

BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

STB Docket No. 1043 (Sub-No. 1)

228534

MONTREAL, MAINE & ATLANTIC RY., LTD.

- DISCONTINUANCE OF SERVICE AND ABANDONMENT -

IN AROOSTOOK AND PENOBSOT COUNTIES, MAINE

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC ORAL HEARING

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Dated: March 4, 2010

Attorneys for State of Maine, Department of
Transportation

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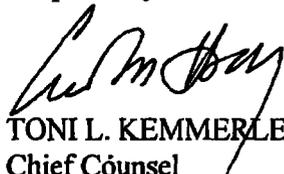
Pursuant to 49 C.F.R. §1152.25(d)(6), the State of Maine, by and through its Department of Transportation (“State”), requests that the Board hold one or more public oral hearings in this matter, including one in Augusta, Maine. At the hearings, the Board should, in addition to any permitted cross examination of witnesses filing verified statements in the proceeding, allow direct testimony from interested parties, shippers and the public, including governmental bodies and officials, with respect to the affect of the proposed abandonment (as permitted by the regulations).

On February 24, 2010, Montreal, Maine & Atlantic Railway, Ltd. (“MMA”) filed an application (the “Application”) to discontinue rail service on and abandon five subdivisions totaling approximately 233 miles (the “Abandoned Lines”). The Abandoned Lines include MMA’s main north south line from just north of Millinocket to the Canadian border. The proposed abandonment would virtually eliminate the ability of shippers to move of freight between the northern one-third of Maine and points to the south of the State. The public’s interest in the preservation of rail service over the lines MMA operates is evidenced in part by the loans provided by public entities to MMA

that assisted in its acquisition of the lines from the bankrupt Bangor & Aroostook Railroad, and their

subsequent rehabilitation. These include loans from the State and from the Federal Railroad Administration. Accordingly, this proceeding involves issues of significant importance to the people of Maine. Holding a hearing in Augusta would permit interested parties from State government, local municipalities, shippers, and local residents to voice their concerns in a more accessible location.¹ The Board has granted requests for public hearing in similar circumstances. *See Central Oregon & Pacific Railroad, Inc. – Abandonment and Discontinuance of Service – In Coos, Douglas, and Lane Counties, OR*, STB Finance Docket No. AB-515 (Sub-No. 2) (served July 29, 2008).

Respectfully submitted,



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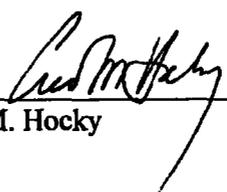
¹ The State would willing to facilitate the hearing Board by providing appropriate space.
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the date set forth below, I served a copy of the foregoing Request for Oral Hearing on the following by U.S. mail, postage prepaid, and by e-mail on:

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Dated: March 4, 2010



Eric M. Hocky