

216989



Before the

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

READING BLUE MOUNTAIN AND NORTHERN RAILROAD COMPANY

NOTICE OF ABANDONMENT-

PURSUANT TO

49 CFR 1152.50

DOCKET NO. AB-996X

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

JUL 11 2006

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Public Record

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

ENVIRONMENTAL/HISTORIC REPORT

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Attorney for
Reading Blue Mountain and Northern
Railroad Company

Dated: July 10, 2006



Before the

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

**READING BLUE MOUNTAIN AND NORTHERN RAILROAD COMPANY
NOTICE OF ABANDONMENT-
PURSUANT TO
49 CFR 1152.50
DOCKET NO. AB-996X**

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

ENVIRONMENTAL/HISTORIC REPORT

Reading Blue Mountain and Northern Railroad Company ("RBMN") will be seeking authority to abandon the portion of its line of railroad known as the Minersville Running Track that runs from milepost 7.6 to milepost 8.8, located in Norwegian and Cass Townships in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania. The nearest station is New Saint Nicholas (OPSL-2475) located at SPLC-204650. This line traverses through United States Postal ZIP Code 17954. RBMN expects to file its notice on or about July 31, 2006. To prepare this report, RBMN consulted with various state and federal agencies. See the letters attached as Exhibit A. Based on the written responses attached as Exhibit B¹, RBMN states as follows:

A. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT
(49 CFR 1105.7)

1. Proposed action and alternatives

RBMN proposes to abandon the portion of its line of railroad known as the

¹ No oral responses have been received.

Minersville Running Track that runs from milepost 7.6 to milepost 8.8, located in Norwegian and Cass Townships in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania ("the Subject Line"). The last rail service provided on the Subject Line segment was on April 20, 2003. RBMN intends to salvage the track and materials following the abandonment. See Exhibit C for a topographical map of the track to be abandoned.

2. **Effects on transportation system**

No traffic has been handled on the Subject Line for over three years. Thus, the proposed abandonment will have no effect on regional or local transportation systems or patterns.

3. **Land use**

(i) RBMN is unaware of any regional or local land use patterns with which the proposed abandonment would be inconsistent. RBMN served notices of the proposed abandonment on the following land use agencies: Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources ("PaDCNR"), Schuylkill County Commissioners, and US Department of Commerce/ NOAA N-NGS2 (The National Geodetic Survey). Copies of these letters are attached as part of Exhibit A. To date, no responses have been received from these land use agencies.

(ii) Notice of the abandonment has been served on the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (State Conservationist) ("NRCS/State Conservationist"), copies of which are attached as part of Exhibit A. The only response was received from the NRCS/State Conservationist and is a part of Exhibit B. The proposed abandonment contains some areas that are mapped as "Prime Farmland" or "Additional Farmland of Statewide Importance" by the NRCS/State Conservationist according to their response dated June 26, 2006. If these areas are to be disturbed, or if the abandonment will involve earthmoving, then

there are guidelines to be followed and forms to be completed, and local agencies to be contacted. However, RBMN does not intend on disturbing the land under or surrounding the Subject Line.

(iii) Notice of the abandonment was served on the PA Department of Environmental Protection Coastal Zone Management Program. A copy of this letter is attached as part of Exhibit A. In a letter dated June 6, 2006, the Coastal Zone Management Program confirmed that the Subject Line is not in Pennsylvania's coastal zones. See Exhibit B.

(iv) RBMN believes that the Subject Line is not a good candidate for alternative public use under 49 U.S.C. 10906. The line is only 1.2 miles long; to the west of the Subject Line, there is a marshland as well as a previously abandoned rail line; and on the east side of the proposed abandonment, there is an auto junk yard and a mountain that is partially formed of waste coal.

4. **Energy**

Since the Subject Line has not been used for over three years:

(i) The proposed abandonment will have no effect on the transportation of energy resources.

(ii) The proposed abandonment will have no effect on recyclable commodities.

(iii) There will be no effect on overall energy efficiency.

