



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

July 3, 2012

Edward L. Bell
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125

Re: STB Docket No. AB-1098X and AB 355 (Sub-No. 41X) – Pan Am Southern, LLC –
Abandonment Exemption – In Worcester County, MA; MHC # RC 52321

Dear Mr. Bell:

On June 19, 2012, the Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) received a letter from your office regarding the above referenced abandonment proceeding. OEA is the office within the Surface Transportation Board (Board) responsible for conducting the environmental review process pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), including Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (16 U.S.C. § 470f).

OEA has made a finding of “no historic properties affected” (36 C.F.R. § 800.4(d)(1)) in the above referenced proceeding, which consists of the proposed abandonment of a 0.31-mile rail line located in Gardner, Massachusetts. OEA’s finding is based on research conducted by the applicant, as well as the opinion of your office signifying that no historic properties listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places would be affected by the proposed action. OEA has included the Gardner Historical Commission in the service list for this proceeding so that it may receive a copy of the EA for review and comment, and will include any comments thereof in the Final EA. If you have any questions or need additional information to support our finding, please feel free to contact me at 202-245-0302.

Sincerely yours,

Diana F. Wood

Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosure



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

June 5, 2012

Catherine Glidden
Environmental Protection Specialist
Office of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

RE: Heywood Branch Railroad Abandonment, Gardner, MA.
STB Docket Nos.: AB 32 (Sub No. 105X) and AB 1098X and AB 355 (Sub 41X).
MHC #RC.52321.

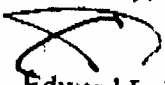
Dear Ms. Glidden:

The Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC), office of the State Historic Preservation Officer, received additional information concerning the proposed undertakings referenced above. The information indicates that the Gardner Historical Commission did not comment on the project information provided to them.

The MHC recommends that the Surface Transportation Board make a finding of "no historic properties affected" (36 CFR 800.4(d)(1)) for these federal undertakings.

These comments are offered to assist in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended (36 CFR 800).

Sincerely,


Edward L. Bell
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Massachusetts Historical Commission

cc: Robert B. Burns, PanAm Railways and Boston & Maine Corporation