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SERVICE DATE - JANUARY 13, 1998

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Docket No. AB-32 (Sub-No. 83)

BOSTON AND MAINE CORPORATION--ABANDONMENT--IN HARTFORD AND NEW
HAVEN COUNTIES, CT

STB Docket No. AB-355 (Sub-No. 23)

SPRINGFIELD TERMINAL RAILWAY COMPANY--DISCONTINUANCE OF SERVICE--IN
HARTFORD AND NEW HAVEN COUNTIES, CT

Decided: January 12, 1998

On December 29, 1997, the Boston and Maine Corporation (B&M) and Springfield Terminal Railway Company (ST) filed an application under 49 U.S.C. 10903 for permission for B&M to abandon and ST to discontinue service on a line of railroad known as the Canal Branch extending from milepost 14.50 in Cheshire, CT, to milepost 24.00 in Southington, CT, a distance of 9.50 miles, in Hartford and New Haven Counties, CT. On January 8, 1998, Dalton Enterprises, Inc. (Dalton), which intends to protest the proposed abandonment and discontinuance, filed a request for an oral hearing.

Requests for oral hearing must set out in full the reasons why the matter cannot be resolved through submission of written statements. See 49 CFR 1112.10(a). In addition, under the Board's abandonment rules, if the Board decides to hold an oral hearing, it must be for the primary purpose of cross examination of witnesses filing verified statements in the proceeding. See 49 CFR 1152.25(d)(6)(i). Dalton did not state any reasons for its request and there is no indication that cross examination of witnesses will be necessary. Therefore, the request for oral hearing will be denied.

This action will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

It is ordered:

1. The request for oral hearing is denied.
2. This decision is effective on its service date.

STB Docket No. AB-32 (Sub-No. 83), et al.

By the Board, David M. Konschnik, Director, Office of Proceedings.

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary