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PRAIRIE HILLS

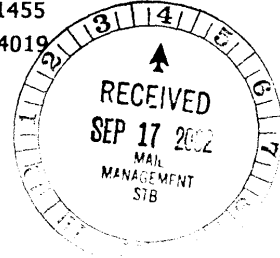
Resource Conservation Development

321 West University Dr. Macomb, IL 61455

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www.prairiehillsrcd.org



DID # 8/2203/002

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Hon. Vernon A. Williams
Secretary

Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, NW (7th Floor)
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Dear Secretary Williams:

Enclosed for filing in STB Docket No. AB-448 (Sub-No. 2x) SF&L Railway, Inc. – Abandonment Exemption are the original and ten copies of a petition for Public Use Condition and Interim Trail Use.

Our Check for \$150.00 in payment of the filing fee is attached. If you have any questions, please call.

Sincerely,

Donald D. Walker

Donald D. Walker

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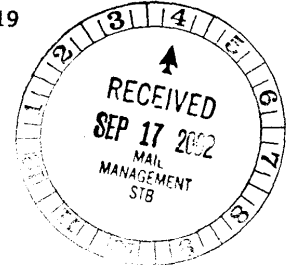
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September 9, 2002

Mr. Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K. Street, NW, Room 711
Washington, D.C. 20423

Re: SF & L Railway, Inc.-Abandonment-Hancock, McDonough, Fulton and Peoria
Counties, IL. AB-448 Sub No. 2x

Dear Mr. Williams:

This comment should be treated as a protest or a petition for reconsideration in the above captioned proceeding. This comment is filed on behalf of Prairie Hills Resource Conservation and Development, Inc. which is an Illinois not-for-profit corporation, and a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization, which is hereinafter referred as "Commenter".

While not taking a position on the merits of this abandonment, Commenter requests issuance of a Public Use Condition as well as a Certificate or Notice of Interim Trail Use rather than an outright abandonment authorization between milepost 194.5 at LaHarpe IL. 61450, and milepost 123.0 at Peoria IL. 61607.

A. Public Use Condition

Commenter requests the STB to find that this property is suitable for other public use, specifically trail use, and to place the following conditions on the abandonment:

1. An order prohibiting the carrier from disposing of the corridor, other than the tracks, ties and signal equipment, except of public use on reasonable terms. The justification for this condition is that the corridor would make an excellent recreational trail and conversion of the property to trail use is in accordance with local plans. In addition, the corridor provides important wildlife habitat and greenspace, and its preservation as a recreational trail is consistent with that end. The time period sought is 180 days from the effective date of the abandonment authorization. Commenter

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needs this much time because we have not had an opportunity to assemble or to review title information, complete a comprehensive trail plan or commence negotiations with the carrier.

2. An order barring removal or destruction or potential trail-related structures such as bridges, trestles, culverts and tunnels. The justification for this condition is that these structures have considerable value for recreational trail purposes. The time period requested is 180 days from the effective date of the abandonment authorization for the same reason as indicated above.

B. Interim Trail Use

The rail road right-of-way in this proceeding is suitable for rail banking. In addition to the public use conditions sought above, Commenter also makes the following request:

STATEMENT OF WILLINGNESS TO ASSUME FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

In order to establish interim trail use and rail banking under section 8(d) of the National Trails System Act, 16 U.S.C. 1247(d), and 49 C.F.R. 1152.29, Prairie Hills Resource Conservation and Development, Inc. is willing to assume full responsibility for management of, for any legal liability arising out of the transfer or use of (unless the user is immune from liability, in which case it need only indemnify the railroad against any potential liability), and for the payment of any and all taxes that may be levied or assessed against the right-of-way owned by SF & L Railway, Inc. and operated by SF & L Railway, Inc.

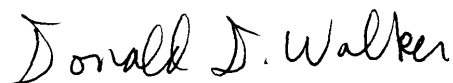
The property, known as SF & L Railway, Inc. extends from railroad milepost near 194.5 at LaHarpe IL. 61450 to railroad milepost near 123.00 at Peoria IL. 61607 a distance of 71.5 miles in Hancock, McDonough, Fulton and Peoria Counties, Illinois. The right-of-way is part of a line of railroad proposed for abandonment in STB Docket No. AB 448 Sub No. 2x.

A map depicting the right-of-way is attached.

Prairie Hills Resource Conservation and Development, Inc. acknowledges that the use of the right-of-way is subject to user's continuing to meet its responsibilities described above and subject to possible future reconstruction and reactivation of the right-of-way for rail service.

By my signature below, I certify service upon SF & L Railway, Inc., C/O Fritz R. Kahn PC, 1920 N. St. NW, 8th Floor, Washington, DC. 20036-1601, by US Mail, postage prepaid, first class, this 9th day of September, 2002.

Respectfully submitted,



On behalf of Prairie Hills Resource Conservation and Development, Inc.

An Equal Opportunity Employer

**MAP WILL BE SCANNED
AT A LATER DATE**

