

LAW OFFICE
THOMAS F. McFARLAND, P.C.
208 SOUTH LASALLE STREET - SUITE 1890
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60604-1112
TELEPHONE (312) 236-0204
FAX (312) 201-9695
mcfarland@aol.com

THOMAS F. McFARLAND

June 8, 2004

By electronic mail

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

Re: Docket No. AB-384 (Sub-No. 1X), *Delta Southern Railroad, Inc. -- Abandonment Exemption -- Portion of the Lake Providence Line*

Dear Mr. Williams:

In behalf of the applicant in the above proceeding, Delta Southern Railroad, Inc. (DSR), this is to request the Board to hold the above proceeding in abeyance while DSR and potential opposing parties negotiate for a settlement that might result in withdrawal of the proposed abandonment. I have been authorized by counsel for potential opposing parties, Paul Donovan, Esq. (202-298-8100), and William Sippel (312-252-1505), to state that their clients support DSR's request for abeyance. A copy of this request for abeyance is being sent expeditiously to Messrs. Donovan and Sippel. In applicant's view, a 90-day period for abeyance of the proceeding would appear to be appropriate.

The notice of exemption in this proceeding was filed on May 21. Federal Register publication is scheduled on June 10. I understand that it may not be possible to delay Federal Register publication and its corresponding procedural filing dates, but that the Board would issue a notice to the parties and the public that the proceeding is being held in abeyance and that all filing dates and effective dates would be held in abeyance. In order to facilitate service of such a notice, I have set out contact information below for Messrs. Donovan and Sippel.

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The parties have undertaken to do their utmost to achieve a negotiated private resolution of this matter.

Very truly yours,

Thomas F. McFarland
*Attorney for Delta Southern
Railroad, Inc.*

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cc: Paul Donovan, Esq.
LaRoe, Winn, Moerman & Donovan
4135 Parkglen Court, NW
Washington, DC 20007
fax 202-298-8200
e-mail paul.donovan2@verizon.net

William C. Sippel, Esq.
Fletcher & Sippel, LLC
29 North Wacker Drive, Suite 920
Chicago, IL 60606-2875
fax 312-252-2400
e-mail wsippel@fletcher-sippel.com

Mr. William Wainright
Delta Southern Railroad, Inc.
P.O. Box 1709
Tallulah, LA 71282
fax 318-574-4029

Mr. Michael Sussman
Strategic Rail Finance
709 S. 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19146
fax 215-545-0156