

ORIGINAL

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THOMAS F. MCFARLAND

May 13, 2003

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Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
Case Control Unit, Suite 713
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

207829

Re: STB Docket No. AB-850X, *St. Croix Valley Railroad Company -- Abandonment and Discontinuance of Service Exemption -- between Hinckley and Mora, in Pine and Kanabec Counties, MN*

Dear Mr. Williams:

The above matter is pending on petition for exemption of abandonment.

Attached to this letter is a copy of an environmental comment by the United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service (no adverse effect).

Ten copies accompany the original of this communication.

Office of Public
Affairs of the Board

Very truly yours,

Tom McFarland

Thomas F. McFarland
Attorney for Petitioner

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cc: Ms. Victoria Rutson
Section of Environmental Assessment



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Building
1 Federal Drive
Fort Snelling, MN 55111-4056

IN REPLY REFER TO:

FWS/NWRS-RE - General
Railroad Abandonments

May 8, 2003

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Mr. Thomas F. McFarland, P.C.
208 South LaSalle Street
Suite 1890
Chicago, Illinois 60604-1194

Dear Mr. McFarland:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed abandonment of the rail line between the Cities of Hinckley (Pine County) and Mora (Kanabec County), Minnesota: STB Docket No. AB-850X.

We have researched our ownership in the vicinity and have determined we do not own any lands or interests in land in the vicinity of the proposed rail line abandonment. We do not have any concerns regarding real estate matters in the abandonment.

Sincerely,

Patrick G. Carroll
Senior Realty Officer
Division of Realty