encl.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Natural Resources Conservation Service
Suite 1321, Federal Building
100 West Capitol Street
Jackson, MS 39269
COM: (601) 965-5205 FAX: (601) 965-4940

November 7, 2005

Mr. Michael J. Barron
17641 S. Ashland Avenue
Homewood, IL 60430-1339

Dear Mr. Barron:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Illinois Central Railroad Company's (ICR) proposed abandonment of 4.1 miles of rail line in Lawrence County, Mississippi. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is responsible for insuring compliance with the Farmland Protection Policy Act.

In accordance with the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) of 1981, programs that contribute to the necessary and irreversible conversion of farmland to nonagricultural uses will be minimized. It follows that these programs shall be administered in a manner that, as practicable, will be compatible with state and local government and private programs and policies to protect farmland.

Prime farmland is not present within the project area. The entire project area is within the existing right-of-way of the ICR rail line. The project as planned is in full compliance with the Farmland Protection Policy Act.

If best management practices are used during the abandonment process, no long term significant impacts are expected. The Natural Resources Conservation Service concurs in your Finding of No Significant Impacts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Homer L. Wilkes".

Homer L. Wilkes
State Conservationist

cc: Kim Harris, State Conservation Engineer, NRCS, Jackson, MS
Wesley Kerr, Area Conservationist, NRCS, Hattiesburg, MS
Michael Carr, District Conservationist, NRCS, Monticello, MS



www.cn.ca

Michael J. Barron

17641 S. Ashland Avenue
Homewood, IL 60430-1339

Telephone: 312-252-1511
Fax: 708-332-4361

October 18, 2005

Mr. Jerry Brashier
Director of Wetland Permitting
Mississippi Coastal Program
Mississippi Dept of Marine Resources
1141 Bayview Avenue, Suite 101
Biloxi, MS 39530

Re: Illinois Central Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment in Lawrence County, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Brashier:

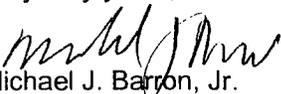
Illinois Central Railroad Company. ("IC") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon an approximately 4.1 mile line of railroad starting at MP 53.0 and ending at MP 57.1 in Lawrence County, Mississippi. For your convenience, we have attached a map for your reference. IC is advising you of the proposed action so you may assist us in identifying any potential effects of the proposed action on, among other things, the following:

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8. Coastal zone management;
9. Soil and natural resource conservation;
10. Agricultural land;
11. Regional and/or local use plans; and
12. The need for permits under Sections 402 or 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Because of the nature of the proposed action, we foresee no adverse effects. Nevertheless, we would appreciate your review and any comments you may wish to offer. We would appreciate a written response as soon as possible so that we may include it in the environmental report, which we will file with the STB. We intend on filing the Environmental Report in four weeks.

Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,


Michael J. Barron, Jr.

APPENDIX E

Encl.



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Michael J. Barron

17641 S. Ashland Avenue
Homewood, IL 60430-1339

Telephone: 312-252-1511
Fax: 708-332-4361

October 18, 2005

Ms. Kathy W. L Lunceford
Environmental Coordinator
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
6578 Dogwood view Parkway, Suite A.
Jackson, MS 39213

Re: Illinois Central Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment in Lawrence County, Mississippi

Dear Ms. Lunceford:

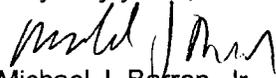
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Very truly yours,



Michael J. Barron, Jr.

Encl.

APPENDIX F



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Michael J. Barron

17641 S. Ashland Avenue
Homewood, IL 60430-1339

Telephone: 312-252-1511
Fax: 708-332-4361

October 18, 2005

RECEIVED

OCT 24 2005

Ms. Kathy W. L Lunceford
Environmental Coordinator
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
6578 Dogwood view Parkway, Suite A.
Jackson, MS 39213

By MS Field Office

Re: Illinois Central Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment in Lawrence County, Mississippi

Dear Ms. Lunceford:

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Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

Michael J. Barron, Jr.

Encl.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Significant adverse wetland impacts
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No listed, proposed or candidate species present
David Felder
Environmental Coordinator
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2006-23
10/25/05
Log No. Date



www.cn.ca

Michael J. Barron

17641 S. Ashland Avenue
Homewood, IL 60430-1339

Telephone: 312-252-1511
Fax: 708-332-4361

October 18, 2005

Ms. Cynthia Rickis-Gordon
Environmental Biologist
Mississippi Natural Heritage Program
Mississippi Museum of Natural Science
2148 Riverside Drive
Jackson, MS 39202-1353

Re: Illinois Central Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment in Lawrence County, Mississippi

Dear Ms. Rickis-Gordon:

Illinois Central Railroad Company ("IC") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon an approximately 4.1 mile line of railroad starting at MP 53.0 and ending at MP 57.1 in Lawrence County, Mississippi. For your convenience, we have attached a map for your reference. IC is advising you of the proposed action so you may assist us in identifying any potential effects of the proposed action on, among other things, the following:

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Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

Michael J. Barron, Jr.

