

Voting Conference, September 15, 2005

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Pittsburg & Shawmut Railroad, LLC—Abandonment Exemption—  
in Armstrong and Jefferson Counties, PA  
STB Docket No. AB-976X

Good morning Chairman Nober, Vice Chairman Buttrey, and Commissioner Mulvey.

Pittsburg & Shawmut Railroad, LLC, a subsidiary of Buffalo & Pittsburgh Railroad, Inc., has filed a petition for exemption to abandon a line of railroad between milepost 22 south of Brookville in Jefferson County, PA, and milepost 62 in Mahoning in Armstrong County, PA, a distance of approximately 40 miles. The line had been operated by Buffalo & Pittsburgh, which has obtained an exemption in STB Docket No. AB-369 (Sub-No. 5X) to discontinue those operations. Armstrong County Board of Commissioners and Jefferson County Board of Commissioners (the Counties) filed a request for issuance of a notice of interim trail use and for imposition of a public use condition.

Petitioner states that there has been no traffic on the line since September 1999, when the last customer, Doverspike Brothers Coal Company, ceased operations. Pittsburg & Shawmut adds that it has unsuccessfully attempted to bring new business to the line. According to petitioner, all overhead traffic has been rerouted.

The draft decision and notice before you would grant Pittsburg & Shawmut's petition for exemption subject to public use, environmental, and standard employee protective conditions. The draft would also issue a notice of interim trail use permitting petitioner and the Counties to negotiate an agreement for that portion of the right-of-way between mileposts 24 and 56.

This concludes my statement. We would be happy to address any questions you might have.