(iv) The proposed abandonment will not divert any traffic from rail to motor carriage.

5. **Air**

(A) – (C) The proposed abandonment will not result in any increases in rail or truck traffic or rail yard activity.

6. **Noise**

The proposed abandonment will not result in any increase in noise levels.

7. **Safety**

The proposed abandonment will not have any effect on public health or safety.

8. **Biological Resources**

(i) RBMN has given notice of the proposed abandonment to the following agencies: PaDCNR, Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection, Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection (Northeast Regional Office), US Environmental Protection Agency (Region 3), US National Park Service (Northeast Region), USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (State Conservationist), US Fish and Wildlife Service (Northeast Regional Office), US Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service (Pennsylvania Field Office), Pennsylvania Game Commission, and Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (Southeast Region). See Exhibit A. The replies from the responding agencies are summarized below. Copies of the responses received are included as part of Exhibit B.

- On June 7, 2006, the Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection (Northeast Regional Office) stated that they concur that the abandonment will have no significant affect on the environment as long as the two bridges over the Schuylkill River are not removed. RBMN does not intend to remove the bridges.
- The June 26, 2006 response from the NRCS/State Conservationist is discussed above in Section A.3(ii).

(ii) RBMN does not believe that there are any wildlife sanctuaries or refuges, National or State parks or forests in the vicinity of the proposed abandonment. The relevant agencies that were sent notices were as follows: US National Park Service (Northeast Region),

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (State Conservationist), US Fish and Wildlife Service (Northeast Regional Office), US Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service (Pennsylvania Field Office), Pennsylvania Game Commission (Southeast Regional Office) and Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (Southeast Region). See Section A.8(i) above for summaries of the responses received from the listed agencies. Neither of the responses included comments on this issue.

9. **Water**

(i) The proposed abandonment will be handled in a manner that is consistent with the applicable local, State and Federal water quality standards. See Section 8(i) above for a list of the agencies noticed by RBMN and for a summary of the only responses received. The responding agencies did not raise any concerns as to the proposed abandonment's effects on water quality and none are anticipated as all water-related structures (the two bridges) will remain in place.

(ii) RBMN sent notice of this proposed abandonment to the US Army Corps of Engineers. See Exhibit A. No response has been received. To the best of RBMN's knowledge, the proposed abandonment will have no effect on wetlands or 100-year flood plains as all water-related structures will remain in place.

(iii) RBMN sent notice of this proposed abandonment to the Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection ("PaDEP"), the Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection (Northeast Regional Office), and to the Environmental Protection Agency (Region 3). See Exhibit A. RBMN received a response from the Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection (Northeast Regional Office) on June 7, 2006. See Exhibit B. See their response as noted in Section A.8(i) above. As long as the two bridges over the Schuylkill River are not disturbed, the abandonment will have no affect on water resources. RBMN currently does not

intend on removing the bridges. If RBMN determines that the bridges are to be removed, it will contact PaDEP with respect to any applicable permits.

10. **Proposed Mitigation**

Since no adverse environmental impacts are expected, no mitigation is proposed.

11. **Additional Information for Rail Constructions**

Not applicable.

12. **Consultation**

As shown by the copies of letters attached hereto as Exhibit A, RBMN has consulted with the following agencies: Secretary of the Commonwealth (Pedro Cortés), PaDCNR, Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection, Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection (Northeast Regional Office), Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection - Coastal Zone Management Program, Schuylkill County Commissioners, Environmental Protection Agency (Region 3), US Fish and Wildlife Service (Northeast Regional Office), US Dept. Of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service (Pennsylvania Field Office), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Baltimore District), National Park Service (Northeast Region), USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (State Conservationist), United States Dept. of Commerce (Spatial Reference System Div.), Pennsylvania Game Commission (Bureau of Law Enforcement, Southeast Regional Office), Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (Southeast Region).

Written responses were received only from the Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection (Northeast Regional Office), the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (State Conservationist) and the Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection (Coastal Zone Management Program). Copies of the written responses are attached hereto as Exhibit B.