APPENDIX G

Encl.

December 13, 2005



R# 4486

Illinois Central
2151 North Mill St.
Jackson, MS 39202

Re: Railroad Line Abandonment
Road Improvements
Lawrence County

To Bob Weadam:

In response to your request for information dated November 1, 2005, I have searched our database for occurrences of state or federally listed species and other special concern animals and plants on and within 2 miles of the site referenced above. No wilderness areas or wildlife preserves are affected at this site.

The Mississippi Natural Heritage Program (MNHP) has compiled a database that is the most complete source of information about Mississippi's rare, threatened, endangered or otherwise significant plants, animals, plant communities and natural features. The quantity and quality of data collected by MNHP are dependent on the research and observations of many individuals and organizations. In many cases, this information is not the result of comprehensive or site-specific field surveys; most natural areas in Mississippi have not been thoroughly surveyed and new occurrences of plant and animal species are often discovered. Heritage reports summarize the existing information known to the MNHP at the time of the request and cannot always be considered a definitive statement on the presence, absence or condition of biological elements on a particular site.

Please feel free to contact us if we can provide additional information.

Sincerely,


Adrienne Clark, Biological GIS Technician
Mississippi Natural Heritage Program

Preserving Natural Mississippi



www.cn.ca

Michael J. Barron

17641 S. Ashland Avenue
Homewood, IL 60430-1339

Telephone: 312-252-1511
Fax: 708-332-4361

October 18, 2005

Mr. Christopher A. Alonzo
Director, Environmental Programs
Mississippi Dept. of Wildlife,
Fisheries and Parks
1505 Eastover Drive
Jackson, MS 39211-6322

Re: Illinois Central Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment in Lawrence County, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Alonzo:

Illinois Central Railroad Company. ("IC") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon an approximately 4.1 mile line of railroad starting at MP 53.0 and ending at MP 57.1 in Lawrence County, Mississippi. For your convenience, we have attached a map for your reference. IC is advising you of the proposed action so you may assist us in identifying any potential effects of the proposed action on, among other things, the following:

1. Water quality;
2. Designated wetlands;
3. 100-year-old flood plains;
4. Endangered or threatened species;
5. Critical habitats;
6. Wildlife sanctuaries or refuges;
7. National or state parks or forests;
8. Coastal zone management;
9. Soil and natural resource conservation;
10. Agricultural land;
11. Regional and/or local use plans; and
12. The need for permits under Sections 402 or 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Because of the nature of the proposed action, we foresee no adverse effects. Nevertheless, we would appreciate your review and any comments you may wish to offer. We would appreciate a written response as soon as possible so that we may include it in the environmental report, which we will file with the STB. We intend on filing the Environmental Report in four weeks.

Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

Michael J. Barron, Jr.

APPENDIX H

Encl.

FLETCHER & SIPPEN LLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

29 North Wacker Drive
Suite 920
Chicago, Illinois 60606-2832

MICHAEL J. BARRON, JR.
(312) 252-1511
mbarron@fletcher-sippel.com

Phone: (312) 252-1500
Fax: (312) 252-2400
www.fletcher-sippel.com

October 25, 2005

Ms. Lisa Ouzts
Legal Division
Mississippi Dept. of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 20305
Jackson, MS 39289-1305

Re: Illinois Central Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment in Lawrence County, Mississippi

Dear Ms. Ouzts:

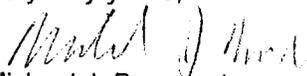
Illinois Central Railroad Company. ("IC") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon an approximately 4.1 mile line of railroad starting at MP 53.0 and ending at MP 57.1 in Lawrence County, Mississippi. For your convenience, we have attached a map for your reference. IC is advising you of the proposed action so you may assist us in identifying any potential effects of the proposed action on, among other things, the following:

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6. Wildlife sanctuaries or refuges;
7. National or state parks or forests;
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10. Agricultural land;
11. Regional and/or local use plans; and
12. The need for permits under Sections 402 or 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Because of the nature of the proposed action, we foresee no adverse effects. Nevertheless, we would appreciate your review and any comments you may wish to offer. We would appreciate a written response as soon as possible so that we may include it in the environmental report, which we will file with the STB. We intend on filing the Environmental Report in four weeks.

Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,


Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Encl.

APPENDIX I



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
HALEY BARBOUR
GOVERNOR
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
CHARLES H. CHISOLM, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

November 8, 2005

Mr. Michael J. Barron, Jr.
CN
17641 S. Ashland Avenue
Homewood, Illinois 60430-1339

Dear Mr. Barron:

Re: Environmental Review
Railroad Abandonment
Illinois Central Railroad, Company
Lawrence County, Mississippi

We have reviewed the information submitted on the referenced proposed project. The project is the abandonment of an approximately 4.1 mile line of railroad from MP 53.0 to MP 57.1 in the vicinity of Silver Creek, Lawrence County. From the information reviewed, we know of no adverse environmental impact from the proposed project.

