



GRANTED

DECISION ID NO.: 45696

DECIDED DATE: 2/27/17

SERVICE DATE: 2/27/2017

APPROVED: [Signature]

Director

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February 14, 2017

Ms. Cynthia T. Brown
Chief of the Section of Administration, Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D. C. 20423

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
February 14, 2017
Part of
Public Record

RE: Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 691X), *CSX Transportation, Inc.-
Abandonment Exemption-in Worcester County, MA*

Dear Ms. Brown:

By Notice of Exemption served on November 20, 2008, in the above-entitled proceeding, the Surface Transportation Board (the "Board") provided that the abandonment of the CSX Transportation, Inc. ("CSXT") 4.2-mile line of railroad between milepost QBU 0.0 (Fitchburg) and milepost QBU 4.2 (Leominster), in Worcester County, MA (the "Line") would become effective on December 20, 2008, and that until November 20, 2009 CSXT could effect abandonment. By decision served on November 19, 2009, the Board granted CSXT an extension of the consummation date until November 20, 2010.

On November 18, 2010, the Georgetown and High Line Railway Company, LLC ("GHLR") filed a request for a Notice of Interim Trail Use and Abandonment ("NITU") and a one year period for negotiation. CSXT agreed to the request. On December 27, 2010, the Board served a NITU authorizing negotiations between GHLR and CSXT for a one year period ending December 27, 2011. In a decision served on December 13, 2011, the Board extended the NITU negotiating period until December 27, 2012. In a decision served on February 13, 2013, the Board extended the NITU negotiating period until December 27, 2013. In a decision served on December 27, 2013, the Board extended the NITU negotiating period until December 27, 2014. In a decision served on January 9, 2015, the Board extended the NITU negotiating period until December 27, 2015. In a decision served on February 5, 2016, the Board extended the NITU negotiating period under December 27, 2016.

GHLR and CSXT have negotiated during the period, but even though they have made progress, they have not reached a final agreement. CSXT has not yet consummated abandonment of the Line. As provided in 49 CFR 1152.29(e)(2), the extension of the trail negotiation period until December 27, 2016, created a regulatory barrier to consummation of the abandonment and CSXT has an additional 60 days after the expiration of negotiating period to consummate the abandonment.

Ms. Cynthia T. Brown
February 14, 2017
Page 2

GHLR respectfully requests that the Board grant a one year extension of the negotiation period until December 27, 2017.

GHLR is efilng this request for an extension of the negotiating period. The filing fee of \$500 has been paid.

Thank you for your assistance. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely yours,



Melanie B. Yasbin
Attorney for Georgetown and High Line
Railway Company, LLC

cc: Steve Armbrust - CSXT