



**Re: Docket No. AB 1097X**   
**Joshua Wayland** to: Lisa Hallo

10/18/2012 03:55 PM

Hi Lisa,

I've reviewed the comments you submitted with regard to the proposed abandonment in Pickens County, SC (Docket No. AB 1097X). I wanted to just quickly follow up and let you know that the Surface Transportation Board has very limited authority when it comes to the conversion of a rail to a trail. For all intents and purposes, the trails use/railbanking process is a voluntary agreement between the railroad and the entity requesting the trail use (in this case the Cities of Easley and Pickens). In most cases, if there is an agreement reached between these parties, STB does not intervene.

Also, because the conversion to a trail does not constitute a 'major Federal action' under the National Environmental Policy Act, we usually limit our environmental review process to abandonment and salvage activity, and do not assess the impact of the trail itself. That being said, I do appreciate the opportunity to read your comments and will make sure they are noted in the Final Environmental Assessment. Please let me know if you have any questions or need any additional information from me.

Best regards,  
 Josh Wayland

Office of Environmental Analysis  
 Surface Transportation Board  
[\(202\)-245-0330](tel:(202)245-0330)

Lisa Hallo

Thank you Josh! I just e-filed the comments and...

10/16/2012 02:15:44 PM

From: Lisa Hallo <lhallo@upstateforever.org>  
 To: Joshua.Wayland@stb.dot.gov  
 Date: 10/16/2012 02:15 PM  
 Subject: Re: Docket No. AB 1097X

Thank you Josh! I just e-filed the comments and entered to the attention of Ken Blodgett. I also sent express mail (10 copies) to Cynthia Brown in the Office of Proceedings. Thank you!

Lisa

On Tue, Oct 16, 2012 at 10:27 AM, <[Joshua.Wayland@stb.dot.gov](mailto:Joshua.Wayland@stb.dot.gov)> wrote:

Hi Lisa,

I'm glad to hear you are filing comments on this Environmental Assessment. In answer to your question, you can either leave the field blank or direct it to the attention of Ken Blodgett, the supervising Environmental Protection Specialist for this case. I will make sure that your comments are noted and addressed in the Final EA.

Best,

Josh Wayland

Office of Environmental Analysis  
Surface Transportation Board  
[\(202\)-245-0330](tel:(202)245-0330)

From: Lisa Hallo <[lhhallo@upstateforever.org](mailto:lhhallo@upstateforever.org)>  
To: [waylandj@stb.dot.gov](mailto:waylandj@stb.dot.gov)  
Date: 10/16/2012 09:57 AM  
Subject: Docket No. AB 1097X

Hello Mr. Wayland,

I am writing in reference to Docket No. AB 1097X. I would like to submit comments in reference to this case and understand that they are due tomorrow and can be e-filed. Via the e-file form on the STB website, I found that I can direct comments to someone's attention, however, your name was not available in the drop down list. Is there someone else I should direct the comments to or simply leave that field blank?

Thank you,  
Lisa

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Lisa Scott Hallo | Director of Sustainable Communities

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