



PINE COUNTY

Coordinator's Office

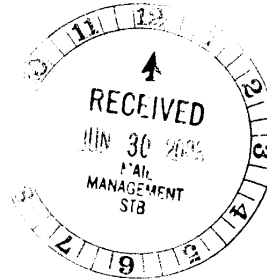
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John G. Stieben, PE.
Coordinator/Public Works Director

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Commissioners

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ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

JUN 30 2003

Part of
Public Record

June 24, 2003

Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: St. Croix Valley Abandonment in Pine County, Minnesota, AB-850X

Dear Secretary:

This request is filed on behalf of The Pine County Railroad Authority, which is a government agency interested in transportation and natural resource management, hereinafter referred to as "proponent."

Proponent requests issuance of a Public Use Condition as well as an Interim Trail Use Condition rather than an outright abandonment authorization between milepost 58.3 at Mora junction and the Pine County and the Kanabec County Line. (Approximately 2.5 miles)

A. Request For Public Use Condition

Proponent asks 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 for public use on reasonable terms. Justification for this condition is the corridor's proximity State Highway 23 and that the corridor may serve as a future recreational trail corridor. The time period sought is 180 days from the effective date of the abandonment authorization. Proponent needs this much time to assemble or review title information, complete a trail plan, and begin discussions with Kanabec County concerning appropriate use.
2. An order barring removal or destruction of 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 reasons as indicated above.

B. Request For Interim Trail Use

The railroad right-of-way in this proceeding is suitable for rail banking. In addition to the public use conditions sought above, proponent 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.

Consistent with §1247(d), and 49 CFR §1152.29, The Pine County Railroad Authority is willing to assume full responsibility for management of, for any legal liability arising out of the transfer or use for the payment of any and all taxes that may be levied or assessed against the right-of-way owned by The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company and operated by St. Croix Valley Railroad Company.

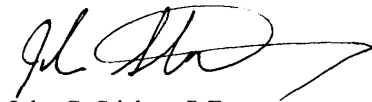
The property, known as the former St. Croix Valley Rail Line, extends from railroad milepost 58.3 near Mora Junction to the Pine/Kanabec County Line, a distance of 2.5 miles in Pine County, Minnesota. The right-of-way is part of a line of railroad proposed for abandonment in STB Docket No. AB- 850X.

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

The Pine County Railroad Authority acknowledges that use of the right-of-way is subject to the 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.

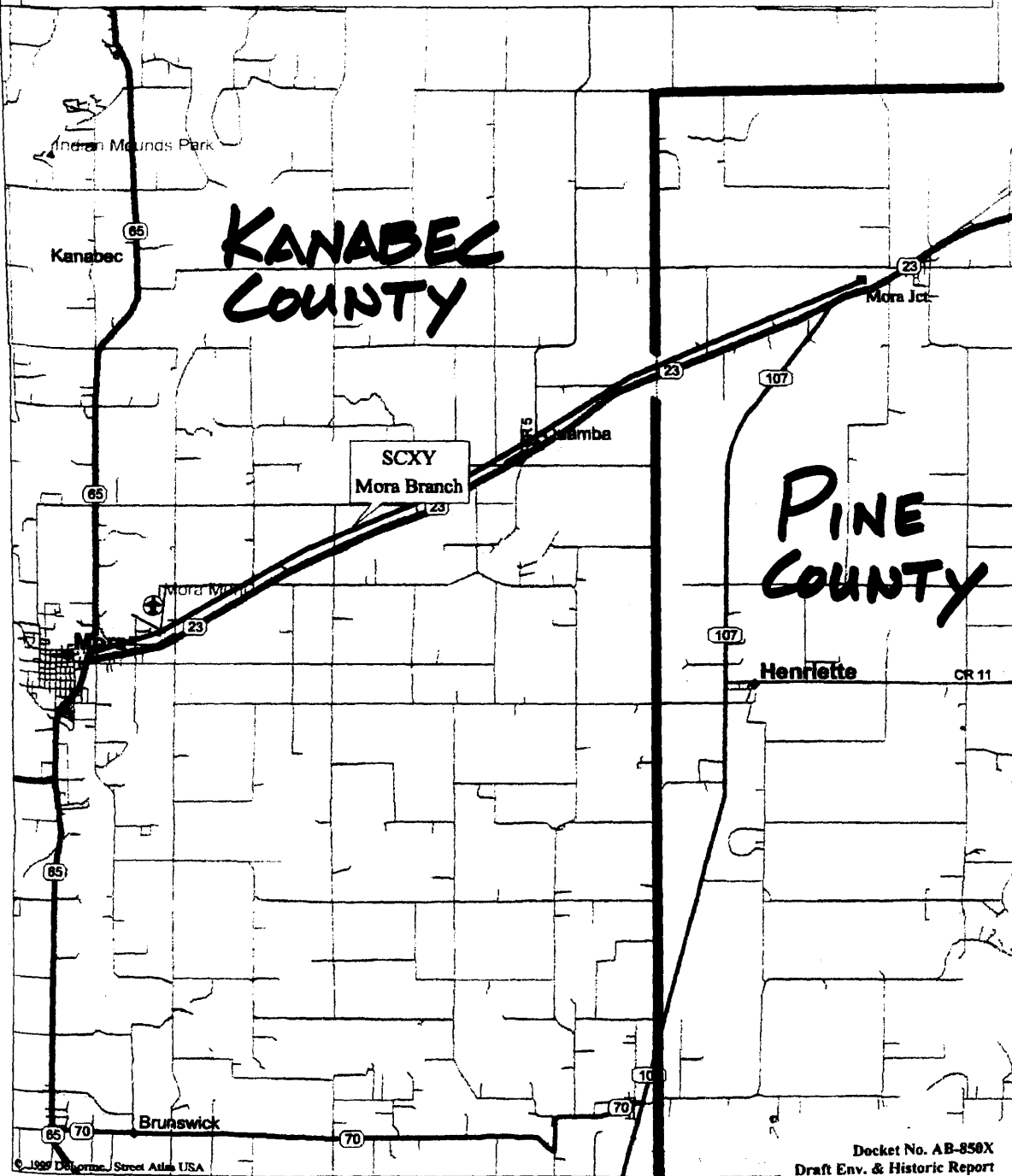
By my signature below, I certify service upon St. Croix Valley Railroad Authority, by US. Mail, postage pre-paid, first class, this 15th day of April 2003.

Respectfully submitted,



John G. Stieben, P.E.
County Engineer/Coordinator
on behalf of Pine County Railroad Authority

SCXY Mora Branch



Docket No. AB-850X
Draft Env. & Historic Report