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September 27, 2002

Hon. Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, NW (7th fl.)
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Secretary Williams:

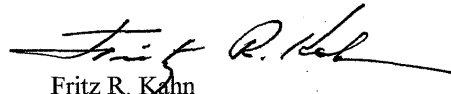
This refers to STB Docket No. AB-448 (Sub-No. 2X), SF&L Railway, Inc.—Abandonment Exemption—In Hancock, McDonough, Fulton and Peoria Counties, and to the Verified Petition for Exemption filed by SF&L Railway, Inc., on September 3, 2002.

Attached are copies of letters from Mr. William W. Edwards of Farmers Elevator Company, Scotia, IL, one of the three active shippers on the railroad line proposed for abandonment, and from Ms. Anne E. Haaker, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer.

An original and ten copies of this letter and its attachments are being provided to permit your filing of them. An additional copy of the letter and its attachments is enclosed for you to stamp to acknowledge your receipt of them and to return to me in the enclosed stamped and self-addressed envelope.

By copy of this letter mailed them by prepaid, first-class mail, service is being made upon counsel for the parties to the proceeding.

Sincerely yours,


Fritz R. Kahn

encl.

cc: Gordon P. MacDougall, Esq.
Jonathan L. Kazense, Esq.
Michael J. Van Wagenen, Esq.



**Illinois Historic
Preservation Agency**

1 Old State Capitol Plaza • Springfield, Illinois 62701-1507 • (217) 782-4836 • TTY (217) 524-7128

Regional County Please refer to: IHPA LOG #0209100012KRG
Hancock/McDonough/Fulton & Peoria Counties
SF&L Railway, Inc.
STB - AB-448 (Sub #2X)
Railroad Abandonment

September 25, 2002

Mr. Fritz R. Kahn
Fritz R. Kahn, P.C.
1920 N. Street, N.W., Eighth Floor
Washington, DC 20036-1601

Dear Sir:

We have reviewed the documentation submitted for the referenced project(s) in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.4. Based upon the information provided, no historic properties are affected. We, therefore, have no objection to the undertaking proceeding as planned.

Please retain this letter in your files as evidence of compliance with section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. This clearance remains in effect for one year from date of issuance. It does not pertain to any discovery during construction, nor is it a clearance for purposes of the Illinois Human Skeletal Remains Protection Act (20 ILCS 3440).

If you are an applicant, please submit a copy of this letter to the state or federal agency from which you obtain any permit, license, grant, or other assistance.

Sincerely,

Anne E. Haaker
Anne E. Haaker
Deputy State Historic
Preservation Officer

AEH:FRK:bb

FARMERS ELEVATOR COMPANY

AREA CODE 309

TEL. 466-3600

OSHTA, ILLINOIS

Hon. Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20423

Re: STB Docket No. AB-449 (Sub-No. 2X)

Dear Mr. Williams:

As a shipper served by SF&L Railway, Inc., I received a copy of its Petition seeking approval to abandon the La Harpe-to-Peoria railroad line, and I would like to comment on it.

SF&L took over operation of the line in December 2001, and, generally, I have been well satisfied with the service it has rendered. Its representatives have met with me from time to time and have tried to satisfy my railroad transportation needs. In fact, I have shipped more grain per month, on average, since SF&L began operating the line than I did the preceding year.

I, however, can understand SF&L's wanting to abandon the line. The loss of the overhead traffic of the Keokuk Junction Railway Co. has had a significant impact on the SF&L. I have no reason to question the figures in its Petition and agree SF&L should be allowed to abandon the line to stop its losses.

Nevertheless, I would like to continue to receive railroad service, and, if someone else were willing to try to operate the La Harpe-to-Peoria railroad line, as, for example, KJRY, I would hope the Board would act promptly and favorably on its application.

Sincerely yours,

William W. Edwards

William W. Edwards

cc: Mr. Steven J. Van Wagenen