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April 17, 2006  
VIA: Electronic Filing

Hon. Vernon A. Williams  
Secretary  
Surface Transportation Board  
Mercury Building, #711  
1925 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: Allegheny & Eastern Railroad, Inc. -  
Abandonment Exemption - In Elk and Cameron Counties  
Docket No. AB-854 (X)

Dear Secretary Williams:

I am writing to respond on behalf of the Applicant to the attached letter being filed with the Board by Elk County, on behalf of itself and Cameron County, requesting an extension of Notice of Interim Trail Use for a period of 180 days from the current expiration date of April 18, 2006. (The letter does not yet appear on the Board's website as having been filed; however, because of the current expiration date, Applicant is filing its response today.)

Applicant hereby advises the Board that it is agreeable to the request to extend the period to negotiate an interim trail use and railbanking agreement with both Elk and Cameron Counties.

Please let us know if you need any additional information.

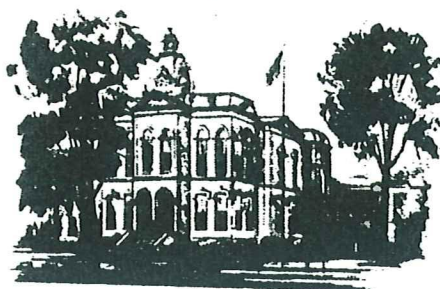
Respectfully,



ERIC M. HOCKY

cc: Cameron County (by email)  
Elk County (by email)

# County of Elk



## **COMMISSIONERS**

**Christine Gavazzi**  
**Daniel R. Freeburg**  
**June H. Sorg**

**Peggy Aharrah, Chief Clerk**  
**Thomas G. Wagner, Solicitor**

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*[www.co.elk.pa.us](http://www.co.elk.pa.us)*

April 12, 2006

Mr. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary  
Surface Transportation Board  
1925 K Street, N.W.  
Mercury Building #711  
Washington, DC 20423-0001

**RE: Allegheny and Eastern Railroad, Inc. Rail Abandonment Exemption, Elk  
County, Pennsylvania; STB Docket No. AB-854X**

Dear Mr. Williams:

In reference to the above which proposes the abandonment of the 18.9 mile rail corridor extending from Emporium, Cameron County, PA to St. Marys, Elk County, PA on October 28, 2003, the Surface Transportation Board granted a Notice of Interim Trail Use to the Counties of Cameron and Elk for a period of 180 days. Cameron and Elk Counties since that time have requested and have been granted a series of extensions to the interim trail use period with the most recent extension to expire April 18, 2006.

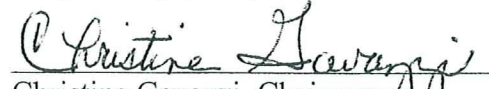
Representatives from Cameron and Elk Counties have entered into negotiations with Allegheny and Eastern Railroad to acquire the corridor, however, an agreement has not yet been reached and likely will not be reached prior to April 18, 2006. Allegheny and Eastern has indicated its willingness to continue negotiations. Elk County, in conjunction with Cameron County, is therefore requesting a 180-day extension to expire October 15, 2006.

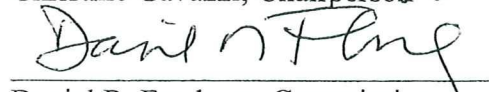
Elk County is forwarding a copy of this letter to Mr. David Collins, President of Allegheny and Eastern Railroad, 1200-C Scottsville Road, Rochester, NY 14624, requesting that Allegheny and Eastern Railroad notify the Surface Transportation Board of its willingness to continue negotiations with Cameron and Elk Counties to acquire the corridor.

Mr. Vernon A. Williams  
April 12, 2006  
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Thank you for your consideration. An additional ten (10) copies of this letter are enclosed for the Board's use.

Respectfully yours,

  
Christine Gavazzi, Chairperson

  
Daniel R. Freeburg, Commissioner

  
June H. Sorg, Commissioner

ph

cc – David Collins, Allegheny and Eastern Railroad  
Eric Hocky, Gollatz, Griffin, and Ewing