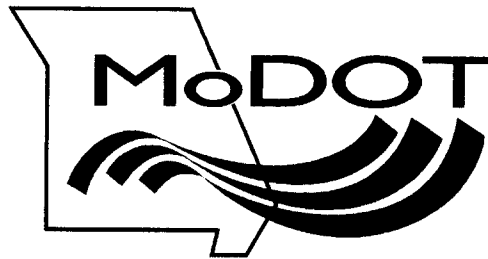


Missouri
Department
of Transportation



Ed Hassinger, District Engineer

214452

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July 22, 2005

Honorable Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20423

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MANAGEMENT
STB

Dear Secretary Williams:

This refers to STB Docket No. AB-792X, Railroad Switching Service of Missouri, Inc. Abandonment Exemption--In St. Louis County, MO, and to the Board's Decision, served May 2, 2005.

The Board's Decision, among other things, subjected its approval of the proposed abandonment of the railroad to a 90-day public use condition. Although the condition was imposed at the request of the City of St. Louis, the Board stated that the condition would "enable any state or local government agency or other interested person to negotiate the acquisition of the line for public use."

Please be advised that the Department of Transportation of the State of Missouri would like to avail itself of the public use condition and is considering negotiating with the railroad for the purchase of the line for public use. A large portion of the railroad right-of-way will be required in connection with the proposed construction of the New I-70 Mississippi River Bridge and the highway approach to the bridge. While the Board limited the negotiating period to 90 days, the Department asks that it be granted leave to petition the Board for a 90-day extension if that proves to be necessary.

Ten copies of this letter are enclosed to permit your circulation of it. An additional copy is enclosed for you to stamp to acknowledge your receipt and to return to me via the enclosed stamped and self-addressed envelope.

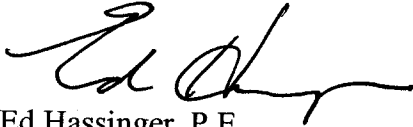
Honorable Vernon Williams

July 25, 2005

Page Two

By copy of this letter, service has been affected upon each of the parties.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed Hassinger', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ed Hassinger, P.E.
District Engineer

cc: Thomas F. McFarland, Esq.
Thomas J. Ray, Esq.
Mr. Michael C. Zender
Brian Weiler

Enclosure