



Robert Bentley
Governor

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

1409 Coliseum Boulevard, Montgomery, Alabama 36110



John R. Cooper
Transportation Director

February 20, 2013

Office of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

RE: Alabama Railroad Co. – Abandonment Exemption - In Monroe County, AL,
STB Docket No. AB-463 (Sub-No. IX)

Dear Sir or Madam:

Reference is made to the letter dated February 8, 2013 and other attached correspondence from Robert A. Wimbish, Counsel for Alabama Railroad Co. ("ALAB") regarding the Abandonment Exemption for the Line in Monroe County, Alabama.

The letter from Mr. Wimbish requests that the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) submit written comments to the Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA), Surface Transportation Board regarding this abandonment within 3 weeks.

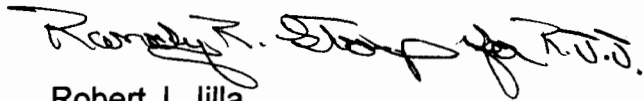
The consolidated Environmental and Historic Report ("E&HR") submitted with the above referenced letter includes erroneous information. Specifically, the Environmental Report, Section (1) Proposed Action And Alternatives, 1st Paragraph on page # 2 indicates that "ALAB does not intend as part of the salvage and/or re-deployment of rail and track material to disturb the sub-grade or sub-grade structures, and it will not engage in any excavation or other soil/ground disturbance activities. Abandonment and resultant salvage of the Line will eliminate 12 at-grade rail-highway crossings - 5 private crossings, and 7 public crossings."

The ALDOT records conflict with the number of public crossings indicated in the E&HR report. Specifically, ALDOT records indicate that 9 public crossings (see attached listing) will be involved. The ALDOT also objects to the above referenced statement and expects ALAB to remove their tracks, crossing materials and signals located within the public right of way and resurface the highway crossings to provide a safe and smooth roadway surface. Otherwise, ALAB shifts the burden of costs for the track/material removal and roadway resurfacing to the taxpayers of Alabama.

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Please consider these comments in your review of the E&HR information and the Notice of Exemption proposed by ALAB regarding this abandonment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert J. Jilla", followed by a stylized flourish and the initials "R.J.J.".

Robert J. Jilla
Multimodal Transportation Engineer

RJJ/RRS/cwc

Attachment

cc: Mr. Jim Ippolito, ALDOT Legal Bureau
Mr. Mitch Alton, ALDOT Legal Bureau
File

2/15/2013

**Alabama Railroad Co. -- Abandonment Exemption
In Monroe County, Alabama**

STB Docket No. AB-463 (Sub-No. 1X)

NO.	ALDOT MAP NO.	DOT #	ROAD	MP	REASON	TYPE	POSITION	RR	PROTECTION
1	MONROE CO 65	346976E	NETTLES ROAD	R655.27	ABANDONED	PUBLIC	AT GRADE	ALAB	CROSSBUCKS
2	MONROE CO 66	346977L	STATE ROUTE 21	R655.77	ABANDONED	PUBLIC	RR UNDER	ALAB	
3	MONROE CO 68	346979A	TUNNEL HILL ROAD	R657.20	ABANDONED	PRIVATE	RR UNDER	ALAB	
4	MONROE CO 69	346980U	FALKENBERRY RD	R657.67	ABANDONED	PUBLIC	AT GRADE	ALAB	NONE
5	MONROE CO 70	346981B	PRIVATE ROAD	R658.25	ABANDONED	PRIVATE	AT GRADE	ALAB	
6	MONROE CO 95	877331L	SCOTCH PLYWOOD RD	R659.90	ABANDONED	PRIVATE	AT GRADE	ALAB	
7	MONROE CO 73	346984W	BLACK'S LOOP	R660.68	ABANDONED	PUBLIC	AT GRADE	ALAB	CROSSBUCKS
8	MONROE CO 74	346985D	MACADOO ROAD	R660.89	ABANDONED	PUBLIC	AT GRADE	ALAB	CROSSBUCKS
9	MONROE CO 75	346986K	MAIN STREET	R661.20	ABANDONED	PUBLIC	AT GRADE	ALAB	CROSSBUCKS
10	BEATRICE 4	346987S	OFF MAIN STREET	R661.78	ABANDONED	PUBLIC	AT GRADE	ALAB	CROSSBUCKS
11	BEATRICE 1	346988Y	BRYAN STREET	R662.18	ABANDONED	PUBLIC	AT GRADE	ALAB	CROSSBUCKS
12	BEATRICE 2	346989F	WHEELER STREET	R662.39	ABANDONED	PUBLIC	AT GRADE	ALAB	CROSSBUCKS