If this project will be disturbing 1 acre or more of land, coverage under a General Permit for control of erosion and sediment will be required in accordance with Phase II of the Storm Water Regulations. Please contact Mr. Jim Morris, Chief of the General Permits Branch with the Environmental Permits Division of the Office of Pollution Control for more information at 601-961-5151 or Jim_Morris@deq.state.ms.us.

This letter should not be interpreted as equivalent to any approval or permit that may be required by pollution control laws. We would remind you that the plans and specification for work on a wastewater system must be submitted to our office prior to construction.

If you have any questions, call us at 601-961-5159.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Glenn L. Odom".

Glenn L. Odom, Chief
Program Support Branch
Surface Water Division



www.cn.ca

Michael J. Barron

17641 S. Ashland Avenue
Homewood, IL 60430-1339

Telephone: 312-252-1511
Fax: 708-332-4361

October 18, 2005

Ms. Elizabeth S. Guynes
Chief, Regulatory Branch
U.S. Army Corp of Engineers
Vicksburg District, Operations Division
4155 Clay Street
Vicksburg, MS 39280-3435

Re: Illinois Central Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment in Lawrence County, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Guynes:

Illinois Central Railroad Company. ("IC") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon an approximately 4.1 mile line of railroad starting at MP 53.0 and ending at MP 57.1 in Lawrence County, Mississippi. For your convenience, we have attached a map for your reference. IC is advising you of the proposed action so you may assist us in identifying any potential effects of the proposed action on, among other things, the following:

1. Water quality;
2. Designated wetlands;
3. 100-year-old flood plains;
4. Endangered or threatened species;
5. Critical habitats;
6. Wildlife sanctuaries or refuges;
7. National or state parks or forests;
8. Coastal zone management;
9. Soil and natural resource conservation;
10. Agricultural land;
11. Regional and/or local use plans; and
12. The need for permits under Sections 402 or 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Because of the nature of the proposed action, we foresee no adverse effects. Nevertheless, we would appreciate your review and any comments you may wish to offer. We would appreciate a written response as soon as possible so that we may include it in the environmental report, which we will file with the STB. We intend on filing the Environmental Report in four weeks.

Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,



Michael J. Barron, Jr.

APPENDIX J

Encl.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

VICKSBURG DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
4155 CLAY STREET
VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI 39183-3435

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

October 25, 2005

Operations Division
Regulatory

SUBJECT: Illinois Central Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment
in Lawrence County, Mississippi

Mr. Michael J. Barron, Jr.
CN
17641 South Ashland Avenue
Homewood, Illinois 60430-1339

Dear Mr. Barron:

We have received your correspondence, subject as above, on October 24, 2005. We are working diligently to reply to you in a timely manner. For ease of reference, we assigned your correspondence an identification number, MVK-2005-1486. Please refer to this number should you write or call us about your request.

If you have any questions about the status of your request, please call this office at 601-631-5165.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Elizabeth S. Guynes".

Elizabeth S. Guynes
Chief, Regulatory Branch



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

VICKSBURG DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
4155 CLAY STREET
VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI 39183-3435

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

November 7, 2005

Operations Division
Regulatory

SUBJECT: Determination of Permit Requirements

Mr. Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Illinois Central Railroad Company
17641 South Ashland Avenue
Homewood, Illinois 60431-1339

Dear Mr. Barron:

I refer to recent correspondence concerning the proposed abandonment by Illinois Central Railroad Company of approximately 4.1 miles of railroad line in Lawrence County, Mississippi.

Based upon the information furnished, it appears that a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act will not be required for the proposed work. In the event that project plans are changed, or if you anticipate any additional construction, please contact this office for a reevaluation of permit requirements, and refer to No. MVK-2005-1486 when submitting the information.

This preliminary jurisdictional determination was based upon available information that there does not appear to be jurisdictional areas on the property subject to regulation pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. An appeals form has been enclosed for your review (enclosure).

This determination of Department of the Army regulatory requirements does not convey any property rights, either in real estate or material or any exclusive privileges, and does not authorize any injury to property or invasion of rights or local laws or regulations, or obviate the requirement to obtain State or local assent required by law for the activity discussed herein.

