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CITY OF PITTSFIELD

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES, CITY HALL, 70 ALLEN STREET, PITTSFIELD, MA 01201 413-499-9330

August 18, 2014

Ryan Grennan
City of Pittsfield
70 Allen St, Room B03
Pittsfield, MA 01201
(413) 499-9327

John D. Heffner
Strasburger & Price, LLP
1025 Connecticut Ave, NW Suite 717
Washington, DC 20036

RE: Docket No. AB-773X
Housatonic Railroad Company, Inc.
Discontinuance of Service Exemption

Docket No. AB-1121X
Coltsville Terminal Company, Inc.
Abandonment Exemption

Dear Mr. Heffner

This letter is in response to your request for assistance in completing the Environmental and Historic Report ("EHR"). The responses for items 2 and 3(i) are as follows:

(2)

We agree that the anticipated effect of the proposed action will be no effect on the regional and local transportation system and patterns and will result in no diversion of traffic to other transportation modes or systems. There has been no rail traffic on the line for more than five years.

(3(i))

The proposed action is consistent with the 2009 City of Pittsfield Master Plan and the 2014 Sustainable Berkshires Master Plan prepared by Berkshire Regional Planning Commission. Both plans encourage the further development of the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail to provide better pedestrian and

bicycle connections for to meet transportation and recreational needs. The City's 2009 Master Plans specifically states that the City should work to "extend the Ashuwillticook Trail from Lanesborough through Pittsfield with the potential for connection to Lenox." It lists this project as a high priority. The Sustainable Berkshires Master Plan specifically states that the local, regional and state leaders "should work aggressively to expand bike/pedestrian trails" and that the extension of the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail is a "region-wide priority".

If you have any follow up questions about our response to these items please contact me at the address and phone number at the top of this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ryan Grennan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ryan Grennan
GIS Coordinator
City of Pittsfield