



OFFICE OF THE HENNEPIN COUNTY ATTORNEY

AMY KLOBUCHAR COUNTY ATTORNEY

February 3, 2005

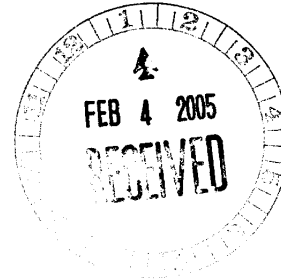
213174

Honorable Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
Office of Proceedings, AB-OFA
1925 K Street NW
Washington, DC 20423

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

FEB 3, 2005

Part of
Public Record



Re: *Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority – Request for Extension for Time to File Notice of Consummation of Exempt Abandonment of Rail Line located in McLeod, Carver, and Hennepin Counties, Minnesota*
S.T.B. Docket No. AB 864X

Dear Secretary Williams:

Enclosed please find the attachment to the letter to you dated January 28, 2005 which was inadvertently excluded (letter to Dennis Gimmetstad dated December 28, 2004). HCRRA requested an extension for the time to file notice of consummation of exempt abandonment by the January 28th letter.

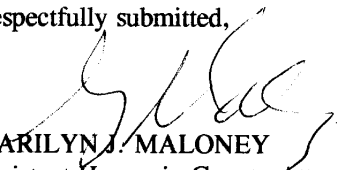
Also attached is a letter dated February 1, 2005, which I have just received from the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Officer concluding that the rail line does not meet National Register criteria and concluding that the proposed abandonment will have no adverse effect on properties listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

By this letter, HCRRA also serves all parties of record to the notice of exemption proceeding, and the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission pursuant to 49 CFR 1152.29(e)(2) and is copying Mr. David Navecky from the STB's Environmental Assessment Unit. Enclosed is HCRRA's certificate of service.

Ten (10) additional copies of this letter are enclosed for the Board's use and distribution. In addition, enclosed is a self-addressed stamped envelope and copy of this letter to be stamped with the filing date and returned to the undersigned. If you have any questions regarding the above-referenced matter, please feel free to call me.

Honorable Vernon A. Williams
Page 2
February 3, 2005

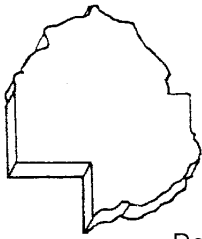
Respectfully submitted,



MARILYN J. MALONEY
Assistant Hennepin County Attorney
Telephone: (612) 348-7754
FAX: (612) 348-8299

Enclosure: Certificate of Service

cc: Dennis Gimmestad, Minnesota SHPO (w. enc.)
Ron Keagle (w. enc.)
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission pursuant to 49 CFR 1152.29(e)(2) (w. enc.)
Marcia Wilda, Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (w. enc.)
David Navecky, Section of Environmental Analysis, STB



HENNEPIN COUNTY REGIONAL RAILROAD AUTHORITY

417 North Fifth Street, Suite 320, Minneapolis, MN 55401-1362 (612) 348-9260
FAX: (612) 348-9710

December 28, 2004

Mr. Dennis Gimmestad
Minnesota Historical Society
State Historic Preservation Office
345 Kellogg Boulevard West
St. Paul, MN 55102

Re: Docket No. AB-864X, Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority – Notice of
Exempt Abandonment in McLeod, Carver and Hennepin Counties, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Gimmestad:

This letter is a follow-up to our meeting of December 14, 2004, to identify what
additional items, if any, you require for finishing your assessment of the affect on
historic properties of abandonment of the Dakota Rail line.

Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRA) anticipates filing its notice of
consummation of abandonment on February 4, 2005.

HCRRA has provided to you a historical monograph of the Dakota Rail line: The
'Hutch' Line of Great Northern, 1886-1996, GN's Minnesota Branch Line from
Wayzata to Hutchinson, by William Hartranft. It is my understanding that the
monograph contains the information necessary for you to complete your assessment
of whether or not the rail line itself is eligible for the National Register of Historic
Places. Additionally, we have provided you with information regarding the extent of
fire damage to the Hutchinson Station depot building.

