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September 7, 2017

Cynthia T. Brown
Chief-Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423

Re: Finance Docket No. 35984, Ohio River Partners, LLC – Exemption for Acquisition and Operation of Rail Line – Hannibal Development, LLC in Monroe County, Ohio

Dear Ms. Brown:

This letter has reference to the Petition for Deferment of Rail Operations (“Petition”) filed in the above-captioned proceeding on September 1, 2017 by Ohio Terminal Railway Company (“OTRC”). In its Petition, OTRC requests that the Board “defer” ORPS’s authority to operate the Omal Line, on the grounds that ORPS “intends” to commence operations on September 15, 2017 even though the parties have not agreed on interchange and operating arrangements. On August 4, 2017, ORPS advised OTRC that it “plan[ned]” to initiate operations on September 15, 2017, and requested that OTRC meet to discuss such arrangements. However, to date, ORPS’s efforts to reach agreement with OTRC have not been successful.

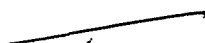
ORPS is mindful of the requirement, set forth in the Board’s April 1, 2016 Decision, that appropriate interchange and operating arrangements must be in place prior to the commencement of operations by ORPS. This is to advise the Board that ORPS will not commence operations until such arrangements are established. ORPS will reply to the Petition on or before September 21, 2017, as provided for by the Board’s regulations. In the interim, ORPS will continue to engage with OTRC in the hope of reaching agreement on safe and efficient interchange and

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operating arrangements for the Omal Line. If such arrangements cannot be agreed to by the parties, ORPS will request the Board's assistance in establishing the necessary arrangements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terence M. Hynes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the top of the first letter.

Terence M. Hynes

Counsel to Ohio River Partners, LLC

cc: William A. Mullins
Richard R. Wilson, Esq.