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State of New Jersey

JON S. CORZINE
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Environmental Regulation
Office of Permit Coordination and Environmental Review
401 East State Street
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MARK N. MAURIELLO
Acting Commissioner

April 9, 2009

Mr. John K. Enright
Associate General Counsel
Conrail
1717 Arch Street, 32nd Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103

RE: Harsimus Branch, Jersey City, Hudson County

**Docket No. AB 167 (Sub-No. 1189X)
Consolidated Rail Corporation – Abandonment
Exemption in Hudson County, New Jersey**

**Docket No. AB 55 (Sub-No. 686X)
CSX Transportation, Inc. – Discontinuance
Exemption in Hudson County, New Jersey**

**Docket No. AB 290 (Sub-No. 306X)
Norfolk Southern Railroad - Discontinuance
Exemption in Hudson County, New Jersey**

Dear Mr. Enright:

The Office of Permit Coordination and Environmental Review of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has completed its review of your January 26, 2009 letter regarding the Conrail railroad lines known as the Harsimus Branch in Jersey City, Hudson County, New Jersey. Conrail is proposing to abandon portions of this line. Your letter was in regard to concerns regarding potential chromium contamination of the right-of-ways.

The NJDEP's Site Remediation Program's review of the limited information contained in your letter has concluded that it appears Conrail is not responsible for chromium contaminated sites in the area, and the fact that the contamination is present should not have any bearing on the abandonment

process. Please contact Edward Putnam of the Site Remediation Program at 609-984-3074, if you have any additional questions.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the proposed abandonment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth C. Koschek".

Kenneth C. Koschek
Supervising Environmental Specialist
Office of Permit Coordination
and Environmental Review

C: Kenneth Blodgett, STB
Edward Putnam, NJDEP
Bruce Venner, NJDEP
Charles Scott, NJDEP