-2-

If we may be of any further assistance in this matter, please contact Ms. Karen Dove-Jackson, telephone (601) 631-7136, fax (601) 631-5459 or e-mail address: regulatory@mvk02.usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,



Michael F. McNair, R.F.
Team Leader, Permit Section
Regulatory Branch

Enclosure



www.cn.ca

Michael J. Barron

17641 S. Ashland Avenue
Homewood, IL 60430-1339

Telephone: 312-252-1511
Fax: 708-332-4361

OEM → FP
NPR
KDJ
10/25

October 18, 2005

Ms. Elizabeth S. Guynes
Chief, Regulatory Branch
U.S. Army Corp of Engineers
Vicksburg District, Operations Division
4155 Clay Street
Vicksburg, MS 39280-3435

Re: Illinois Central Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment in Lawrence County, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Guynes:

Illinois Central Railroad Company. ("IC") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon an approximately 4.1 mile line of railroad starting at MP 53.0 and ending at MP 57.1 in Lawrence County, Mississippi. For your convenience, we have attached a map for your reference. IC is advising you of the proposed action so you may assist us in identifying any potential effects of the proposed action on, among other things, the following:

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9. Soil and natural resource conservation;
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11. Regional and/or local use plans; and
12. The need for permits under Sections 402 or 404 of the Clean Water Act.

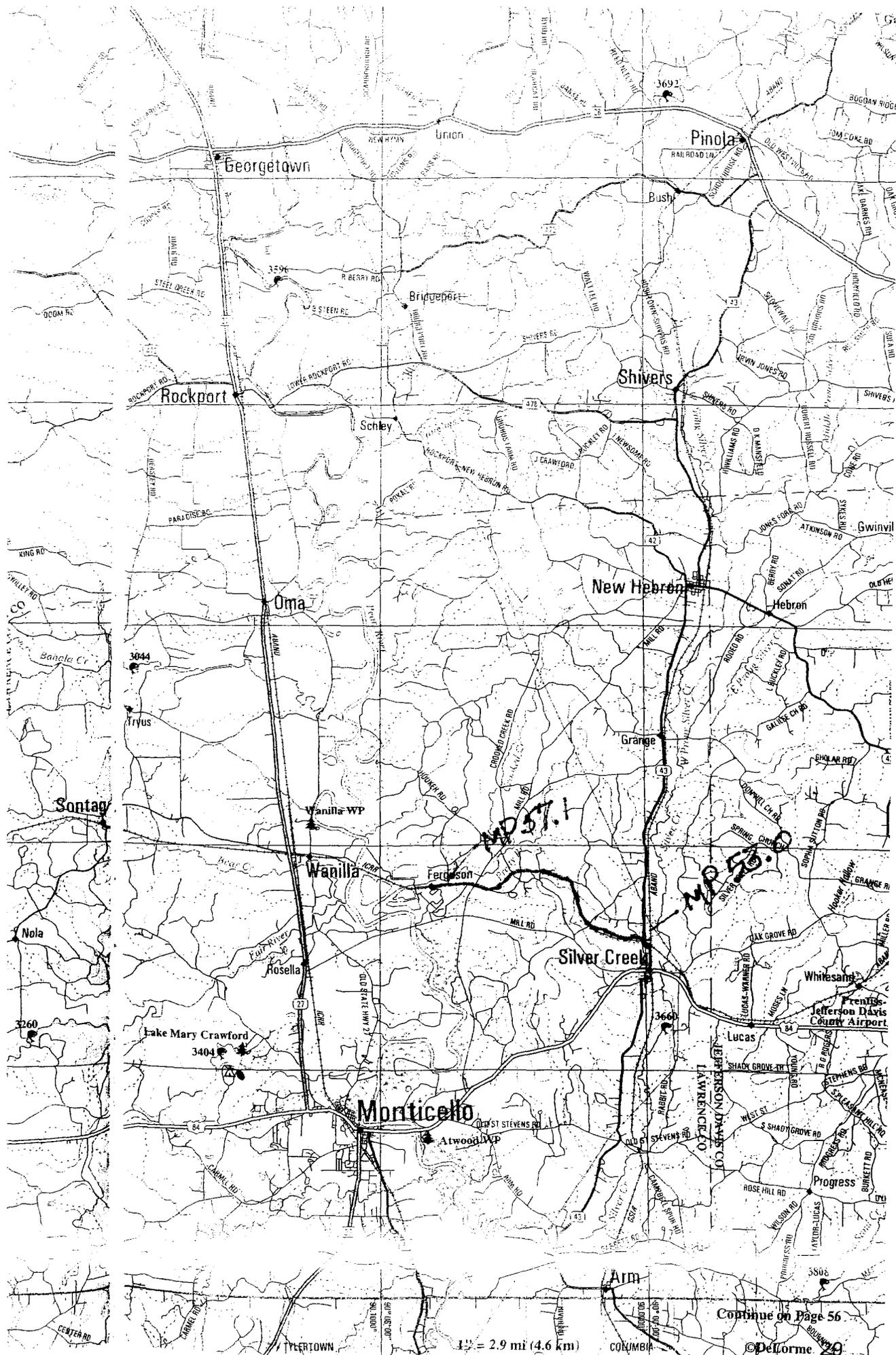
Because of the nature of the proposed action, we foresee no adverse effects. Nevertheless, we would appreciate your review and any comments you may wish to offer. We would appreciate a written response as soon as possible so that we may include it in the environmental report, which we will file with the STB. We intend on filing the Environmental Report in four weeks.

Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

Michael J. Barron, Jr.

Encl.



Continue on Page 56

1" = 2.9 mi (4.6 km)

©DeLorme

NOTIFICATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL OPTIONS AND PROCESS AND REQUEST FOR APPEAL

Applicant: Illinois Central Railroad Company	File Number: MVK-2005-1486	Date: November 7, 2005
Attached is:		See Section Below
<input type="checkbox"/>	INITIAL PROFFERED PERMIT (Standard Permit or Letter of Permission)	A
<input type="checkbox"/>	PROFFERED PERMIT (Standard Permit or Letter of Permission)	B
<input type="checkbox"/>	PERMIT DENIAL	C
<input type="checkbox"/>	APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION	D
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PRELIMINARY JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION	E

SECTION I - The following identifies your rights and options regarding an administrative appeal of the above decision. Additional information may be found at <http://usace.army.mil/inet/functions/cw/cecwo/reg> or Corps regulations at 33 CFR Part 331.

A: INITIAL PROFFERED PERMIT: You may accept or object to the permit.

- **ACCEPT:** If you received a Standard Permit, you may sign the permit document and return it to the district engineer for final authorization. If you received a Letter of Permission (LOP), you may accept the LOP and your work is authorized. Your signature on the Standard Permit or acceptance of the LOP means that you accept the permit in its entirety, and waive all rights to appeal the permit, including its terms and conditions, and approved jurisdictional determinations (JD) associated with the permit.
- **OBJECT:** If you object to the permit (Standard or LOP) because of certain terms and conditions therein, you may request that the permit be modified accordingly. You must complete Section II of this form and return the form to the district engineer. Your objections must be received by the district engineer within 60 days of the date of this notice, or you will forfeit your right to appeal the permit in the future. Upon receipt of your letter, the district engineer will evaluate your objections and may: (a) modify the permit to address all of your concerns, (b) modify the permit to address some of your objections, or (c) not modify the permit having determined that the permit should be issued as previously written. After evaluating your objections, the district engineer will send you a proffered permit for your reconsideration, as indicated in Section B below.

B: PROFFERED PERMIT: You may accept or appeal the permit.

- **ACCEPT:** If you received a Standard Permit, you may sign the permit document and return it to the district engineer for final authorization. If you received a Letter of Permission (LOP), you may accept the LOP and your work is authorized. Your signature on the Standard Permit or acceptance of the LOP means that you accept the permit in its entirety, and waive all rights to appeal the permit, including its terms and conditions, and approved jurisdictional determinations associated with the permit.
- **APPEAL:** If you choose to decline the proffered permit (Standard or LOP) because of certain terms and conditions therein, you may appeal the declined permit under the Corps of Engineers Administrative Appeal Process by completing Section II of this form and sending the form to the division engineer. This form must be received by the division engineer within 60 days of the date of this notice.

C: PERMIT DENIAL: You may appeal the denial of a permit under the Corps of Engineers Administrative Appeal Process by completing Section II of this form and sending the form to the division engineer. This form must be received by the division engineer within 60 days of the date of this notice.

D: APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION: You may accept or appeal the approved JD or provide new information.

- **ACCEPT:** You do not need to notify the Corps to accept an approved JD. Failure to notify the Corps within 60 days of the date of this notice, means that you accept the approved JD in its entirety, and waive all rights to appeal the approved JD.
- **APPEAL:** If you disagree with the approved JD, you may appeal the approved JD under the Corps of Engineers Administrative Appeal Process by completing Section II of this form and sending the form to the division engineer. This form must be received by the division engineer within 60 days of the date of this notice.

E: PRELIMINARY JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION: You do not need to respond to the Corps regarding the preliminary JD. The Preliminary JD is not appealable. If you wish, you may request an approved JD (which may be appealed), by contacting the Corps district for further instruction. Also you may provide new information for further consideration by the Corps to reevaluate the JD.

SECTION II - REQUEST FOR APPEAL or OBJECTIONS TO AN INITIAL PROFFERED PERMIT

REASONS FOR APPEAL OR OBJECTIONS: (Describe your reasons for appealing the decision or your objections to an initial proffered permit in clear concise statements. You may attach additional information to this form to clarify where your reasons or objections are addressed in the administrative record.)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The appeal is limited to a review of the administrative record, the Corps memorandum for the record of the appeal conference or meeting, and any supplemental information that the review officer has determined is needed to clarify the administrative record. Neither the appellant nor the Corps may add new information or analyses to the record. However, you may provide additional information to clarify the location of information that is already in the administrative record.

