

Before the
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

STB Docket No. AB 1242

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
August 5, 2020
Part of
Public Record

Hartwell First United Methodist Church—Adverse Abandonment and
Discontinuance—
The Great Walton Railroad Company, Inc.,
in Hart County, GA

August 2020 Status Report

By its decision served January 31, 2018, the Board denied the application filed by the Hartwell First United Methodist Church (HFUMC) requesting that the Board authorize the adverse abandonment of approximately 0.25 miles of rail line and associated right-of-way (the Line) owned by The Great Walton Railroad Company, Inc. (GWRC). Although the Board found that “the present and future PC&N do not support the requested adverse abandonment,”¹ it directed GWRC “to submit a status report once every six months, starting on July 31, 2018, describing its progress with respect to rehabilitation and utilization of the Line.”

As reported in previously submitted status reports, as well as in its pending Petition for Declaratory Order, filed November 20, 2019,² the mainline portion of the Line has been completely refurbished from Jackson Street to Athens Street in Hartwell, Georgia. At present, the line is used to facilitate rail

¹ Slip op. at 4.

² Petition for Declaratory Order, Docket No. AB 1242 (Sub-No. 1).

transportation services for Quality Services, LLC whose rail shipments have been steadily increasing. Those services will continue.

GWRC has not yet been able to complete the reconstruction of the runaround track that, since 1913, has been operated as part of the general system of rail transportation when providing rail service to shippers and receivers in Hartwell, Georgia. As the record demonstrates, until a portion of the run around track was temporarily removed, it was long used to move locomotives from the front of an inbound train to the front end of the outbound trip to increase the overall efficiency of rail service.

As the Board is also aware, GWRC has been denied the statutory right provided by Georgia law to complete the reconstruction of its runaround track by the Georgia Public Service Commission and the Superior Court of Fulton County. The appeal to the Georgia Court of Appeals from the adverse decision of the Superior Court remains pending.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Richard H. Streeter

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Richard H. Streeter, do hereby certify that I, this 5th day of August 2020, have served true copies of the foregoing Status Report have been served on all parties of record by email or by first-class mail, postage prepaid.

/s/ Richard H. Streeter

Richard H. Streeter