



BOSTON & MAINE CORPORATION
MAINE CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY
SPRINGFIELD TERMINAL RAILWAY COMPANY

IRON HORSE PARK
NO. BILLERICA, MASS. 01862

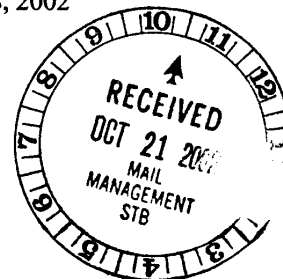
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LAW DEPARTMENT
(978) 663-1215
Fax (978) 663-1213

September 18, 2002

Via Certified Mail

Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20006



**Re: Springfield Terminal Railway – Notice of Intent to Abandonment and
Discontinuance of Service – Mystic Wharf Branch in Charlestown, MA
Docket No. AB 355 (Sub No. 25X)**

Dear Secretary Williams:

Enclosed for filing is Springfield Terminal Railway's Notice of Intent to Abandon and Discontinue Service on the Mystic Wharf Branch in Charlestown, Massachusetts.

Copies of the Notice of Intent have been served upon all appropriate parties in accordance with 49 CFR § 1152.20 (a) (1-4). If there are any questions, please direct them to the undersigned.

Sincerely,

Katherine E. Potter
Staff Attorney

ENTERED
Office Proceedings

OCT 21 2002

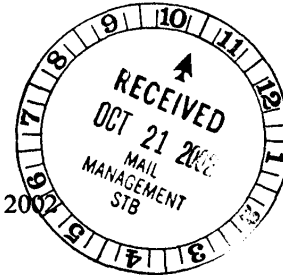
Part of
Public Record



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September 18, 2002

To: Service List

**Re: Springfield Terminal Railway — Abandonment and Discontinuance of
Service — Mystic Wharf Branch in Charlestown, Massachusetts
Docket No. AB 355 (Sub No. 25X)**

Ladies and Gentlemen:

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
OCT 21 2002

In accordance with the Surface Transportation Board's regulations at 49 CFR § 1152.20, Part of Public Record
Springfield Terminal Railway gives notice that on or about October 9, 2002 it intends to file with the Surface Transportation Board, Washington, D.C. 20423, an application for permission for the abandonment and discontinuance of service on a line of railroad known as the Mystic Wharf Branch in Charlestown, Massachusetts, extending from railroad milepost 0.00 to milepost 1.45, which traverses through United States Postal Service ZIP Codes 02129, a distance of 1.45 miles, in Suffolk County, Massachusetts. No agency station is located along the line for which abandonment and discontinuance of service is sought.

Abandonment and discontinuance of service is being proposed for this line because, due to the low levels of traffic over the past few years, together with the lack of reasonably foreseeable increases in traffic levels, revenue derived from the use of this line will not be sufficient to support the ongoing and future maintenance and operation of the line.

Based on information in our possession, the line does not contain federally granted rights-of-way. Any documentation in the railroad's possession will be made available promptly to those requesting it.

This line of railroad has appeared on the system diagram map or included in the narrative in category 1 since January 1999.

The interest of railroad employees will be protected by Oregon Short Line Railroad Co. -- Abandonment -- Goshen, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979).

The application will include the applicant's entire case for abandonment and discontinuance (case in chief). Any interested person, after the application is filed on

or about October 9, 2002, may file with the Surface Transportation Board written comments concerning the proposed abandonment and discontinuance or protests to it.

These filings are due 45 days from the date of filing of the application. All interested persons should be aware that following any abandonment of rail service and salvage of the line, the line may be suitable for other public use, including interim trail use. Any request for a public use condition under 49 U.S.C. 10905 (§ 1152.28 of the Board's rules) and any request for a trail use condition under 16 U.S.C. 1247(d) (§ 1152.29 of the Board's rules) must also be filed within 45 days from the date of filing of the application. Persons who may oppose the abandonment or discontinuance but who do not wish to participate fully in the process by appearing at any oral hearings or by submitting verified statements of witnesses, containing detailed evidence, should file comments. Persons interested only in seeking public use or trail use conditions should also file comments. Persons opposing the proposed abandonment or discontinuance that do wish to participate actively and fully in the process should file a protest.

Protests must contain that party's entire case in opposition (case in chief) including the following:

- (1) Protestant's name, address and business.
- (2) A statement describing protestant's interest in the proceeding including:
 - (i) A description of protestant's use of the line;
 - (ii) If protestant does not use the line, information concerning the group or public interest it represents; and
 - (iii) If protestant's interest is limited to the retention of service over a portion of the line, a description of the portion of the line subject to protestant's interest (with milepost designations if available) and evidence showing that the applicant can operate the portion of the line profitably, including an appropriate return on its investment for those operations.
- (3) Specific reasons why protestant opposes the application including information regarding protestant's reliance on the involved service [this information must be supported by affidavits of persons with personal knowledge of the fact(s)].
- (4) Any rebuttal of material submitted by applicant.

In addition, a commenting party or protestant may provide a statement of position and evidence regarding:

- (i) Intent to offer financial assistance pursuant to 49 U.S.C 10904;
- (ii) Environmental impact;
- (iii) Impact on rural and community development;
- (iv) Recommended provisions for protection of the interests of employees;
- (v) Suitability of the properties for other public purposes pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10905; and
- (vi) Prospective use of the right-of-way for interim trail use and rail banking under 16 U.S.C. 1247(d) and § 1152.29.

A protest may demonstrate that: (1) the protestant filed a feeder line application under 49 U.S.C. 10907; (2) the feeder line application involves any portion of the rail line involved in the abandonment or discontinuance application; (3) the feeder line application was filed prior to the date the abandonment or discontinuance application was filed; and (4) the feeder line application is pending before the Board.

