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mcculley@swm.legal

September 13, 2022

Ms. Danielle Gosselin
Director
Office of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423

Re: Docket No. AB 857 (Sub-No. 2)
Colorado Landowners—Adverse Abandonment—
Great Western Railway of Colorado, LLC, In Weld County, CO

Dear Ms. Gosselin:

Pursuant to the Board's Decision dated September 7, 2022 holding this proceeding in abeyance until 20 days after Landowners file and serve the revised E&H Report, Landowners file a revised E&H Report and serve the E&H Report in accordance with 49 C.F.R § 1105.7(b) and 1105.8(c).

Very truly yours,


Elizabeth Gepford McCulley

+ 2100 Central | Suite 22
Kansas City, MO 64108
P 816.303.1500
F 816.527.8068

WWW.SWM.LEGAL



BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

LANDOWNERS – ADVERSE)
ABANDONMENT – GREAT WESTERN) DOCKET NO. AB-857 (SUB-NO. 2)
RAILWAY OF COLORADO. IN)
WELD COUNTY, CO.)

ENVIRONMENTAL AND HISTORIC REPORT

CINDY SAUER., et al, LANDOWNERS
c/o Stewart, Wald + McCulley
2100 Central Street, Suite 22
Kansas City, MO 64108

Applicants

THOMAS S. STEWART
ELIZABETH G. McCULLEY
STEWART, WALD + McCULLEY
2100 Central Street, Suite 22
Kansas City, MO 64108
stewart@swm.legal
mcculley@swm.legal

THOMAS F. McFARLAND
THOMAS F. McFARLAND, P.C.
2230 Marston Lane
Flossmoor, IL 60422-1336
(708) 704-7679
mcfarland@aol.com

Attorneys for Applicants

Dated: September 13, 2022

BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

LANDOWNERS – ADVERSE	)	
ABANDONMENT – GREAT WESTERN	)	DOCKET NO. AB-857 (SUB-NO. 2)
RAILWAY OF COLORADO. IN	)	
WELD COUNTY, CO.	)	

ENVIRONMENTAL AND HISTORIC REPORT

Pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7(e); 49 C.F.R. § 1105.8, and the Board’s Decision in this proceeding served September 7, 2022, the Landowners listed in Appendix 1 (the Landowners) hereby submit an Environmental and Historic Report (“E&H Report”) for circulation to interested agencies and opportunity for comment.

I. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

The Landowners hereby submit the following information required by 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7(e):

(1) Proposed action and alternatives. Describe the proposed action, including commodities transported, the planned disposition (if any) of any rail line and other structures that may be involved, and any possible changes in current operations or maintenance practices. Also describe any reasonable alternatives to the proposed action. Include a readable, detailed map and drawings clearly delineating the project.

The action is an Application for Adverse Abandonment in which the Landowners seek a finding that the present or future public convenience and necessity require or permit abandonment of a rail line that extends (1) between Milepost 0.0 at Johnstown and Milepost 6.2 near Welty, a total distance of 6.2 miles. A map of the Rail Line is attached as Appendix 2.

Great Western Railway of Colorado, LLC (“GWRC”) previously filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152.50 in May, 2008 seeking exemption to abandon the Rail Line. See STB Docket No. AB 857 (Sub. No. 1X), *Great Western Railway of Colorado, LLC—Abandonment Exemption—in Weld County, Colorado*, served May 6, 2008. In December, 2021, GWRC sent another proposed abandonment to the agencies listed in 49 C.F.R § 1105.7 and

requested comments. Although GWRC served their own E&H Report, GWRC has not followed through with the filing of an Abandonment Exemption. As a result, the Landowners are now sending this E&H Report for circulation to interested agencies and opportunity for comment in conjunction with their Application for Adverse Abandonment.

On February 21, 2008, as part of the first federal abandonment process, initiated by GWRC, GWRC filed a E&H Report and expressly admitted and confirmed that “[t]he Line has not been used for local traffic in over 20 years and no maintenance has been performed on any portion of the Line” and that there had been no railroad traffic, no customers, and no railroad use for over 20 years. In the second E&H Report filed by GWRC on August 1, 2022, GWRC stated that “the Line has not been used for local traffic in many years. The Line is stub-ended and not capable of handling overhead traffic. Therefore, the proposed abandonment will not change rail freight operations on the Line.” The Landowners agree that the Rail Line has not been used for rail freight operations for 43 years. In addition, the Rail Line has not been maintained and, in addition to not being capable of handling rail traffic, is in a state of disrepair and is dangerous. Upon effectiveness of the requested abandonment, the federal interest in the Rail Line would terminate. Disposition of the Rail Line assets would take place under Colorado law. GWRC owns the track materials in the Rail Line but the Rail Line is held pursuant to an easement for railroad purposes.

Upon abandonment, the land held by easement would no longer be burdened by that easement. If GWRC were to refuse to remove the track materials upon approval of abandonment, and to voluntarily relinquish its easements for railroad purposes, the Landowners would seek an order of ejectment of GWRC under Colorado law. Upon removal of the track materials, the Landowners would make productive nonrail use of the right-of-way land formerly subject to GWRC’s easement.

(2) Transportation system. Describe the effects of the proposed action on regional or local transportation systems and patterns. Estimate the amount of traffic (passenger or freight) that will be diverted to other transportation systems or modes as a result of the proposed action.

The proposed abandonment will have no impact on regional or local transportation systems or patterns. For that reason, too, no passenger or freight rail traffic would be diverted to other transportation systems or modes as a result of the proposed abandonment.

(3) Land use. (i) Based on consultation with local and/or regional planning agencies and/or a review of the official planning documents prepared by such agencies, state whether the proposed action is consistent with existing land use plans. Describe any inconsistencies.

The proposed abandonment would be consistent with existing land use regulations in the affected territory. Local land use has not suffered in the past 40 years due to the absence of traffic on the Rail Line.

Appendix 3 of this Report is a letter to local agencies and representatives providing notice of the proposed action, and seeking their views regarding the proposed abandonment. In regard to Land Use, that letter was sent to representatives of Weld County and the Town of Johnston. Any replies will be sent promptly to the Board.

(3)(ii) Based on consultation with the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, state the effect of the proposed action on any prime agricultural land.

Inasmuch as no rail shipments have moved over the Rail Line for more than 40 years, abandonment of that Rail Line would not have an adverse effect on prime agricultural land.

(3)(iii) If the action affects land or water uses within a designated coastal zone, include the coastal zone information required by Sec. 1105.9.

The proposed abandonment would not affect a designated coastal zone.

(3)(iv) If the proposed action is an abandonment, state whether or not the right-of-way is suitable for alternative public use under 49 U.S.C. 10905 and explain why.

The Landowners believe that the Rail Line is not suitable for alternative public use. Negotiations concluded unsuccessfully for railbanking and interim recreational trail use. The

population has now grown from 3,827 people in 2008 to 18,827 people in 2022 with schools and residences. The line is stub-ended and cannot transport goods anywhere and has laid in waste for decades. The line bisects farms and makes farming operations more difficult and more expensive. There is no need for the land in the Rail Line for additional highway or utility use, which is adequate in the involved territory.

(4) Energy. (i) Describe the effect of the proposed action on transportation of energy resources.

There having been no rail traffic over the Rail Line in more than 40 years, abandonment of the Line would not have an adverse effect on energy resources.

(4)(ii) Describe the effect of the proposed action on recyclable commodities.

For the same reason, abandonment would not have an adverse effect on transportation of recyclable commodities.

(4)(iii) State whether the proposed action will result in an increase or decrease in overall energy efficiency and explain why.

For the same reason, abandonment would not have an effect on energy efficiency.

(4)(iv) If the proposed action will cause diversions from rail to motor carriage of more than: (A) 1,000 rail carloads a year; or (B) An average of 50 rail carloads per mile per year for any part of the affected line, quantify the resulting net change in energy consumption and show data and methodology used to arrive at the figure given. To minimize the production of repetitive data, the information on overall energy efficiency in Sec. 1105.7(e)(4)(iii) need not be supplied if the more detailed information in Sec. 1105.7(e)(4)(iv) is required.

For the same reason, abandonment would not result in any diversion of rail traffic to motor carriage.

(5) Air. (i) If the proposed action will result in either: (A) An increase in rail traffic of at least 100 percent (measured in gross tons miles annually) or an increase of at least eight trains a day on any segment of rail line affected by the proposal, or (13) An increase in rail yard activity of at least 100 percent (measured by car load activity), or (C) An average increase in truck traffic of more than 10 percent of the average daily traffic or 50 vehicles a day on any affected road segment, quantify the anticipated effect on air emissions. For a proposal under 49 U.S.C. 10901

(or 10505) to construct a new line or reinstitute service over a previously abandoned line, only the eight train a day provision in subsection (5)(i)(A) will apply.

