

**National Association of Reversionary Property Owners
(NARPO) IRS 501 (c)(3)**

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**RE: Union Pacific Railroad Company Abandonment in Fulton and
Peoria, IL., STB Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 262X) Petition for Interim
Trail Use**

The City of Hanna, Illinois has asked to be a substitute NITU holder for AB 33-262 in an abandonment that happened 14 years ago with numerous extensions of the NITU. NARPO wrote the STB on February 22, 2022 about this NITU substitution issue, but NARPO did not expand on the criteria for NITU extensions beyond four years as explained in EP749 and EP 749-1. There are no extraordinary issues that the previous NITU holder (IDNR), has done for over the past ten years and there is nothing that Hanna City has done or can do that can be considered extraordinary circumstances. After 12 years, the specific funding for the proposed rail trail is not secured.

There is always talk by NITU holders that funding is just around the corner. When EP-749 and EP-749-1 were being discussed five years ago during the rule making process, it was brought numerous times by various commenters that the funding issue and land appraisal issue

were always used an excuse to extend NITUs. But because of the finality of land title issues and many other reasons, the STB decided that three one year NITU extensions to the original one year NITU was enough.

Now after more then 13 years, the City of Hanna is trying to use the change of NITU holders as an excuse to get another one year extension of the NITU in AB 33-262. Actually the NITU in AB 33-262 would have permanently expired a year ago but for the COVID extension the STB unilaterally extended without any rule making process.

The STB should deny any more NITU extensions for the Illinois DNR in AB33-262X.

Sincerely, yours

Dick Welsh, executive director—NARPO

Parties of record have been given an email copy of this submission on 3/17/2022