Written comments and protests will be considered by the Board in determining what disposition to make of the application. The commenting party or protestant may participate in the proceeding as its interests may appear.

If an oral hearing is desired, the requester must make a request for an oral hearing and provide reasons why an oral hearing is necessary. Oral hearing requests must be filed with the Board no later than 10 days after the application is filed.

Those parties filing protests to the proposed abandonment and discontinuance should be prepared to participate actively either in an oral hearing or through the submission of their entire opposition case in the form of verified statements and arguments at the time they file a protest. Parties seeking information concerning the filing of protests should refer to § 1152.25.

Written comments and protests, including all requests for public use and trail use conditions, should indicate the proceeding designation STB No. AB 355 (Sub-No. 25X) and must be filed with the Secretary, Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423, no later than November 25, 2002. Interested persons may file a written comment or protest with the Board to become a party to this abandonment and discontinuance proceeding. A copy of each written comment or protest shall be served upon the representative of the applicant: Katherine E. Potter, Staff Attorney, Springfield Terminal Railway, Iron Horse Park, N. Billerica, MA 01862, (978) 663-1215. The original and 10 copies of all comments or protests shall be filed with the Board with a certificate of service. Except as otherwise set forth in part 1152, each document filed with the Board must be served on all parties to the abandonment proceeding. 49 CFR 1104.12(a).

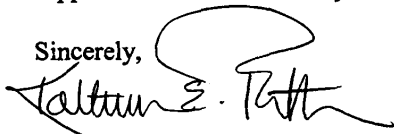
The line sought to be abandoned and discontinued will be available for subsidy or sale for continued rail use, if the Board decides to permit the abandonment and discontinuance, in accordance with applicable laws and regulations (49 U.S.C. 10904 and 49 CFR 1152.27). No subsidy arrangement approved under 49 U.S.C. 10904 shall remain in effect for more than 1 year unless otherwise mutually agreed by the parties (49 U.S.C. 10904(f)(4)(B)). Applicant will promptly provide upon request to each interested party an estimate of the subsidy and minimum purchase price required to keep the line in operation. The carrier's representative to whom inquiries may be made concerning sale or subsidy terms is Robert B. Culliford, Corporate Counsel, Springfield Terminal Railway, Iron Horse Park, N. Billerica, MA 01862.

Persons seeking further information concerning abandonment procedures may contact the Surface Transportation Board or refer to the full abandonment or discontinuance regulations at 49 CFR part 1152. Questions concerning environmental issues may be directed to the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis.

A copy of the application will be available for public inspection on or after October 9, 2002 at the agency station through which business for the line is received or forwarded, which is the N. Billerica Station, in N. Billerica, Massachusetts. An agent is on duty from 6:30 AM to 2:30 PM, Monday through Friday. The carrier shall furnish a copy of the application to any interested person proposing to file a protest or comment, upon request.

An environmental assessment (EA) (or environmental impact statement (EIS), if necessary) prepared by the Section of Environmental Analysis will be served upon all parties of record and upon any agencies or other persons who commented during its preparation. Any other persons who would like to obtain a copy of the EA (or EIS) may contact the Section of Environmental Analysis. EAs in these abandonment proceedings normally will be made available within 33 days of the filing of the application. The deadline for submission of comments on the EA will generally be within 30 days of its service. The comments received will be addressed in the Board's decision. A supplemental EA or EIS may be issued where appropriate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katherine E. Potter", with a large, stylized flourish above the name.

Katherine E. Potter
Staff Attorney

MYSTIC WHARF BRANCH SERVICE LIST

AB 355 (Sub No. 25X)

The Honorable Jane Swift (certified mail)
Governor of Massachusetts
Office of the Governor
360 State House
Boston, MA 02133

Department of Telecommunications
and Energy
Transportation Division
One South Station
Boston, MA 02110

James H. Scanlan, Secretary
Executive Office of Transportation
and Construction
10 Park Plaza, Suite 3170
Boston, MA 02116

Steve Demski, Director
UMass Extension
Draper Hall
University of Massachusetts
40 Campus Center Way
Amherst, MA 01003 - 9244

Anna M. Barry
Director of Railroad Operations
Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority
45 High Street - 9th floor
Boston, MA 02116-3974

Robert L. Gould
Office of Public Affairs
United States Department of Transportation
Federal Railroad Administration
1120 Vermont Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20590

Office of Special Assistant for
Transportation Engineering
Railroads for National Defense Program
Military Traffic Management Command
Transportation Engineering Agency
720 Thimble Shoals Blvd. - Suite 130
Newport News, VA 23606-2574

Thomas Iurino
U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Land Resources Division
P.O. Box 37127 -Suite 540
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

U. S. Railroad Retirement Board
408 Atlantic Ave. Room 441
Box 2448
Boston, MA 02208-2448

Railway Labor Executives' Association
10 G Street, N.E.
Suite 480
Washington, DC 20002

Dale Bosworth
Chief of Forest Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen
Box U
Mt. Prospect, IL 60056

International Federation of Professional
and Technical Engineers
8630 Fenton St. - Suite 400
Silver Springs, MD 20910

Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way
Employees
26555 Evergreen Road #200
Southfield, MI 48076-4225

Brotherhood of Railway Carmen
3 Research Place
Rockville, MD 20850

Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers
1370 Ontario St. - Mezzanine
Cleveland, OH 44113-1702

United Transportation Union
14600 Detroit Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44107

Transportation Communications
International Union
3 Research Place
Rockville, MD 20850

Robert E. Moore
United States Gypsum Company
125 South Franklin Street
Chicago, IL 60606