The above thresholds will not be exceeded.

(5)(ii) If the proposed action affects a class I or nonattainment area under the Clean Air Act, and will result in either: (A) An increase in rail traffic of at least 50 percent (measured in gross tons miles annually) or an increase of at least three trains a day on any segment of the rail line, (13) An increase in rail yard activity of at least 20 percent (measured by carload activity). or (C) An average increase in truck traffic of more than 10 per cent of the average daily traffic of 50 vehicles a day on a given road segment, then state whether any expected increased emissions are within the parameters established by the State Implementation Plan. However, for a rail construction under 49 U.S.C. 10901 (or 49 U.S.C. 10505), or a case involving the reinstitution of service over a previously abandoned line, only the three train a day threshold in this item shall apply.

The above thresholds will not be exceeded.

(5)(iii) If transportation of ozone depleting materials (such as nitrogen oxide and freon) is contemplated, identify: the materials and quantity; the frequency of service; safety practices (including any speed restrictions); the applicant's safety record (to the extent available) on derailments, accidents and spills; contingency plans to deal with accidental spills; and the likelihood of an accidental release of ozone depleting materials in the event of a collision or derailment.

Not applicable.

(6) Noise. If any of the thresholds identified in item (5)(i) of this section are surpassed, state whether the proposed action will cause: (i) An incremental increase in noise levels of three decibels Ldn or more;

None of the above thresholds will be exceeded.

(6)(ii) An increase to a noise level of 65 decibels Ldn or greater. If so, identify sensitive receptors (e.g. schools, libraries, hospitals, residences, retirement communities, and nursing homes) in the project area, and quantify the noise increase for these receptors if the thresholds are surpassed.

None of the above thresholds will be exceeded.

(7) Safety. (i) Describe any effects of the proposed action on public health and safety (including vehicle delay time at railroad grade crossings).

Abandonment would not result in an increase in delay at public crossings, nor any other effect on public health or safety.

(7)(ii) If hazardous materials are expected to be transported, identify: the materials and quantity; the frequency of service; whether chemicals are being transported that, if mixed, could react to form more hazardous compounds; safety practices (including any speed restrictions); the applicant's safety record (to the extent available) on derailments, accidents and hazardous spills; the contingency plans to deal with accidental spills; and the likelihood of an accident release of hazardous materials.

Not applicable.

(7)(iii) If there are any known hazardous waste sites or sites where there have been known hazardous materials spills on the right-of-way, identify the location of those sites and types of hazardous materials involved.

There are no such known sites.

(8) Biological resources. (i) Based on consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, state whether the proposed action is likely to adversely affect endangered or threatened species or areas designated

GWRC sent the proposed abandonment to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for its views in 2008, and in 2021. Landowners now send the Environment and Historic Report to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for its views. There are no endangered or threatened species that will be adversely affected and the abandonment should have no adverse effect on endangered or threatened species or their habitat.

(8)(ii) State whether wildlife sanctuaries or refuges, National or State parks or forests will be affected, and describe any effects.

The proposed abandonment will have no effect on National or State Parks. Landowners now send the Environment and Historic Report to the National Park Service and other entities listed in 49 C.F.R §1105.7(b) for its views and comments, if any.

(9) Water. (i) Based on consultation with State water quality officials, state whether the proposed action is consistent with applicable Federal, State or local water quality standards. Describe any inconsistencies.

GWRC sent the proposed abandonment to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 2008 and 2021. Landowners now send the Environment and Historic Report to the Colorado Department of Public Health and

Environment, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The proposed abandonment will be consistent with applicable water quality standards.

(9)(ii) Based on consultation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, state whether permits under section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) are required for the proposed action and whether designated wetlands or 100-year flood plains will be affected. Describe the effects.

GWRC sent the proposed abandonment to the to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 2008 and 2021. Landowners now send the Environment and Historic Report to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The proposed abandonment will not require permits under section 404 of the Clean Water Act. No designated wetlands or 100-year flood plans will be affected.

(9)(iii) State whether permits under section 402 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1342) are required for the proposed action. (Applicants should contact the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency or the state environmental protection or equivalent agency if they are unsure whether such permits are required.)

No permit under Section 402 of the Clean Water Act will be required for the proposed abandonment.

(10) Proposed Mitigation. Describe any actions that are proposed to mitigate adverse environmental impacts, indicating why the proposed mitigation is appropriate.

Not applicable.

II. HISTORIC REPORT

The Landowners hereby submit the following information required by 49 C.F.R. § 1105.8(d):

(1) A U.S.G.S. topographic map (or an alternate map drawn to scale and sufficiently detailed to show buildings and other structures in the vicinity of the proposed action) showing the location of the proposed action, and the locations and approximate dimensions of railroad structures that are 50 years old or older are part of the proposed action;

Two U.S. Geological Survey maps depicting the Line proposed for abandonment were supplied to the Colorado Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (“SHPO”). There are no structures 50 years or older associated with the abandonment of the Line.

(2) A written description of the right-of-way (including approximate widths, to the extent known), and the topography and urban and/or rural characteristics of the surrounding area;

The Line branches off GWRC's mainline at the intersection of route 17 and N 2nd Street in Johnstown population 18,787 (<https://worldpopulationreview.com/us-cities/johnstown-co-population>, last visited 9/7/22), extends in a southwesterly direction through Johnstown until it reaches route 15 and then extend westerly through a predominantly rural area to the end of the line just west of Interstate Hwy 25. The basic rail corridor right-of-way is approximately 80 feet in width for the majority of the length of the Line.

(3) Good quality photographs (actual photographic prints, not photocopies) of railroad structures on the property that are 50 years old or older and of the immediately surrounding area;

There are no railroad structures on the line that are 50 years old or older.

(4) The date(s) of construction of the structure(s), and the date(s) and extent of any major alterations, to the extent such information is known;

There are no railroad structures on the line that are 50 years old or older.

(5) A brief narrative story of carrier operations in the area, and an explanation of what, if any, changes are contemplated as a result of the proposed action;

GWRC has not provided transportation over the Rail Line in more than 40 years, however, GWRC has refused to voluntarily relinquish its railroad easement. Landowners' adverse abandonment application seeks elimination of GWRC's federal interest in the Rail Line so that they can seek remedial action under Colorado law to force GWRC off the Line.

(6) A brief summary of documents in the carrier's possession, such as engineering drawings, that might be useful in documenting a structure that is found to be historic.

There are no such documents in the Landowners' possession.

(7) An opinion (based on readily available information in the railroad's possession) as to whether the site and/or structures meet the criteria for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (36 CFR 60.4), and whether there is a likelihood of archeological resources or any other previously unknown historic properties in the project area, and the basis for these

opinions (including any consultations with the State Historic preservation Office, local historical societies or universities);

In the opinion of the Landowners, no bridges are linked to events of historic significance.

In the Landowners' view, there is no likelihood of archaeological resources or previously unknown properties in the right-of-way of the Rail Line. Any such properties would have been exposed long ago when the line deteriorated long ago.

(8) A description (based on readily available information in the railroad's possession) of any known prior subsurface ground disturbance or fill, environmental conditions (naturally occurring or manmade) that might affect the archeological recovery of resources (such as swampy conditions or the presence of toxic wastes), and the surrounding terrain.

None.

Respectfully submitted,

CINDY SAUER, ET AL., LANDOWNERS
c/o Stewart, Wald & McCulley
2100 Central Street, Suite 22
Kansas City, MO 64108
Applicants

/s/ Thomas S. Stewart
/s/ Elizabeth G. McCulley
THOMAS S. STEWART
ELIZABETH G. McCULLEY
STEWART, WALD & McCULLEY
2100 Central Street, Suite 22
Kansas City, MO 64108
(816) 303-1500 (ph)
stewart@swm.legal
mcculley@swm.legal

/s/ Thomas F. McFarland
THOMAS F. McFARLAND
THOMAS F. McFARLAND, P.C.
2230 Marston Lane
Flossmoor, IL 60422-1336
(708) 704-7679 (ph)
mcfarland@aol.com

