



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Section of Environmental Analysis

February 4, 2010

Re: Montreal, Maine & Atlantic Railway Ltd., Proposed Rail Abandonment in
Penobscot and Aroostook Counties, Maine, Preliminary Draft Environmental Assessment

Dear Reviewer:

This is to inform you that on or about February 24, 2010, the Montreal, Maine & Atlantic Railway Ltd. (MMA) intends to file an application with the Surface Transportation Board (STB or the Board) pursuant to 49 CFR 1152.50 seeking authority to abandon and discontinue service on approximately 233 miles of main line and branch line tracks in Penobscot and Aroostook Counties, Maine. The Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) will review and investigate the record in this proceeding pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. § 4321, *et seq.* and implementing regulations in 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1105 *et seq.* and other applicable laws.

The enclosed Preliminary Draft Environmental Assessment (PDEA) has been prepared to evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed abandonment and discontinuance of operations on the MMA. This PDEA is being served on a number of appropriate Federal, state, regional and local agencies, Native American tribes, and other interested parties as required by the Board's environmental rules at 49 CFR 1105.7(b). A Draft EA will also be made available for review and comment after incorporating additional information or review comments that are received on this PDEA.

SEA appreciates the efforts of all parties to review and comment on the MMA rail abandonment environmental document. If you have questions, pertinent information or wish to comment on the PDEA, please provide your response as soon as possible to Diana Wood of my staff at (202) 245-0302; fax (202) 245-0454; and E-mail at diana.wood@stb.dot.gov. Thank you for your participation.

Sincerely

Victoria Rutson
Chief
Section of Environmental Analysis

Enclosure

State Agencies

Maine State Planning Office
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Maine Historic Preservation Commission
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State of Maine Department of Conservation
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Maine Department of Transportation
Nathan Moulton
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Federal Agencies

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New England District
675 Western Ave., #3
Manchester, MA 04351
Ph: 207 623-8124
Contact: Shawn Mahaney
<http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/>

U.S. National Geodetic Survey
NGS Information Services, NOAA, N/NGS12
National Geodetic Survey SSMC-3, #9202
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282
301 713-3242, ext 103
Contact: Simon Monroe
<http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/>

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
967 Illinois Avenue, Suite 3
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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Northeast Region
Maine Field Office – Ecological Services
17 Godfrey Drive, Suite 2
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Ira Leighton, Acting Regional Administrator, EPA New England

U.S. National Park Service Northeast Region
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United States Department of Commerce
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National Marine Fisheries Service, Habitat Conservation
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List of Federally-Recognized Tribal Nations in Maine

Aroostook Band of Micmacs Indians
<http://www.micmac-nsn.gov/>
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207.764.1972
Victoria Higgins, Tribal Chief
vhiggins@micmac-nsn.gov

Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians
<http://www.maliseets.com/index.htm>
88 Bell Road
Littleton, ME
207.532.4273
Brenda Commander, Tribal Chief

Passamaquoddy Tribe (Indian Township)
P.O. Box 301
Tribal Government
Princeton, ME 04668
<http://www.passamaquoddy.com/>
Ph: 207.796.2301
Chief William Nicholas

Passamaquoddy Tribe (Pleasant Point)
(same address as above)

Penobscot Tribe
<http://www.penobscotnation.org/>
Penobscot Indian Nation
Tribal Administration
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County Agencies

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County Administrator Bill Collins

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