



Board of Commissioners

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County Administration Building
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www.co.cowlitz.wa.us

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
September 19, 2018
Part of
Public Record



September 11, 2018

COMMISSIONERS

Arne Mortensen
District 1

Dennis P. Weber
District 2

Joe Gardner
District 3

CLERK OF THE
BOARD
Tiffany Ostreim

Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: Patriot Woods Railroad, LLC, Abandonment in Cowlitz County, Washington [AB-1243X] and Columbia & Cowlitz Railway, LLC Discontinuance Exemption in Cowlitz County, Washington [AB-1244 (sub No. 1X)], and Columbia & Cowlitz Railway, LLC Abandonment Exemption in Cowlitz County Washington [AB-1244X]

Dear Secretary:

Cowlitz County requests an extension of 180 days to the deadline for negotiations with Patriot Woods Railroad and Columbia & Cowlitz Railroad, regarding the Notice of Interim Trail Use in the above captioned proceedings with respect to the approximately 28.5 mile portion of the Patriot Woods and Columbia & Cowlitz Railways. This request is made pursuant to the September 29, 2017 decision and notices, attached, by the Surface Transportation Board (STB) which allowed negotiations to establish a trail use for a period which will expire on March 29, 2018. Cowlitz is aware of the recent filing concerning Docket No. AB-1243.

Cowlitz County is in the process of completing an assessment of the rail lines and wishes to continue negotiations with Patriot Woods and Cowlitz & Columbia Railways in the proceedings for another 180 day period. The County respectfully requests an extension to March 22, 2019. In addition, the County respectfully requests a waiver of the Board's filing fees in accordance with 49 CFR 1002.2(e)(1).

Sincerely,
**Board of County Commissioners
of Cowlitz County, Washington**


Joe Gardner, Chairman

I certify that I have this day served copies of documents upon all parties of record in this proceeding by U.S. Mail.

/s/Tiffany Ostreim 9-19-18
Signature Date

FILING FEE WAIVED



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Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: Docket No. AB-1243, Patriot Woods Railroad, LLC, Abandonment Exemption in
Cowlitz County, Washington

CLERK OF THE
BOARD
Tiffany Ostreim

Dear Secretary:

In response to the Request to Vacate the Decision and Notice of Interim Trail Use filed by Patriot Woods Railroad, LLC, on August 27, 2018, that the Board maintain the previously issued Decision and Notice of Interim Trail Use. Cowlitz County believes that the original conditions still exist, including:

1. The corridor would make an excellent recreational trail and conversion of the property to trail use is in accordance with local plans. In addition, the corridor provides valuable open space and its preservation as a recreational trail is consistent with those purposes. The corridor and future trail provided alternative access to the County-owned Headquarters Landfill and proposed community forest. And,
2. The removal or destruction of potential trail-related structures such as bridges, trestles, culverts and tunnels should be halted until full completion of the Section 106 process, at a minimum. These structures have considerable value for recreational trail purposes as well as significant potential historical value.

Further, Cowlitz County has invested significant resources into the analysis and evaluation of the corridor as a whole. The materials provided in support of the original filings consider the corridor in totality; the County believes that materials more accurately reflecting the position of Patriot Woods and the Cowlitz & Columbia, as two distinct corridors should be provided.

Cowlitz County has not had the opportunity to fully negotiate with Patriot Woods and is still in the process of evaluating existing conditions.

Cowlitz County requests that the Board maintain the previously issued Decision and Notice of Interim Trail Use. If the Board chooses to vacate the NITU, Cowlitz County asks that Cowlitz & Columbia LLC be required to comply with all conditions imposed in the September 29, 2017 decision.

Sincerely,
**Board of County Commissioners
of Cowlitz County, Washington**


Joe Gardner, Chairman