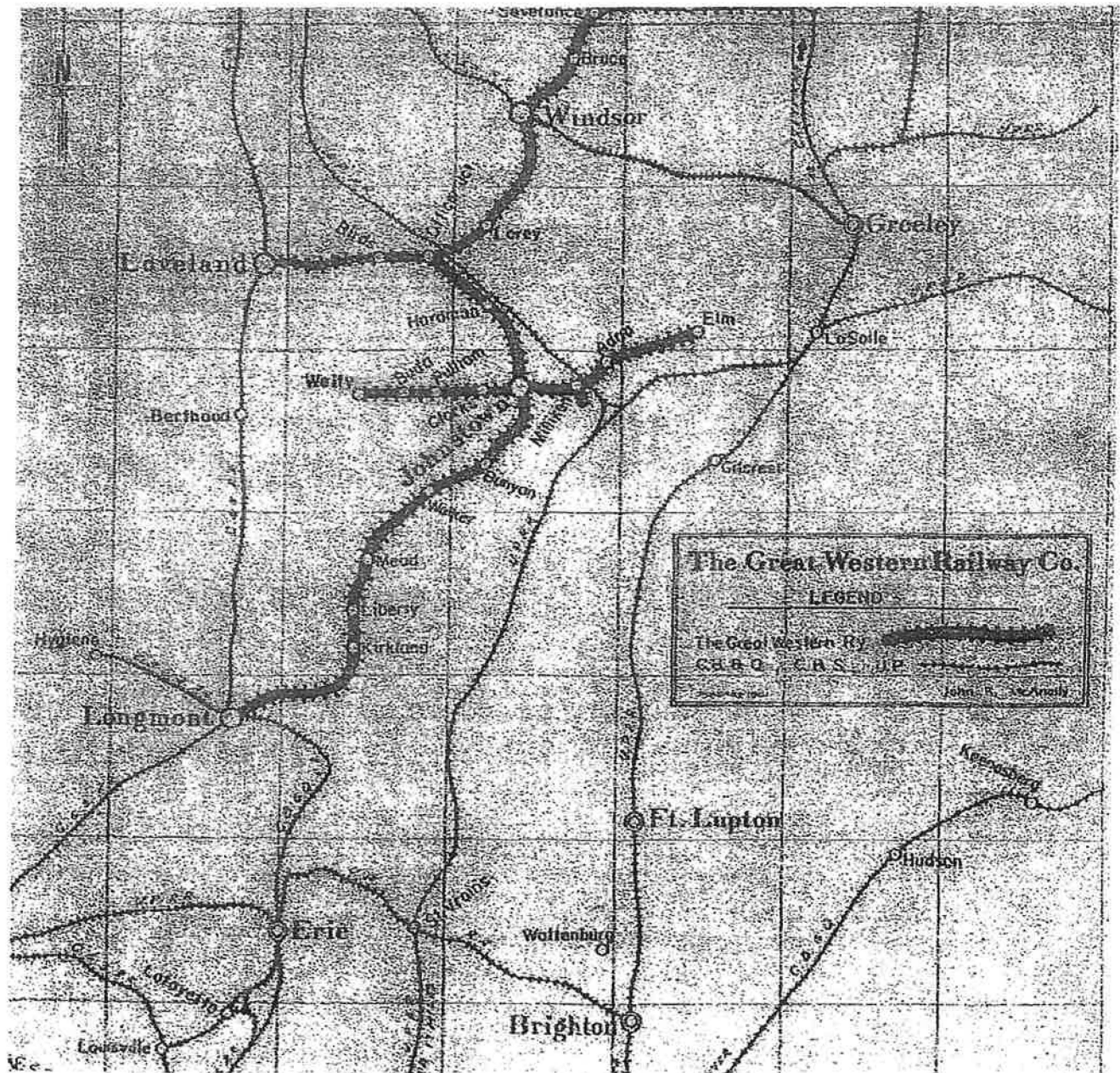
Attorneys for Applicants

Dated: September 13, 2022

CC: Parties of Record

APPENDIX 1

Property Owner	Spouse-/Additional Owner(s)	Mailing Address	Mailing City	Mailing State	Mailing ZIP
Jack Hodges	Crystal	308 Charlotte Ave.	Johnstown	CO	80534
Brianna Nelson		302 Charlotte St.	Johnstown	CO	80534
Cathy Egger	Mike Kellog	600 Aviara St.	Johnstown	CO	80534
Eleven, LLC, c/o Alex Sauer, Abe Sauer (2 parcels)		P.O. Box 611	Johnstown	CO	80534
Stephen A. Grantham	Karla A.	501 Pebble Beach Ave.	Johnstown	CO	80534
Danielle Blessing (Grauer)		616 Aviara St.	Fort Collins	CO	80534
Ann Weidman		614 Aviara St.	Johnstown	CO	80534
Jimmy L. Larkin	Annette L.	1422 S. Vivian Way	Johnstown	CO	80228
Deanne Gibboney		710 Country Acres Dr.	Johnstown	CO	80534
Calvin Lohnes	Donna Rae	614 Country Acres Dr.	Johnstown	CO	80534
Duane Lowe		618 Aviara St.	Johnstown	CO	80534
7 Parcels, LLC, c/o Lora Mayfield Warren		2125 Bluebell Ave.	Greeley	CO	80631
Connor Vaughn		8540 Benton Street	Arvada	CO	
Michael Horner		608 Aviara St.	Johnstown	CO	80534
Harry C. Peterson	Delores M.	6061 S. Aberdeen St.	Littleton	CO	80120
Aaron J. Sanchez	Jessica R. Aguilar	624 Aviara St.	Johnstown	CO	80534
Sauer Phantom 5 LLC, c/o Cindy Sauer (2 parcels)		6681 CR 50	Johnstown	CO	80534
Sauer West LLC, c/o Cindy Sauer		6681 CR 50	Johnstown	CO	80534
Troy Renner	Avery	606 Aviara St.	Johnstown	CO	80534
RMSJ, LLC, c/o Byron L. Spaur	Mark Spaur Steven Spaur	22605 RD 15	Johnstown	CO	80534
Byron L. Spaur		3801 46 CR	Berthoud	CO	80513
Kelly Bloom		P.O. Box 154	Johnstown	CO	80534
Austin W. Stewart		602 Aviara St.	Johnstown	CO	80534
Suzanne (Tocchini) Fulkrod	k/n/a Suzanne Fulkrod	2906 Falcon View Dr.	Wellington	CO	80549
Amando Valdez (2 parcels)	Anita	314 Charlotte St.	Johnstown	CO	80534
Fred Weis (4 parcels)	Diane K.	15168 CR 7	Mead	CO	80542
Zimmerman Brothers LP (2 parcels)		3041 CR 46	Berthoud	CO	80513





+ KC STL

mcculley@swm.legal

September 13, 2022

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
134 Union Blvd.
Lakewood, CO 80228

RE: Docket No. AB-857 (Sub-No. 2), Landowners Adverse Abandonment in Weld County, CO.

Dear Sir/Madam:

Landowners owning land abutting and underlying the railroad purposes easement held by Great Western Railway of Colorado, LLC ("GWRC"), plan on filing an Application for Adverse Abandonment of the Welty Line, located between milepost 0.0 at Johnstown, and milepost 6.2 at Welty, in Weld County Colorado. A map of the proposed abandonment is attached, with the 6.2 miles highlighted.

Pursuant to the STB's environmental regulations at 49 C.F.R., Part 1105, we are advising you of this proposed action so that you may assist us in identifying any potential effects on prime agricultural land. You previously provided comments to Great Western Railway of Colorado, LLC's Environmental and Historic Report. I have attached those emails for your review.

We would appreciate your review of the proposed abandonment and any comments you may wish to offer. We would also appreciate you providing us with a written response so that we can forward it to the STB.

Thank you for your time and assistance. If you have any questions, please call or email me at mcculley@swm.legal or (816) 585-7076 (cell).

