



EO-2805

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423
Office of Environmental Analysis

June 21, 2016

Jennifer Batinich
248 6th Street
Jersey City, NJ 07302

Dear Ms. Batinich,

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the proposed abandonment of the Harsimus Branch rail line in Jersey City.

In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Surface Transportation Board's Office of Environmental Analysis is currently conducting a review of the potential effects of the proposed abandonment on historic properties. No ruling or decision has been made regarding the effects of abandonment.

Importantly, we are currently leading a consultation process in which you can participate by reviewing information and the results of our analysis and offering comments. In the near future, we will make available to consulting parties and the public a report that identifies historic properties in and adjacent to the project area (the Harsimus Branch right-of-way) and that assesses the effects of the proposed abandonment on these properties. Additionally, we anticipate a public meeting where information will be shared and the public can comment.

Please see our website for more information on the Harsimus Branch abandonment and the Section 106 process. Go to http://www.stb.dot.gov/stb/environment/key_cases and click on "Conrail Harsimus Branch".

If you have questions or would like additional information regarding the Section 106 process, the upcoming report distribution or public meeting, please contact Cathy Nadals at (202) 245-0293 or Catherine.Nadals@stb.dot.com.

Sincerely,

Jeff Irwin
Environmental
Protection Specialist
Office of Environmental Analysis