13. **Certifications**

RBMN certifies that:

(a) It consulted with the agencies listed in 49 CFR 1105.7(b), as described in paragraph No. 12 above.

(b) On this date, it sent copies of this report to each of the agencies consulted.

(c) Notice of the proposed abandonment was published in the The Pottsville Republican & Evening Herald, 111 Mahantongo Street, Pottsville, PA 17901 on July 5th, 2006, in the form specified in 49 CFR 1105.12. As required, the notice alerts the public to the proposed abandonment, to available reuse alternatives, and to how it may participate in this proceeding, see Exhibit D. The formal proof of publication will be submitted by RBMN in a supplemental filing.

(d) RBMN will not file its verified notice of abandonment until at least twenty (20) days after the agencies have been served with a copy of this report.

B. HISTORIC REPORT
(49 CFR 1105.8)

The information required by 49 CFR 1105.7(e)(1) is set forth in Section A.1 above.

1. **U.S.G.S. Topographic Map**

A U.S.G.S. topographic map showing the location of the proposed abandonment is attached hereto as Exhibit C. Along the proposed abandonment, there are two bridges that are originally over 50 years old. Their locations are indicated on the topographic map.

2. **Description Of Right Of Way**

The right of way for this proposed abandonment runs through lands that are lower than the rail line as the line rests on a fill which makes it approximately 10-15 feet higher than the surrounding terrain. To the west of the proposed abandonment, there is a marshland as well as a rail line that Pennsylvania Railroad previously abandoned. On the east side of the proposed abandonment, there is an auto junk yard and a mountain that is partially formed of waste coal. The right of way for the proposed abandonment has various owners and is of varying widths. See Exhibit E for the details.

3. **Historic Structure(s)**

There are two structures along the abandonment which are more than 50 years old. They are bridges that were built in 1931 and cross the Schuylkill River at Mileposts 7.68 and 8.09. See Exhibit F for photographs of these structures. RBMN believes that substantial work has been done on the decking of the bridges within the past 50 years. The subject Line, including the bridges were part of the lines of railroad that RBMN purchased on December 14, 1990 from Conrail.

4. **Description of Structures**

The bridge located at Milepost 7.68 is a timber bridge with a stone masonry foundation and wing walls. It is 72 feet long. RBMN's records indicate that the bridge's substructure consists of a foundation, wings, abutments and a pier of first class stone masonry. There are 6 bents of 12' x 12" timber – 97.8' between the abutments and 103.8' between the back walls, and the superstructure is a single track wooden stringer bridge on tangent. There are two 12' x 16" stringers under each rail. Clearance over the West Branch of the Schuylkill River is 6' 7". The condition of the bridge's timbers indicates that work may have been done by the previous owner, Conrail, sometime between 1976 and 1990. Where this bridge meets the land, the rail line is elevated approximately 10-15 feet above the surrounding lands by means of an earth fill. The property width at the bridge is 82 ½ feet. See Section B.2. of this Historic Report for a description of the surrounding terrain.

The bridge located at Milepost 8.09 is a timber bridge with a stone masonry foundation and wing walls. It is 96 feet long. RBMN's records indicate that the bridge's substructure is of stone masonry. There are 74' between abutments and 78.4' between back walls with two spans each of 84.5'. The superstructure is a two track wooden stringer. There are two 12' x 16" stringers under each rail. Clearance over the West Branch of the Schuylkill River is 9' 5". The condition of the bridge's timbers indicates that work may have been done by the previous owner, Conrail, sometime between 1976 and 1990. Where this bridge meets the land, the rail line is elevated approximately 10-15 feet above the surrounding lands by means of an earth fill. The property width at the bridge is 82 ½ feet. See Section B.2. of this Historic Report for a description of the surrounding terrain.