Sincerely,

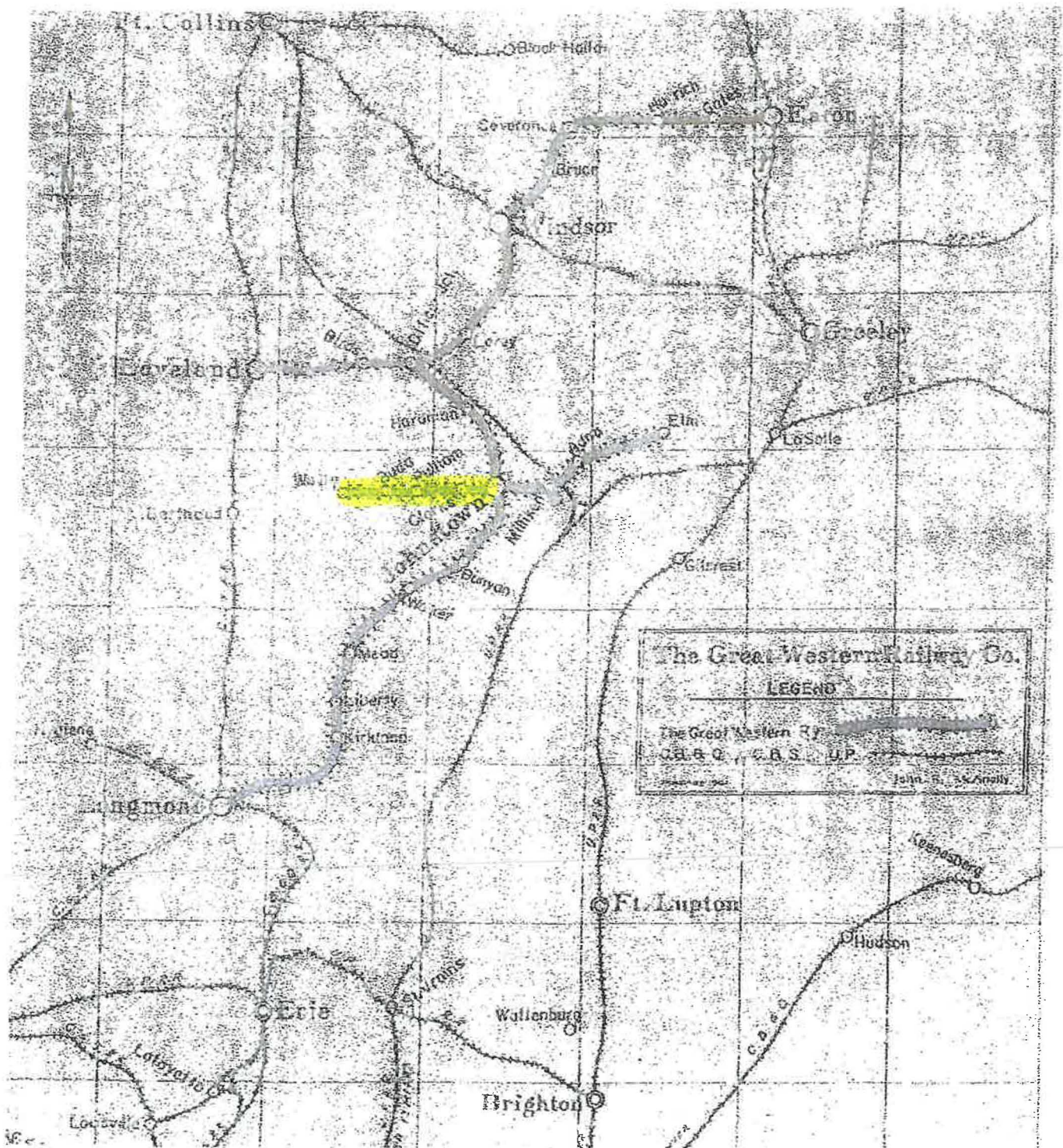
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elizabeth McCulley".

Elizabeth Gepford McCulley
Attorney for Landowners

+ 2100 Central | Suite 22
Kansas City, MO 64108
P 816.303.1500
F 816.527.8068

WWW.SWM.LEGAL





Karl Morell

From: Karl Morell
Sent: Saturday, February 05, 2022 9:25 AM
To: 'Williams, Jennifer M'
Subject: RE: Docket No. AB-857 (Sub-No. 3), Great Western Railway of Colorado, L.L.C. -- Abandonment Exemption - In Weld County, CO

Thank you for the response. The infrastructure will remain in place. The railroad is planning on railbanking the line as is. The red line on map is correct.

Karl

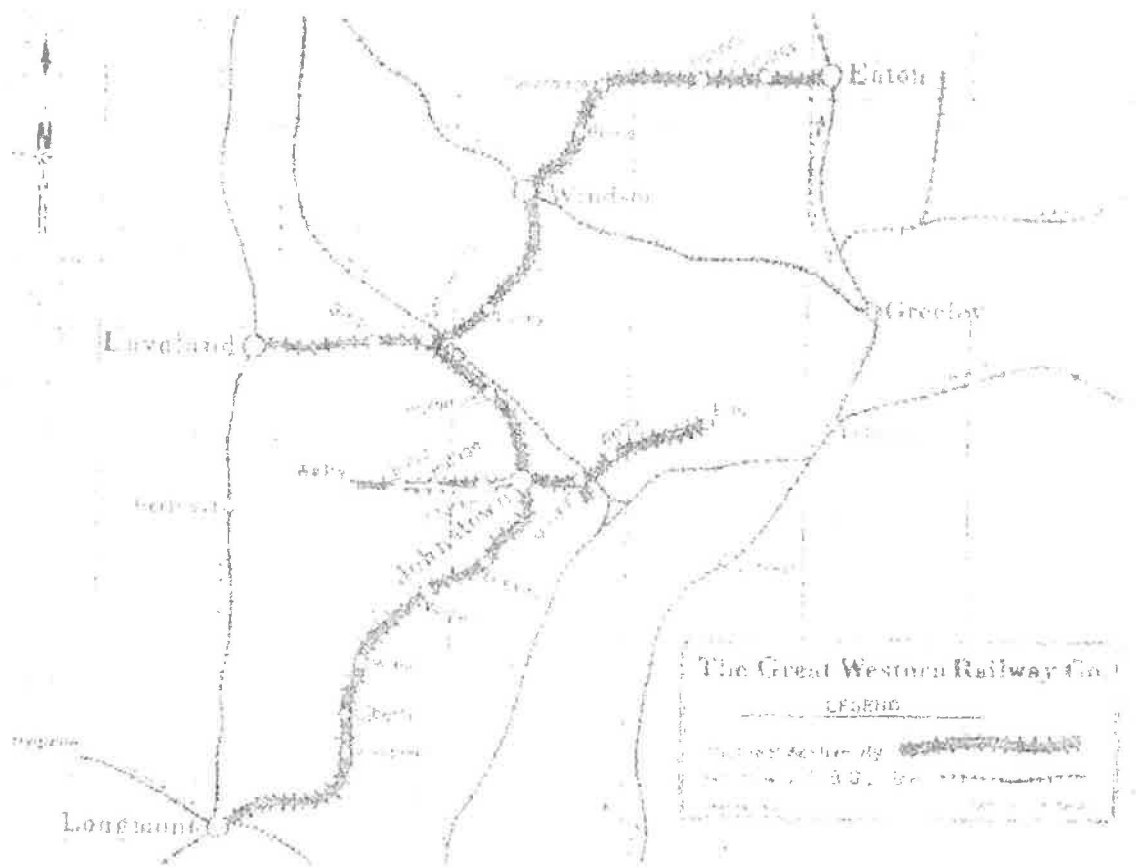
From: Williams, Jennifer M <jennifer_williams@fws.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2022 9:13 PM
To: Karl Morell <karlm@karlmorell.com>
Subject: Docket No. AB-857 (Sub-No. 3), Great Western Railway of Colorado, L.L.C. --Abandonment Exemption - In Weld County, CO

Hi Karl,

The project referenced in the subject line was assigned to me. Apologies for the delayed response. We are under mandatory telework and only have staff going into the office every 2-3 weeks to check for mail. In addition, we are moving toward 100% electronic project requests. Please submit all future requests to us via email at _____ to ensure a timely review and response.

I see that your meeting is rapidly approaching so I will try to get you a response quickly. We need to know what all is involved with abandoning these particular tracks. Will the infrastructure remain in place? If so, are there any hazards associated with leaving the material? If infrastructure will be removed, please describe the level of ground disturbance that will be involved and whether any construction will occur (for example, building a trail in the place of the railroad).

In the map that you provided, is it just the section I traced in red that will be abandoned?



Thank you,

Jen

Dr. Jen Williams ()
Fish and Wildlife Biologist
Colorado Ecological Services Field Office
134 Union Blvd
Lakewood CO 80228
303-236-4758

Karl Morell

From: Williams, Jennifer M <jennifer_williams@fws.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2022 12:42 PM
To: Karl Morell
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Docket No. AB-857 (Sub-No. 3), Great Western Railway of Colorado, L.L.C. --Abandonment Exemption - In Weld County, CO

Hi Karl,

Thank you for contacting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service). Because there is no construction or disturbance associated with this project proposal, the Service does not need to provide review or comment for it to move forward. Therefore, the Service will not provide additional response beyond this notification. We appreciate your efforts to ensure the conservation of threatened and endangered species.

