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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
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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 a portions of these lines. Your letter asked if there are any coastal zone areas in the vicinity of the proposal, and what effect would the proposal have on these zones.

The NJDEP's Office of Coastal Management's review of your letter and the recently released Environmental Assessment (EA) has concluded that the areas proposed for abandonment and discontinuance are located outside of the

coastal zone. In addition, the proposed abandonment and discontinuance do not have any reasonably foreseeable effects on the uses or resources of the coastal zone of New Jersey.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the proposed abandonment.

Sincerely,



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

C: Kenneth Blodgett, STB
Ruth Ehinger, NJDEP
Charlie Welch, NJDEP
Charles Scott, NJDEP