POINT OF CONTACT FOR QUESTIONS OR INFORMATION:

If you have questions regarding this decision and/or the appeal process you may contact:

Ms. Karen Dove-Jackson
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Regulatory Branch
4155 Clay Street
Vicksburg, MS 39183-3435
(601) 631-7136

If you only have questions regarding the appeal process you may also contact:

Division Engineer
Attn: Appeals Review Officer
Mississippi Valley Division
Post Office Box 80
Vicksburg, MS 39181-0080
(601) 634-5820

RIGHT OF ENTRY: Your signature below grants the right of entry to Corps of Engineers personnel, and any government consultants, to conduct investigations of the project site during the course of the appeal process. You will be provided a 15 day notice of any site investigation, and will have the opportunity to participate in all site investigations.

Signature of appellant or agent.

Date:

Telephone number:

FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

29 North Wacker Drive
Suite 920
Chicago, Illinois 60606-2832

MICHAEL J. BARRON, JR.
(312) 252-1511
mbarron@fletcher-sippel.com

Phone: (312) 252-1500
Fax: (312) 252-2400
www.fletcher-sippel.com

October 25, 2005

Mr. James I. Palmer
Regional Administrator, Region IV
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, GA 30303

Re: Illinois Central Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment in Lawrence County, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Palmer:

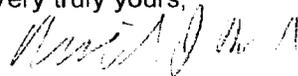
Illinois Central Railroad Company ("IC") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon an approximately 4.1 mile line of railroad starting at MP 53.0 and ending at MP 57.1 in Lawrence County, Mississippi. For your convenience, we have attached a map for your reference. IC is advising you of the proposed action so you may assist us in identifying any potential effects of the proposed action on, among other things, the following:

1. Water quality;
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3. 100-year-old flood plains;
4. Endangered or threatened species;
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6. Wildlife sanctuaries or refuges;
7. National or state parks or forests;
8. Coastal zone management;
9. Soil and natural resource conservation;
10. Agricultural land;
11. Regional and/or local use plans; and
12. The need for permits under Sections 402 or 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Because of the nature of the proposed action, we foresee no adverse effects. Nevertheless, we would appreciate your review and any comments you may wish to offer. We would appreciate a written response as soon as possible so that we may include it in the environmental report, which we will file with the STB. We intend on filing the Environmental Report in four weeks.

Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,



Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Encl.

APPENDIX K

cc: Allison Wise

FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

29 North Wacker Drive
Suite 920
Chicago, Illinois 60606-2832

Phone: (312) 252-1500
Fax: (312) 252-2400
www.fletcher-sippel.com

MICHAEL J. BARRON, JR.
(312) 252-1511
mbarron@fletcher-sippel.com

November 1, 2005.

Mr. Russell L. Wright, Jr.
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 4
Atlanta Federal Center
61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, GA 30303-8960

Re: Mississippi Abandonments

Dear Mr. Wright:

Thank you for your correspondence of October 24. Enclosed are copies of recent correspondence I sent to the EPA concerning additional abandonments. We welcome your input on these abandonments as well. Please let us know if we should direct all future correspondence on upcoming abandonments to your attention.

Sincerely,


Michael J. Barron, Jr.

Encl.



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

November 14, 2005

Mr. Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Counsel for Illinois Central Railroad Company
17641 South Ashland Avenue
Homewood, Illinois 60430

**SUBJ: EPA Comments on Illinois Central Railroad Company (ICR) Proposed
Railroad Abandonments in Madison County and Lawrence County, MS;
Also, EPA Generic Response for Prospective ICR Railroad Abandonment
Proposals with Minimal Environmental Impacts**

Dear Mr. Barron:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has received your two letters dated October 18, 2005, regarding the proposed railroad abandonments in Madison and Lawrence County, Mississippi. The Madison County proposal is for MP 705.2 to the end of the track (12,300 ft) while the Lawrence County proposal is for a 4.1-mile strip from MP 53.0 to MP 57.1.

EPA Region 4 typically does not comment on proposed railroad abandonment actions since environmental impacts of such proposals are generally minimal. Therefore, from our perspective and to streamline the process, such proposals within EPA Region 4 (AL, MS, FL, GA, KY, NC, SC, TN) typically need not be forwarded to us. However, if the Surface Transportation Board (STB) requires written comments from this Agency in order to complete their National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, we suggest that a copy of this response letter be used as a generic response to the STB for future ICR railroad abandonments. However, this would only apply for proposals that have minimal environmental impacts. In instances where substantive impacts are expected or ICR is uncertain as to the level of impact, we would ask to receive project description information and that these proposals be flagged with an explanation as to why ICR believes that the abandonment proposal may be environmentally significant.