Project Number: 2022-TA-0433

Kind regards,

Jen Williams

Dr. Jen Williams ()
Fish and Wildlife Biologist
Colorado Ecological Services Field Office
134 Union Blvd
Lakewood CO 80228
303-236-4758

From: Karl Morell <karlm@karlmorell.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 5, 2022 7:25 AM
To: Williams, Jennifer M <jennifer_williams@fws.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Docket No. AB-857 (Sub-No. 3), Great Western Railway of Colorado, L.L.C. --Abandonment Exemption - In Weld County, CO

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Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2022 9:13 PM

To: Karl Morell <karlm@karlmorell.com>

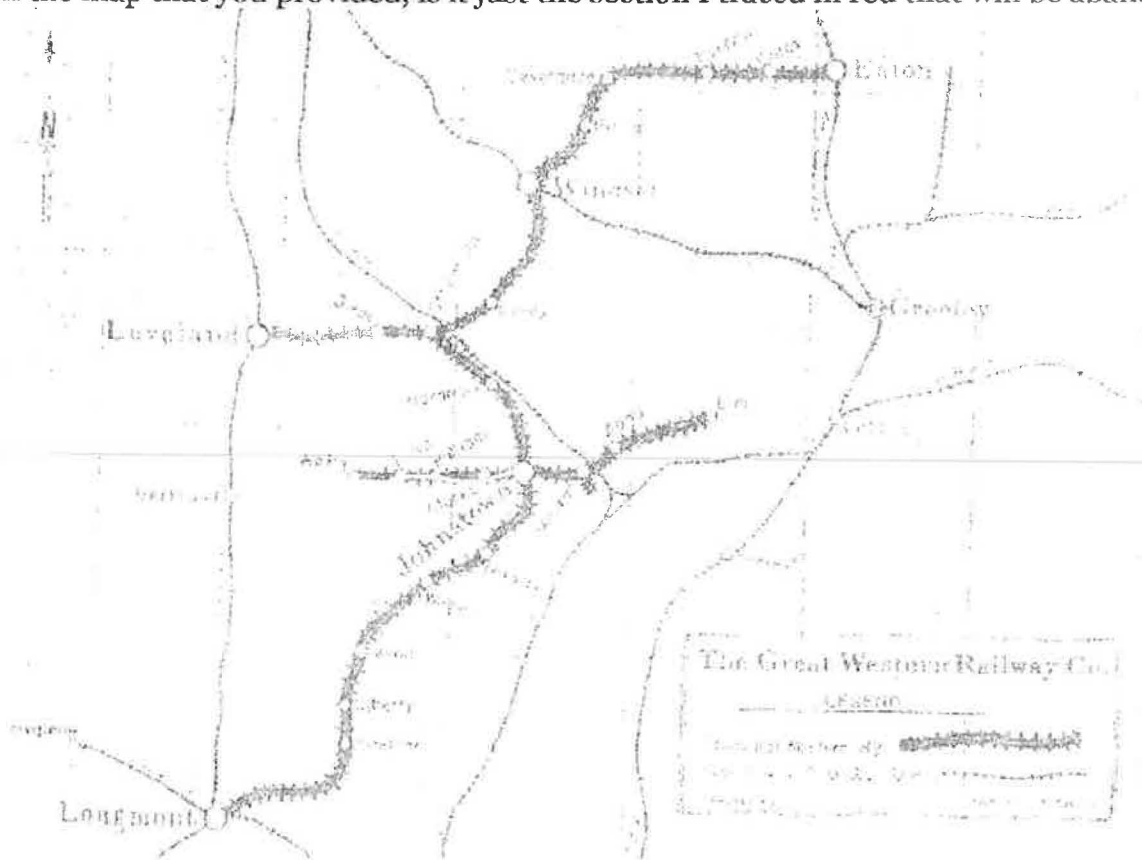
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Jen

Dr. Jen Williams ()
Fish and Wildlife Biologist
Colorado Ecological Services Field Office
134 Union Blvd
Lakewood CO 80228

September 13, 2022

Weld County Commissioners
P.O. Box 758
Greeley, CO 80632

RE: Docket No. AB-857 (Sub-No. 2), Landowners Adverse Abandonment in Weld County, CO.

Dear Sir/Madam:

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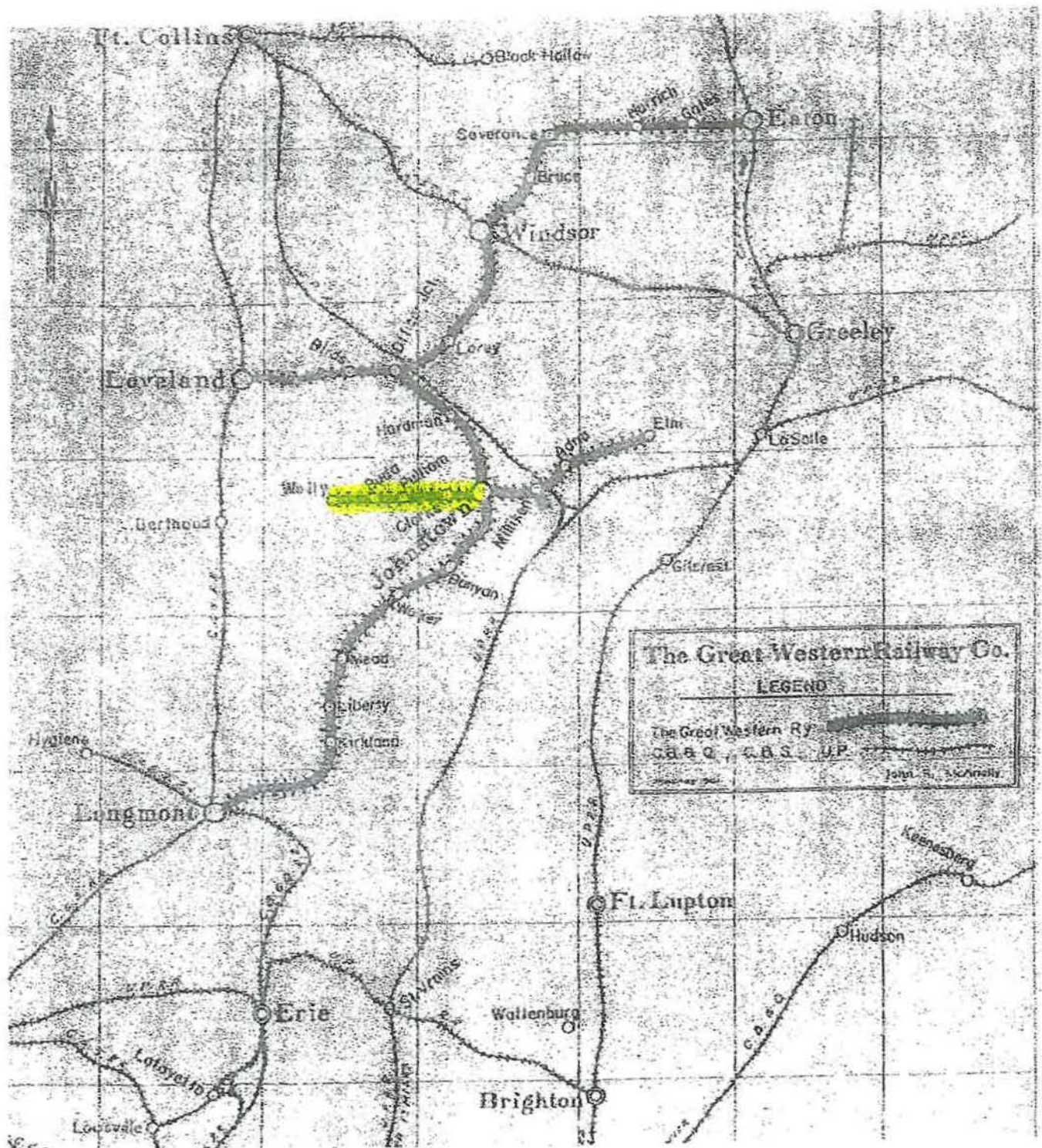
We would appreciate your review of the proposed abandonment and any comments you may wish to offer. We would also appreciate you providing us with a written response so that we can forward it to the STB.

Thank you for your time and assistance. If you have any questions, please call or email me at mcculley@swm.legal or (816) 585-7076 (cell).

Sincerely,


Elizabeth Gepford McCulley
Attorney for Landowners





September 13, 2022

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South
Denver, CO 80246

RE: Docket No. AB-857 (Sub-No. 2), Landowners Adverse Abandonment in Weld County, CO.

Dear Sir/Madam:

Landowners owning land abutting and underlying the railroad purposes easement held by Great Western Railway of Colorado, LLC ("GWRC"), plan on filing an Application for Adverse Abandonment of the Welty Line, located between milepost 0.0 at Johnstown, and milepost 6.2 at Welty, in Weld County Colorado. A map of the proposed abandonment is attached, with the 6.2 miles highlighted.

Pursuant to the STB's environmental regulations at 49 C.F.R., Part 1105, we are advising you of this proposed action so that you may assist us in identifying any potential effects on applicable water quality standards. We also see your assistance in determining whether the proposed abandonment is consistent with applicable Federal, State or local water quality standards. The Landowners do not believe any permits under Section 402 of the Clean Water Act will be required.

