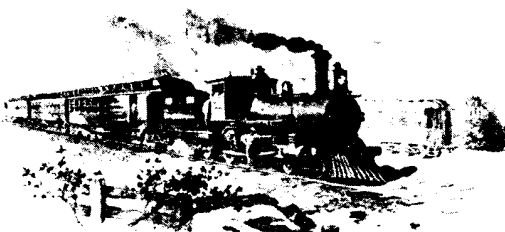


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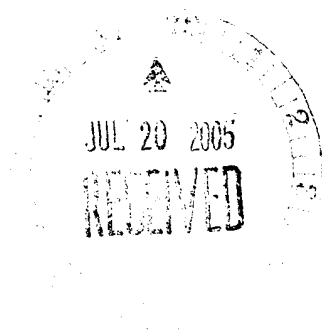
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July 13, 2005

VIA FACSIMILE (202-565-9002)
AND REGULAR MAIL

Mr. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Office of the Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
Mercury Building
1925 K Street, N.W., Room 700
Washington, D.C. 20423

RE: **STB Docket No. AB-254 (Sub-No. 8X)**
Providence and Worcester Railroad Company ("P&W")
East Providence, Rhode Island
Petition for Exemption for Abandonment

Dear Secretary Williams:

In connection with the above referenced filing, enclosed please find ten (10) copies of a letter from the United States Department of the Interior – Fish and Wildlife Service responding to P&W's Environmental and Historic Report with a finding that there are no federally-listed or proposed, threatened or endangered species or critical habitat under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service known to occur in the project area and that further consultation with their office is not required.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need anything further. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

Amy Silverstein
Assistant General Counsel

Enc.

cc: To All Parties on Service List
Edward Greenberg, Esquire

PROVIDENCE AND WORCESTER RAILROAD COMPANY
75 HAMMOND STREET, WORCESTER, MA 01610 P.O. BOX 16551, WORCESTER, MA 01601
TELEPHONE (508) 755-4000 FAX (508) 795-0748



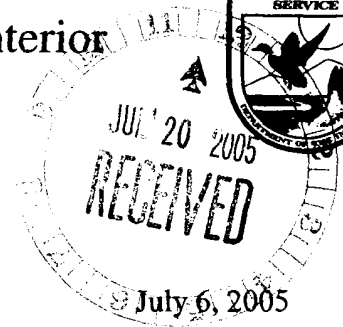
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United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
New England Field Office
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300
Concord, New Hampshire 03301-5087



Reference:	<u>Project</u>	<u>Location</u>
	Railroad abandonment	East Providence Branch, East Junction Branch, East Providence, RI

Amy Silverstein
Providence and Worcester Railroad Company
75 Hammond Street
Worcester, MA 01610

Dear Ms. Silverstein:

This responds to your recent correspondence requesting information on the presence of federally-listed and/or proposed endangered or threatened species in relation to the proposed activity(ies) referenced above.

Based on information currently available to us, no federally-listed or proposed, threatened or endangered species or critical habitat under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are known to occur in the project area(s). Preparation of a Biological Assessment or further consultation with us under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act is not required.

This concludes our review of listed species and critical habitat in the project location(s) and environs referenced above. No further Endangered Species Act coordination of this type is necessary for a period of one year from the date of this letter, unless additional information on listed or proposed species becomes available.

Thank you for your coordination. Please contact us at 603-223-2541 if we can be of further assistance. **In the future, in order to expedite your reply, please direct any inquiries of this nature to this office at the above address.**

Sincerely yours,

Michael J. Amaral

Michael J. Amaral
Endangered Species Specialist
New England Field Office