5. **History of Carrier Operations in the Area**

Based on information in RBMN's possession, the Subject Line was built in the 1850's as the Mine Hill and Schuylkill Haven Railroad. The line was leased to the Philadelphia and Reading Railway, possibly the 1860's, and then absorbed into the Philadelphia and Reading Railway in approximately 1897. The Philadelphia and Reading Railway was reorganized into the Reading Company in 1923. Designated lines of the Reading Company, including this one, became a part of Conrail on April 1, 1976 pursuant to the Final System Plan. Conrail sold the Subject Line to RBMN on December 14, 1990. The last rail service provided on the Subject Line segment was on April 20, 2003. Because of the lack of use, RBMN proposes to abandon the line and to salvage the track materials. The two bridges that are originally over 50 years old will be left in place.

6. **Summary of Structure Documentation**

The only documentation that RBMN has been able to locate in its possession concerning the two bridges that are over 50 years old are two single Microfiche cards from the Reading Company, and a Reading Company Quarter Mile Track Map. Thus far no additional documentation about the structures has been located.

7. **Opinion Regarding Criteria for Listing**

On June 19th, 2006, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission's Division of Archaeology & Protection ("Historic Commission") responded that there are no National Register eligible or listed historic or archaeological properties in the area of this proposed project. See the letter attached as Exhibit G. The agency asks to be notified if RBMN becomes aware, from any source, of the location of any historic or archaeological properties at or near the proposed abandonment. RBMN's proposed salvage of the rail materials is not

expected to disturb any potential archeological resources in the area.

8. **Environmental Conditions**

The Subject Line is constructed on a raised earthen fill whose origin is unknown though likely to be from neighboring lands. RBMN is unaware of any prior subsurface ground disturbance or fill, or environmental conditions which might affect the archaeological recovery of resources or the surrounding terrain.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric M. Hocky", written over a horizontal line.

ERIC M. HOCKY
GOLLATZ, GRIFFIN & EWING, P.C.
Four Penn Center
Suite 200
1600 JFK Blvd.
Philadelphia, PA 19103
(215) 563-9400
Attorney for
Reading Blue Mountain and
Northern Railroad Company

Dated: July 10, 2006

EXHIBIT A

A COPY OF THIS MAP WAS INCLUDED WITH EACH LETTER.

BOX INDICATES
ABANDONMENT PORTION
MP 76 TO MP 88

**Black Industries REMAIN
active properly**

213 WEST MINER STREET
PO BOX 796
WEST CHESTER, PA 19381
TELEPHONE 610.692.9116
FACSIMILE 610.692.9177
WWW.GGELAW.COM

G&E GOLLATZ
GRIFFIN
& EWING
ATTORNEYS - AT - LAW

LEANORE D. BELLIS
DIRECT DIAL 610.350.4132
lbellis@ggelaw.com

June 1, 2006
VIA: FIRST CLASS MAIL

David Densmore
Supervisor
US Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Pennsylvania Field Office
315 South Allen Street
Suite 322
State College, PA 16801-4805

RE: Notice of Abandonment
Reading Blue Mountain and Northern Railroad Company -
Minersville Running Track - Schuylkill County, PA
STB Docket No. AB-996X

Dear Mr. Densmore:

This letter is to advise you that Reading Blue Mountain and Northern Railroad Company ("RBMN") proposes to abandon its line of railroad on the Minersville Running Track that runs from milepost 7.6 to milepost 8.8, located in Norwegian and Cass Townships in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania. The nearest station is New Saint Nicholas (OPSL-2475) located at SPLC-204650. This line traverses through United States Postal ZIP Code 17954. A map showing the location of the line is attached. To RBMN's knowledge, the line does not contain federally granted rights of way.

No local service has been provided on the line for over three years. RBMN plans to seek Surface Transportation Board ("STB") authorization for its abandonment by filing a verified notice of exemption pursuant to the provisions of 49 C.F.R. 1152.50 on or about July 31st, 2006 in Docket No. AB-996X.

RBMN plans to salvage the track and materials following the line's abandonment. (RBMN has not yet determined whether it would remove the two bridges on the line that cross the West Branch of the Schuylkill River as part of the salvage operations following abandonment.) RBMN does not believe that there are any reasonable alternatives to the proposed action. RBMN believes that the abandonment authorization will not have a significant effect upon the environment.