We would appreciate your review of the proposed abandonment and any comments you may wish to offer. We would also appreciate you providing us with a written response so that we can forward it to the STB.

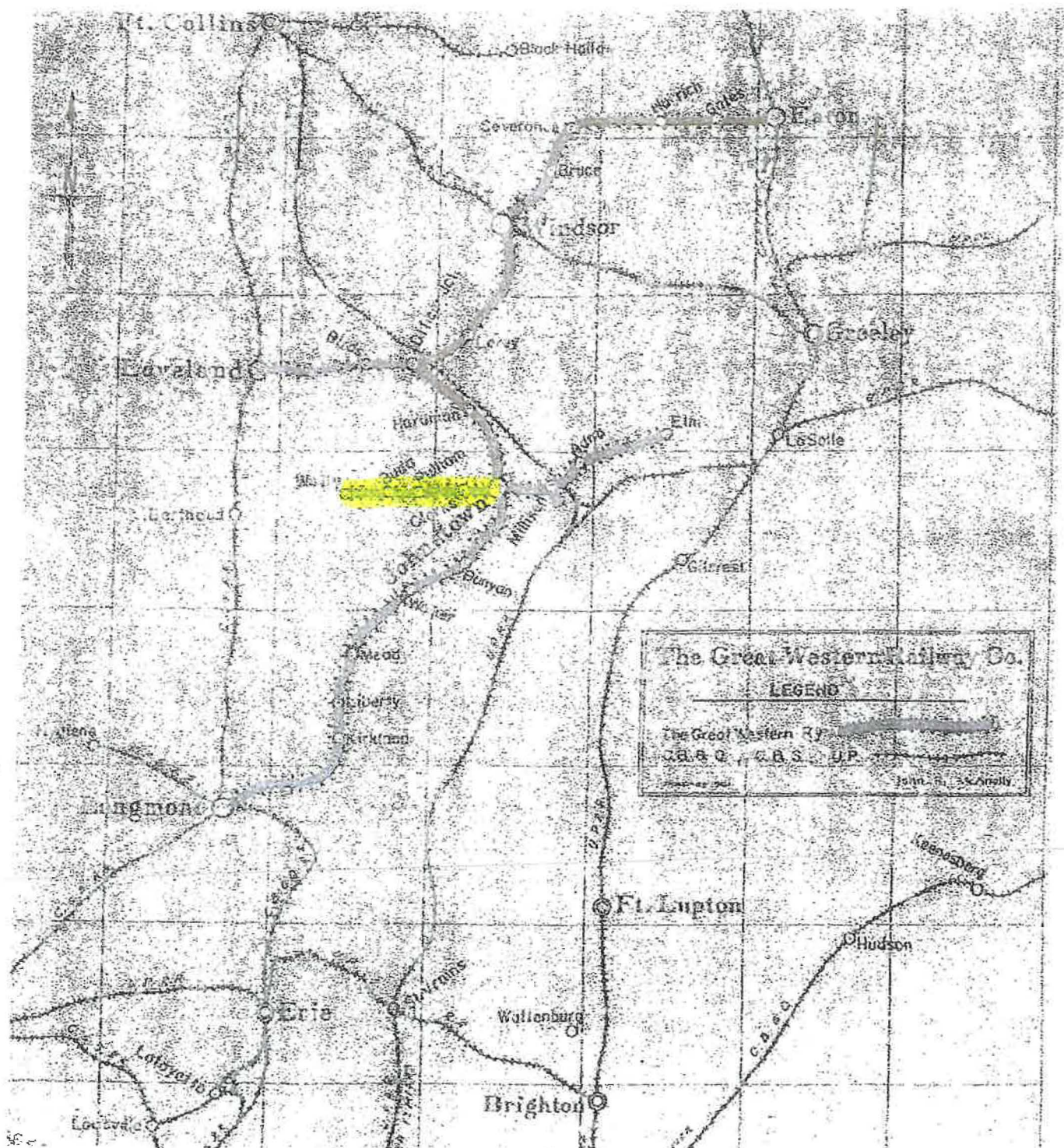
Thank you for your time and assistance. If you have any questions, please call or email me at mcculley@swm.legal or (816) 585-7076 (cell).

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Gepford McCulley
Attorney for Landowners







+ KC STL

mcculley@swm.legal

September 13, 2022

Matt LeCerf, Town Manager
Town of Johnstown
450 Parish Avenue
Johnstown, CO 80534

RE: Docket No. AB-857 (Sub-No. 2), Landowners Adverse Abandonment in Weld County, CO.

Dear Sir/Madam:

Landowners owning land abutting and underlying the railroad purposes easement held by Great Western Railway of Colorado, LLC ("GWRC"), plan on filing an Application for Adverse Abandonment of the Welty Line, located between milepost 0.0 at Johnstown, and milepost 6.2 at Welty, in Weld County Colorado. A map of the proposed abandonment is attached, with the 6.2 miles highlighted.

Pursuant to the STB's environmental regulations at 49 C.F.R., Part 1105, we are advising you of this proposed action so that you may assist us in identifying any potential effects on existing land use plans. We must determine whether the proposed abandonment is inconsistent with existing land use plans.

We would appreciate your review of the proposed abandonment and any comments you may wish to offer. We would also appreciate you providing us with a written response so that we can forward it to the STB.

Thank you for your time and assistance. If you have any questions, please call or email me at mcculley@swm.legal or (816) 585-7076 (cell).

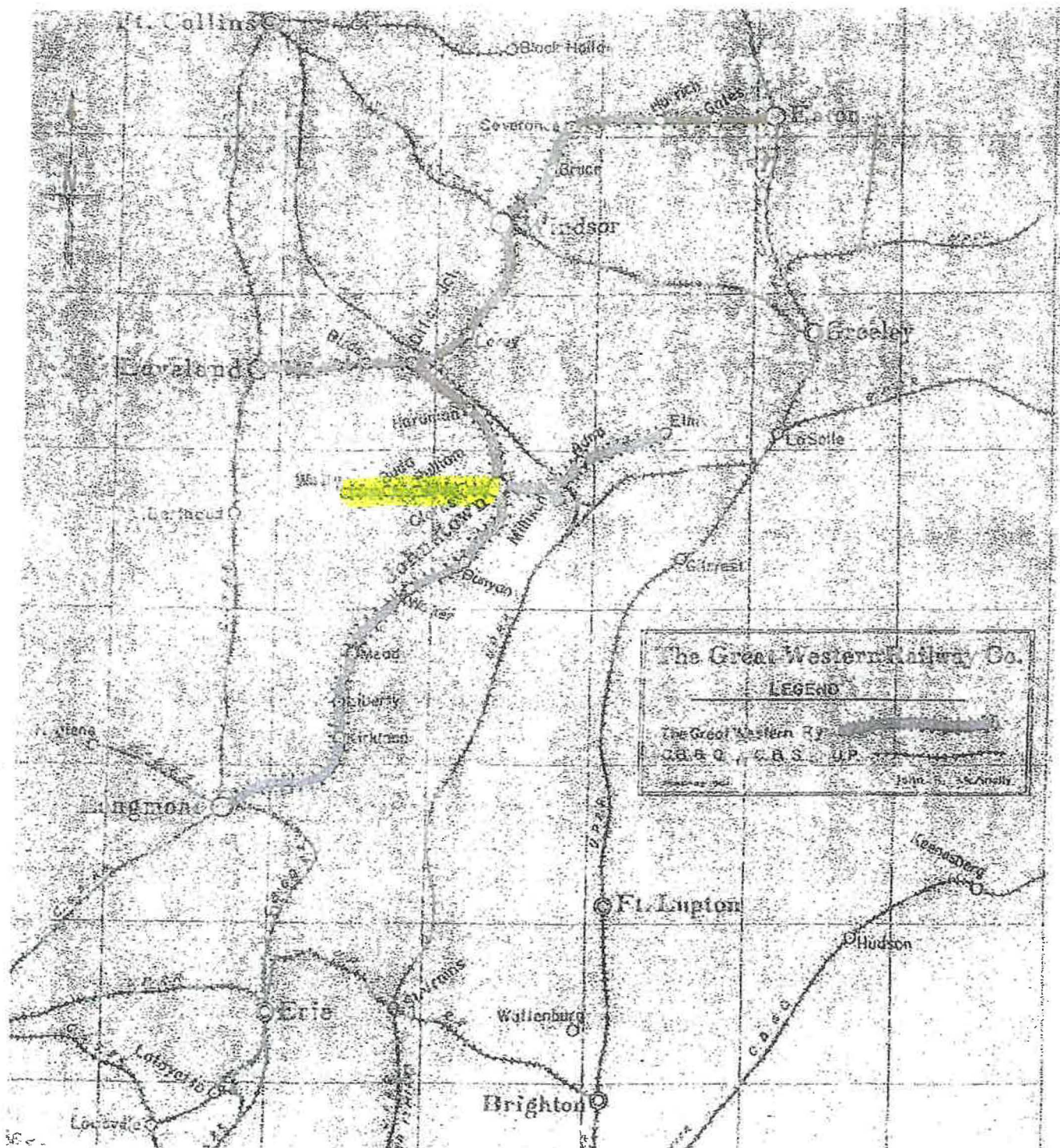
Sincerely,


Elizabeth Gepford McCulley
Attorney for Landowners

+ 2100 Central | Suite 22
Kansas City, MO 64108
P 816.303.1500
F 816.527.8068

WWW.SWM.LEGAL







+ KC STL

mcculley@swm.legal

September 13, 2022

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1595 Wynkoop Street
Denver, CO 80202-1129

RE: Docket No. AB-857 (Sub-No. 2), Landowners Adverse Abandonment in Weld County, CO.