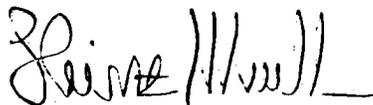
It should also be noted that the following generic impact summary is also relevant for most if not all railroad abandonment proposals. Future ICR railroad abandonment proposals should comply with these general comments and incorporate them into the ICR Borrower's Environmental Report (BER) and the STB NEPA process:

Unless the proposed abandonment would have substantive water quality, wetland, air quality, endangered species, noise, hazardous waste or other impacts, EPA would not expect to have objections to its implementation. However, we recommend that any runoff from the exposed rail bed be controlled, particularly at any rail line crossings of

waterbodies such as streams. Any past petroleum or other chemical spills along the line should be cleaned up and removed railroad ties should be properly disposed due to their creosote treatment. All construction staging areas for the abandonment work should be sited outside of Waters of the U.S. such as wetlands or streams, and should be restored after project completion. If residences are located near the rail line, any noisy construction work should be limited to weekdays during daytime hours to the extent feasible. Overall, the abandonment work must also be in compliance with all federal and state laws and regulations, as well as any local ordinances. Additionally, we suggest that all removed rails be recycled and that the railroad corridor be allowed to naturally revegetate or be reused for approved linear or recreational projects.

Should you have questions regarding these comments, feel free to contact Chris Hoberg of my staff at 404/562-9619 or hoberg.chris@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heinz J. Mueller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line at the end.

Heinz J. Mueller, Chief
NEPA Program Office
Office of Policy and Management



www.cn.ca

Michael J. Barron

17641 S. Ashland Avenue
Homewood, IL 60430-1339

Telephone: 312-252-1511
Fax: 708-332-4361

October 18, 2005

Mr. Thomas H. Waggener
Review and Compliance Officer
Mississippi Dept. of Archives and History
Historic Preservation Division
P.O. Box 571
Jackson, MS 39205-0571

Re: Illinois Central Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment in Lawrence County, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Waggener:

Illinois Central Railroad Company ("IC") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon its rail line in Lawrence County between milepost 53.0 and milepost 57.1. IC is advising you of the proposed action so you may assist us in performing a historical review process. A map of the area slated for abandonment is enclosed. There appears to be no structures on the line.

Thank you for your assistance. Please call me should you have questions.

Very truly yours,



Michael J. Barron, Jr.

Enc.

APPENDIX L

October 26, 2005

Mr. Michael J. Barron, Jr.
CN
17641 South Ashland Avenue
Homewood, Illinois 60430

Dear Mr. Barron:

RE: Proposed abandonment of a rail line between milepost 53.0 and 57.1,
Lawrence County

We have reviewed your October 18, 2005, cultural resources assessment request for the above referenced project proposal in accordance with our responsibilities outlined in 36 CFR 800.4 and 800.5 regarding the identification of historic properties and assessment of any potential adverse effects. It is our determination that no properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places will be affected. Therefore, we have no reservations with the proposal.

In addition, we are not aware of any potential of this undertaking to affect Indian cultural or religious sites. However, if you require confirmation of this, the tribal entities will have to be contacted directly.

Should there be additional work in connection with the project, or any changes in the scope of work, please let us know in order that we may provide you with appropriate comments in compliance with the above referenced regulations. There remains a very remote possibility that unrecorded cultural resources may be encountered during construction. Should this occur, we would appreciate your contacting us immediately so that we may take appropriate steps under 36 CFR 800, part 13, regarding our response within forty-eight hours. If we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Sincerely,

H. T. Holmes
State Historic Preservation Officer



By: Thomas H. Waggener
Review and Compliance Officer

cc: Clearinghouse for Federal Programs

Docket No. AB-43 (Sub-No. 177X)

ILLINOIS CENTRAL
RAILROAD COMPANY

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION FOR
ABANDONMENT IN LAWRENCE
COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

To: Mr. Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board (STB)
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE WITH 49 C.F.R. PART 1105

I hereby certify that on February 27, 2006, copies of the Environmental Report and Historic Report for the above-captioned proceeding were served on the agencies listed at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7(b), all agencies consulted in preparing the reports, and on the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. A service list is attached and incorporated into this certificate as Attachment A. The reports have been sent within the time period specified, as Illinois Central Railroad Company intends to file its Notice of Exemption in the above-captioned matter no earlier than March 20, 2006. All appropriate agencies as listed in 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7(e) have been consulted well in advance of preparing the Environmental Report.

I also certify that a newspaper notice was published on November 9, 2005, in the *Lawrence County Press*, a newspaper of general circulation in Lawrence County, Mississippi. The notice alerted the public to the proposed abandonment, to possible reuse alternatives, and to procedures for participating in the STB proceeding. A copy of the notice is attached to this certificate as Attachment B.

Dated this 27th day of February, 2006.



Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Attorney for Illinois Central Railroad Company

ATTACHMENT A

Mr. William R. Balentine
Director, Office of Intermodal Planning
Mississippi Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 1850
Jackson, MS 39115-1850

Mr. Homer L. Wilkes
State Conservationist
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
100 West Capitol Street, Room 1321
Jackson, MS 39269

Mr. Jerry Brashier
Director of Wetland Permitting
Mississippi Coastal Program
Mississippi Dept of Marine Resources
1141 Bayview Avenue, Suite 101
Biloxi, MS 39530

Mr. Heinz Mueller
NEPA Program Office
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
61 Forsyth Street.
Atlanta, GA 30303

Mr. Christopher A. Alonzo
Director, Environmental Programs
Mississippi Dept. of Wildlife,
Fisheries and Parks
1505 Eastover Drive
Jackson, MS 39211-6322

Ms. Kathy W. L Lunceford
Environmental Coordinator
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
6578 Dogwood view Parkway, Suite A.
Jackson, MS 39213

Ms. Cynthia Rickis-Gordon
Environmental Biologist
Mississippi Natural Heritage Program
Mississippi Museum of Natural Science
2148 Riverside Drive
Jackson, MS 39202-1353

Mr. Jerry Banks
Mississippi Dept. of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 20305
Jackson, MS 39289-1305

Ms. Elizabeth S. Guynes
Chief, Regulatory Branch
U.S. Army Corp of Engineers
Vicksburg District, Operations Division
4155 Clay Street
Vicksburg, MS 39280-3435

Clerk
Lawrence County Courthouse
P.O. Box 1160
Monticello, MS 39654-1160
ATTENTION: County Executive

Mr. Thomas H. Waggener
Review and Compliance Officer
Mississippi Dept. of Archives and History
Historic Preservation Division
P.O. Box 571
Jackson, MS 39205-0571

Mr. Edward J. McKay
Chief Spatial Reference System Division
National Geodetic Survey
Nat'l Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
1315 East West Highway, Room 8813
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282

D. Thomas Ross
Assistant Director, Recreation and Conservation
National Park Service
Department of Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Org. Code 2220
Washington, DC 20240

Ms. Deb Biggers, Director
501 N. West Street, Suite 1301E
Mississippi Dept. of Finance and Administration
Office of Budget and Fund Management
Jackson, MS 39201

Mr. Glenn L. Odom
Surface Water Division
Mississippi Dept. of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 10385
Jackson, MS 39289-0385

**PROOF OF PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
LAWRENCE COUNTY**

Personally appeared before the undersigned authority in and for said county and state, John Carney, who being duly sworn, deposes and saith that he is editor and publisher of the *Lawrence County Press*, a newspaper published continuously for the past two years or more, in the Town of Monticello, in said county and state, that the notice, a true copy of which is hereto attached, was published in said newspaper for 1 consecutive times as follows:

No. <u>11</u>	Vol. <u>9</u>	20 <u>05</u>
No. _____	Vol. _____	20 _____
No. _____	Vol. _____	20 _____
No. _____	Vol. _____	20 _____
No. _____	Vol. _____	20 _____
No. _____	Vol. _____	20 _____

John Carney

Sworn to and subscribed before me this the 9th day of Nov. 20 05
Renee W. Buffington
My Commission Expires September 18, 2006

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NOTICE
ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY gives notice that on or after November 30, 2005 it intends to file with the Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423, a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F-Exempt Abandonments, permitting the abandonment of a line of railroad between milepost 53.0 near Silver Creek and milepost 57.1 near Ferguson, all in Lawrence County, Mississippi, which line traverses through U.S. Postal Zip Code 39663. The proceeding will be docketed as AB-43 (Sub-No. 177X).

The Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) will generally prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA), which will normally be available 25 days after the filing of the notice of exemption. Comments on environmental and energy matters should be filed no later than 15 days after the EA becomes available to the public and will be addressed in a Board decision. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA or make inquiries regarding environmental matters by writing to the SEA, Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street NW, Washington, DC 20423 or by calling that office at (202) 565-1545.

Appropriate offers of financial assistance to continue rail service can be filed with the Board. Requests for environmental conditions, public use conditions, or rail banking/trails use also can be filed with the Board. An original and 10 copies of any pleading that raises matters other than environmental issues (such as trails use, public use, and offers of financial assistance) must be filed directly with the Board's Office of the Secretary, 1925 K Street NW, Washington, DC 20423-0001 [See 49 CFR 1104.1(a) and 1104.3(a)], and one copy must be served on applicant's representative. [See 49 CFR 1104.12(a)]. Questions regarding offers of financial assistance, public use or trails use may be directed to the Commission's Office of Congressional and Public Services at (202) 565-1592. Copies of any comments or requests for conditions should be served on the applicant's representative: Michael J. Barron, Jr., (312)252-1511 at Fletcher & Sippel, 29 N. Wacker Drive, Suite 920, Chicago, IL 60606-2832.

LCP 11-9-2005

ATTACHMENT B