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THOMAS F. MCFARLAND

June 6, 2006

By e-mail

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

Re: STB Docket No. AB-850X, *St. Croix Valley Railroad Company -- Abandonment and Discontinuance of Service Exemption -- between Hinckley and Mora, in Pine and Kanabec Counties, MN*

Dear Mr. Williams:

Based on the attached letter from the Minnesota Historic Preservation Office to the Board's environmental-historic representative, dated June 1, 2006, I am hereby respectfully requesting that the Board issue a decision that removes the historic preservation condition previously imposed in this proceeding.

Very truly yours,

Tom McFarland

Thomas F. McFarland
Attorney for *St. Croix Valley*
Railroad Company

TMCF:kl:wp8.01890\lstrstb9

cc: Mr. Richard Batie, *by e-mail*



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

State Historic Preservation Office

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McFarland, PC.

June 1, 2006

Ms. Phyllis Johnson-Ball
Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20423

Re: STB Docket No. AB-850X
St. Croix Valley Railroad Company
Abandonment and discontinuance of service
Pine and Kanabec Counties
SHPO Number: 2003-1537

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball:

We wrote you on 30 June 2005 regarding the above referenced proposal, requesting further assessment of the effects of the proposed undertaking.

We have since had the opportunity to discuss the issue with Mr. Thomas McFarland, attorney for the St. Croix Valley Railroad Company. Mr. McFarland indicates that The Kanabec County Railroad Authority has expressed an interest in acquiring this right of way for railbanking and interim trail use, and that the BNSF is agreeable to conveying that right of way to the Authority.

With this conveyance, we conclude that the proposed abandonment will have no adverse effect on the historical characteristics of the line.

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

Sincerely,

Britta L. Bloomberg
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

cc: Thomas F. MacFarland