Dear Sir/Madam:

Landowners owning land abutting and underlying the railroad purposes easement held by Great Western Railway of Colorado, LLC ("GWRC"), plan on filing an Application for Adverse Abandonment of the Welty Line, located between milepost 0.0 at Johnstown, and milepost 6.2 at Welty, in Weld County Colorado. A map of the proposed abandonment is attached, with the 6.2 miles highlighted.

Pursuant to the STB's environmental regulations at 49 C.F.R., Part 1105, we are advising you of this proposed action so that you may assist us in identifying any potential effects on applicable water quality standards. We also seek your assistance in determining whether the proposed abandonment is consistent with applicable Federal, State or local water quality standards. The Landowners do not believe any permits under Section 402 of the Clean Water Act will be required.

We would appreciate your review of the proposed abandonment and any comments you may wish to offer. We would also appreciate you providing us with a written response so that we can forward it to the STB. Your response to GWRC's Environmental Report is attached.

Thank you for your time and assistance. If you have any questions, please call or email me at mcculley@swm.legal or (816) 585-7076 (cell).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elizabeth McCulley".

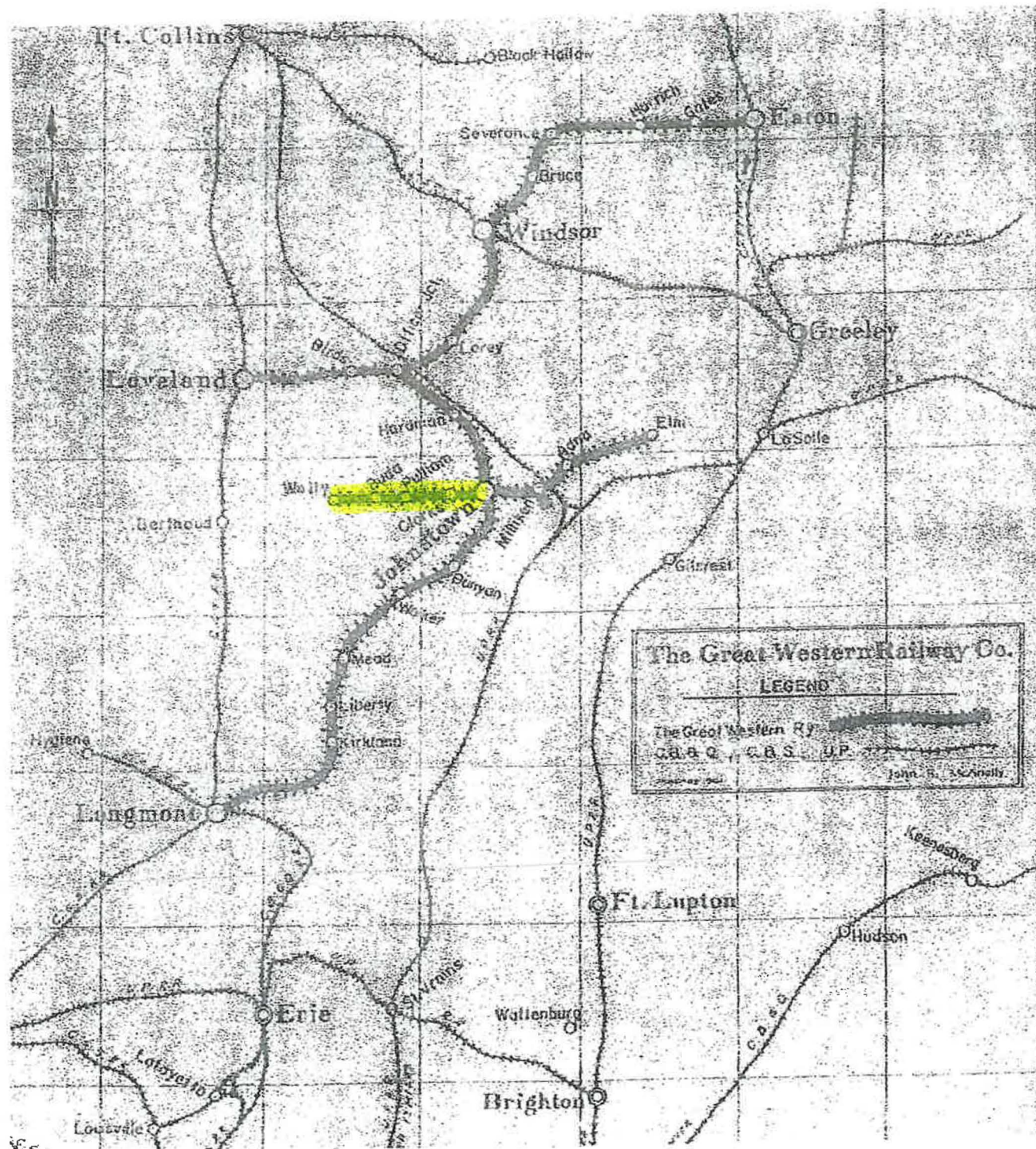
Elizabeth Gepford McCulley
Attorney for Landowners

+ 2100 Central | Suite 22
Kansas City, MO 64108
P 816.303.1500
F 816.527.8068

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Connect with Us





September 13, 2022

State Conservationist
USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service
Denver Federal Center
Building 56, Room 2400
P.O. Box 25426
Denver, CO 80225-0426

RE: Docket No. AB-857 (Sub-No. 2), Landowners Adverse Abandonment in Weld County, CO.

Dear Sir/Madam:

Landowners owning land abutting and underlying the railroad purposes easement held by Great Western Railway of Colorado, LLC ("GWRC"), plan on filing an Application for Adverse Abandonment of the Welty Line, located between milepost 0.0 at Johnstown, and milepost 6.2 at Welty, in Weld County Colorado. A map of the proposed abandonment is attached, with the 6.2 miles highlighted.

Pursuant to the STB's environmental regulations at 49 C.F.R., Part 1105, we are advising you of this proposed action so that you may assist us in identifying any potential effects on prime agricultural land.