Since our meeting, we have sought out additional information regarding the two
depot buildings located on the line. During discussions on December 14, 2004, with
Sheldon Nies, Chair of the McLeod County Regional Railroad Authority (MCRRA)
Board, we learned that MCRRA owns the Hutchinson Station depot building, and
that the local railroad club is currently working to repair damage from the recent fire,
in an attempt to ready the building for a 150-year birthday party in 2005. Mr. Nies
indicated that abandonment of the corridor would neither impact the use of the
building nor cause any negative issue for its operation. He further indicated that
construction of a trail, as an interim use of the corridor, would not impact the use of
the building. Please note that Mr. Neis also offered the fact that the local railroad
club is attempting to have the building itself designated as historic.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Peter McLaughlin
Chair

Linda Koblick
Vice Chair

Mark Stenglein
Secretary

Gail Dorfman
Treasurer

Mike Opat

Randy Johnson

Penny Steele

The Spring Park City Administrator, Bill Weeks, was contacted regarding the construction date and condition of the Spring Park depot building owned by the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority. Please recall that the Hartranft historical monograph indicates that the Spring Park depot building may have been built around 1900. However, this depot building as it currently exists does not have overhanging eaves or diagonal bracing and appears to have been either built at a later date or subsequently extensively remodeled. Mr. Weeks said that city records show the building being remodeled in 1986 when it was used briefly as a station site for the Minnetonka Zephyr Limited historic train. The city records, however, do not give a detailed description of the remodeling work other than that a new kitchen was added.

Mr. Weeks concurs with Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority staff that neither abandonment of the corridor nor construction of a trail, as an interim use of the corridor, would negatively impact the building. However, Mr. Weeks noted that the Spring Park depot building is in extremely poor condition and soon will become a hazard.

Based upon the foregoing, and the historic report previously submitted to you in the abandonment proceedings, HCRRRA believes that you have the information necessary to complete your assessment of adverse effects of the abandonment, and that since the corridor is being preserved as a rail or other permitted transportation corridor, the abandonment will have no adverse effects on historic properties on the rail line.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 612-348-8537 or John Tripp at 612-348-9265. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Marcia Wilda
Manager, Leasing and Land Management

Cc: Marilyn Maloney, Office of the County Attorney



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

February 1, 2005

Ms. Marilyn Maloney
Assistant Hennepin County Attorney
Office of the Hennepin County Attorney
A-2000 Government Center
300 South 6th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55487

Re: Docket No. AB-864 (Sub. No. 1X) Hennepin Regional Rail Authority
Abandonment of 43.9 miles of railroad between milepost 24.6 near Wayzata to
the end of the line at milepost 68.5 in Hutchinson
McLeod, Carver and Hennepin Counties
SHPO Number: 2004-0692

Dear Ms. Maloney:

We last wrote you on 19 August 2004 regarding the above-proposed abandonment.
We have appreciated your responsiveness to our requests for further information
regarding potential historic properties along the route.

Based on our review of further information on the initial development of this rail corridor,
we conclude that the rail line itself does not meet National Register criteria. Previously,
in our letter of 19 August, we indicated that we felt that the Hutchinson Depot was
eligible to the National Register, but that the Spring Park Depot was not.

Therefore, it would appear that the only National Register listed or eligible property in the
area of potential effect for the abandonment is the Hutchinson Depot. You have
consulted with the McLeod County Regional Railroad Authority, owners of this building,
and have determined that the abandonment of the line would not affect the potential
preservation and use of this building.

On that basis, we conclude that the proposed abandonment will have no adverse effect
on properties listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Contact us at 651-296-5462 with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Britta L. Bloomberg
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

cc: John Tripp, Hennepin County
Marcia Wilda, Hennepin County
Tom Cinadr, SHPO

Docket No. AB-864X
HCRRRA-Dakota Rail Line

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
)
COUNTY OF HENNEPIN)

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Lorie Bursley, being first duly sworn on oath, deposes and says:

That on the 3rd day of February, 2005, she served/filed the annexed attachment to Letter dated February 1, 2005 regarding *Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority - Request for Extension for Time to File Notice of Consummation of Exempt Abandonment of Rail Line located in McLeod, Carver, and Hennepin Counties, Minnesota*, S.T.B. Docket No. AB 864X on the following by mailing to them a copy thereof, enclosed in an envelope, postage prepaid, and by depositing same in the Hennepin County mail system, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, directed to them at their last known address as follows:

For Filing: The Honorable Vernon Williams
 Secretary, Surface Transportation Board
 1925 K Street NW
 Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

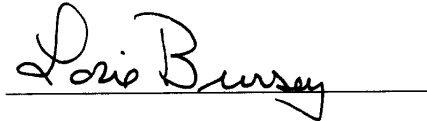
For Service:

Mr. Dennis Gimmestad
Minnesota Historical Society
State Historic Preservation Office
Director, Review and Compliance Department
345 Kellogg Boulevard West
St. Paul, MN 55102-1906

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place E. Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147

Ron Keagle
3829 Sunset Drive
Spring Park, MN 55384

David Navecky
Surface Transportation Board
Section of Environmental Analysis
1925 K Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001



Subscribed and sworn to before
me this 3rd day of February 2005.

