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May 20, 2022
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Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271
www.dnr.illinois.gov

JB Pritzker, Governor
Colleen Callahan, Director

May 19, 2022

Ms. Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W., Room #100
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

RE: STB Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 262X) — Union Pacific Railroad Company
Abandonment and Discontinuance of the Elm Industrial Lead in Fulton and Peoria
Counties, Illinois

Dear Ms. Brown:

On February 22, 2022, the Village of Hanna City filed a Motion for Issuance of a Substitute Notice of Interim Trail Use (NITU) and Motion for Adjustment of the Substitute NITU Negotiation Period. The period was set to expire March 30, 2022. On April 6, 2022, Hanna City filed a Motion to Withdraw. That Motion was granted 5/2/22.

On May 13, 2022, the Union Pacific Railroad filed an extension request with the STB. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources has no objection to this request and would join in asking for additional time to sort through the aftermath of the very recent failed purchase attempt by Hanna City.

The Tri-County Board has indicated an interest in the purchase. A 501C corporation, Build the Hanna City Trail, has been formed to seek financing and to attempt purchase of the property, and the corporation will be negotiating further with the Union Pacific Railroad to attempt to complete the purchase. A public meeting was held this past Monday to determine interest as well. The withdrawal of Hanna City has opened an opportunity for this new

purchaser.; however, the parties have not had sufficient opportunity to investigate or set up any financing or grants. The Board is seeking an extension of the NITU negotiations while it attempts to assume the position just vacated by Hanna City earlier this month.

It is my understanding that the filing fee of \$450.00 is waived for state agencies requesting extension of NITU negotiations as to STB Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 262X), Union Pacific Railroad Company. Please date stamp a copy of this letter and return it to the DNR.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and please contact me should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Javonna Ackerman

cc: Whitney Larkin, UP
Louis Yockey, DNR
Janaki Nair, Hanna City
Richard Welsh, NARPO