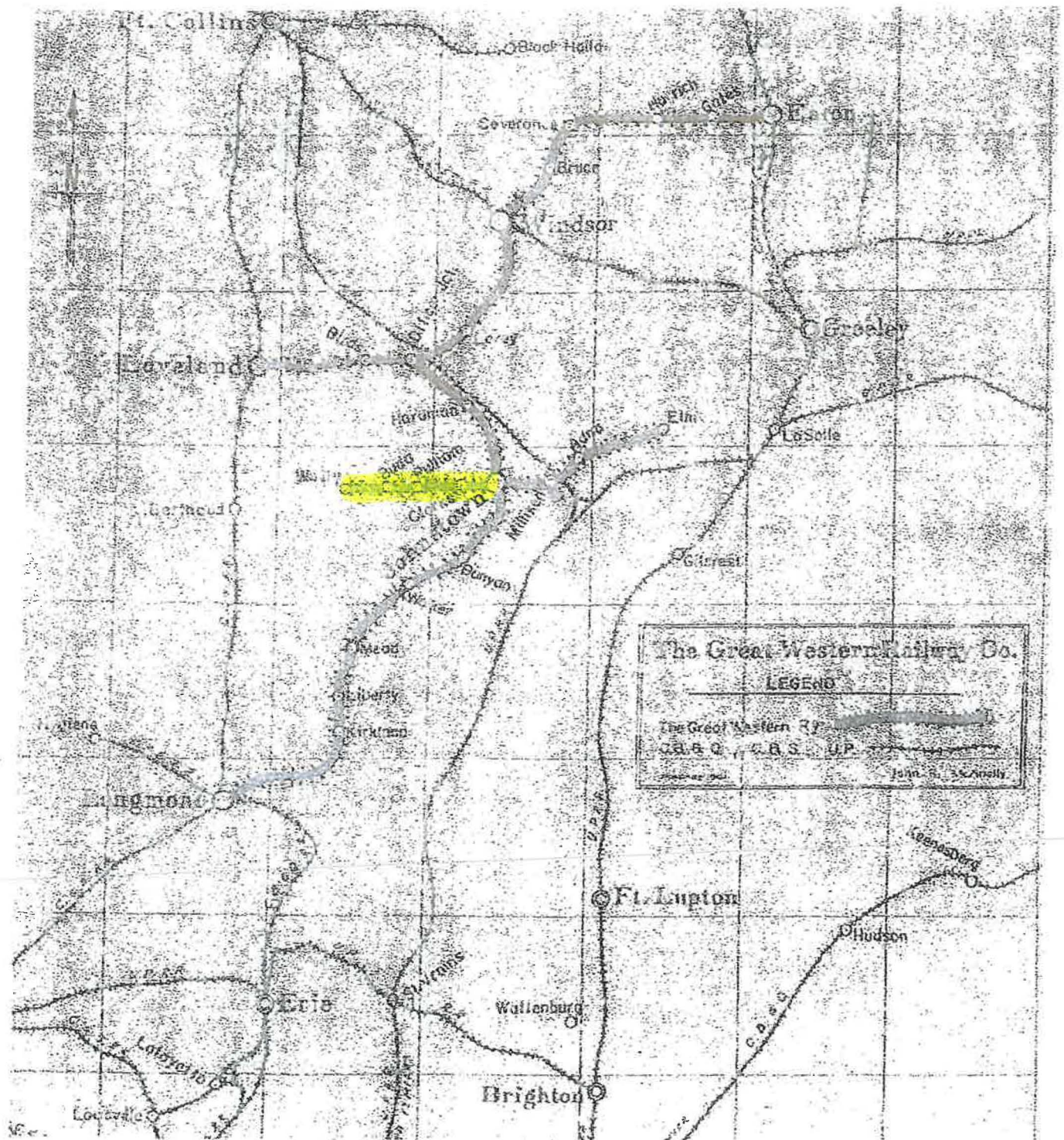
We would appreciate your review of the proposed abandonment and any comments you may wish to offer. We would also appreciate you providing us with a written response so that we can forward it to the STB.

Thank you for your time and assistance. If you have any questions, please call or email me at mcculley@swm.legal or (816) 585-7076 (cell).

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Gepford McCulley
Attorney for Landowners





September 13, 2022

U.S. Army Engineer, Omaha District
1616 Capitol Street, STE 9000
Omaha, NE 68102

RE: Docket No. AB-857 (Sub-No. 2), Landowners Adverse Abandonment in Weld County, CO.

Dear Sir/Madam:

Landowners owning land abutting and underlying the railroad purposes easement held by Great Western Railway of Colorado, LLC ("GWRC"), plan on filing an Application for Adverse Abandonment of the Welty Line, located between milepost 0.0 at Johnstown, and milepost 6.2 at Welty, in Weld County Colorado. A map of the proposed abandonment is attached, with the 6.2 miles highlighted.

Pursuant to the STB's environmental regulations at 49 C.F.R., Part 1105, we are advising you of this proposed action so that you may assist us in identifying any potential effects on designated wetlands or 100-year flood plains. The Landowners do not believe any permits under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act will be required.

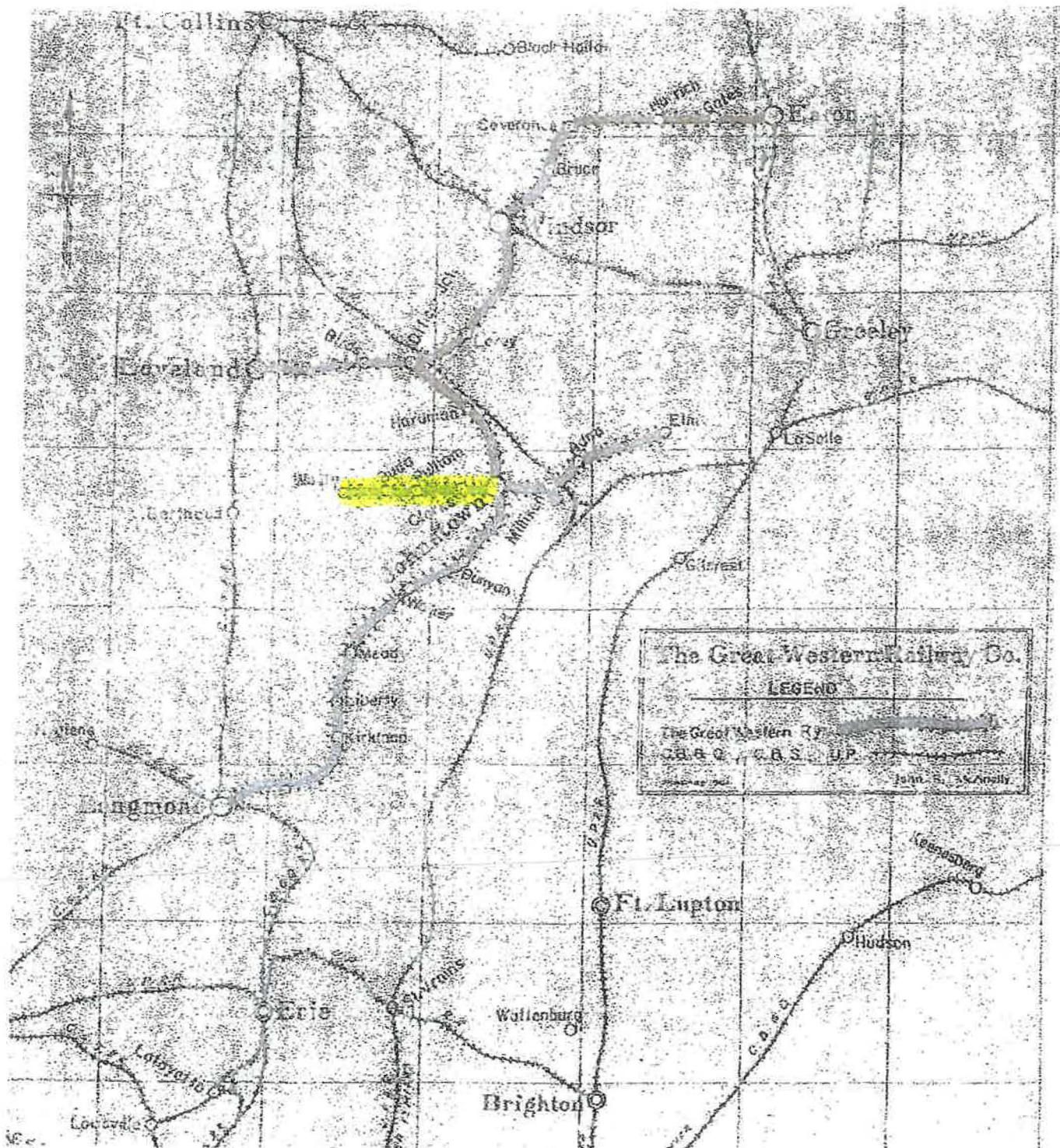
We would appreciate your review of the proposed abandonment and any comments you may wish to offer. We would also appreciate you providing us with a written response so that we can forward it to the STB.

Thank you for your time and assistance. If you have any questions, please call or email me at mcculley@swm.legal or (816) 585-7076 (cell).

Sincerely,


Elizabeth Gepford McCulley
Attorney for Landowners





September 13, 2022

National Park Service
RTCA Program
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

RE: Docket No. AB-857 (Sub-No. 2), Landowners Adverse Abandonment in Weld County, CO.

Dear Sir/Madam:

Landowners owning land abutting and underlying the railroad purposes easement held by Great Western Railway of Colorado, LLC ("GWRC"), plan on filing an Application for Adverse Abandonment of the Welty Line, located between milepost 0.0 at Johnstown, and milepost 6.2 at Welty, in Weld County Colorado. A map of the proposed abandonment is attached, with the 6.2 miles highlighted.

Pursuant to the STB's environmental regulations at 49 C.F.R., Part 1105, we are advising you of this proposed action so that you may assist us in identifying any potential effects on wildlife sanctuaries or refugees, National or State parks or forests.

We would appreciate your review of the proposed abandonment and any comments you may wish to offer. We would also appreciate you providing us with a written response so that we can forward it to the STB.

Thank you for your time and assistance. If you have any questions, please call or email me at mcculley@swm.legal or (816) 585-7076 (cell).

Sincerely,


Elizabeth Gepford McCulley
Attorney for Landowners