US Department of the Interior
June 1, 2006
RE: Notice of Abandonment
Page 2 of 2

In advance of preparing an environmental/historic report as required by applicable STB regulations, we are consulting with appropriate agencies such as yours as to any concerns which they may have as to *environmental or historic preservation effects of the proposed abandonment.*

We would appreciate an expression from you by June 30, 2006 that, within the area of your authority, you do not perceive that the abandonment of the line will have a significant effect upon the environment or historic preservation. If you have any questions about the abandonment proposal or if you need assistance in this matter, please call me at (610) 692-9116 (ext. 4322).

Thank you for your cooperation.

Very truly yours,

Leanore D. Bellis
Paralegal

Enclosure (Map)

cc: J. Raffa (RBMN)
Eric M. Hocky, Esquire

213 WEST MINER STREET
PO Box 796
WEST CHESTER, PA 19381
TELEPHONE 610.692.9116
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ATTORNEYS - AT - LAW

LEANORE D. BELLIS
DIRECT DIAL 610.350.4132
lbellis@ggelaw.com

June 1, 2006
VIA: FIRST CLASS MAIL

U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers
Baltimore District
P.O. Box 1715
Baltimore, MD 21201-1715

RE: Notice of Abandonment
Reading Blue Mountain and Northern Railroad Company -
Minersville Running Track - Schuylkill County, PA
STB Docket No. AB-996X

Dear Sir or Madam:

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In advance of preparing an environmental/historic report as required by applicable STB regulations, we are consulting with appropriate agencies such as yours as to any concerns which they may have as to environmental or historic preservation effects of the proposed abandonment.

U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District

June 1, 2006

RE: Notice of Abandonment

Page 2 of 2

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June 1, 2006
VIA: FIRST CLASS MAIL

Northeast Region
Regional Director
National Park Service
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut St., Fifth Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19106

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No local service has been provided on the line for over three years. RBMN plans to seek Surface Transportation Board ("STB") authorization for its abandonment by filing a verified notice of exemption pursuant to the provisions of 49 C.F.R. 1152.50 on or about July 31st, 2006 in Docket No. AB-996X.

RBMN plans to salvage the track and materials following the line's abandonment. (RBMN has not yet determined whether it would remove the two bridges on the line that cross the West Branch of the Schuylkill River as part of the salvage operations following abandonment.) RBMN does not believe that there are any reasonable alternatives to the proposed action. RBMN believes that the abandonment authorization will not have a significant effect upon the environment.

National Park Service
June 1, 2006
RE: Notice of Abandonment
Page 2 of 2

In advance of preparing an environmental/historic report as required by applicable STB regulations, we are consulting with appropriate agencies such as yours as to any concerns which they may have as to environmental or historic preservation effects of the proposed abandonment.

We would appreciate an expression from you by June 30, 2006 that, within the area of your authority, you do not perceive that the abandonment of the line will have a significant effect upon the environment or historic preservation. If you have any questions about the abandonment proposal or if you need assistance in this matter, please call me at (610) 692-9116 (ext. 4322).

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June 1, 2006
VIA: FIRST CLASS MAIL

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
5601 Sunnyside Ave.
Mailstop 5410, Room 1-1290A
Beltsville MD 20705-5410

State Conservationist
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
One Credit Union Place, Suite 340
Harrisburg, PA 17110-2993

RE: Notice of Abandonment
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USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
June 1, 2006
RE: Notice of Abandonment
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June 1, 2006
VIA: FIRST CLASS MAIL

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
5601 Sunnyside Ave.
Mailstop 5410, Room 1-1290A
Beltsville MD 20705-5410

State Conservationist
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
One Credit Union Place, Suite 340
Harrisburg, PA 17110-2993

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USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

June 1, 2006

RE: Notice of Abandonment

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June 1, 2006
VIA: FIRST CLASS MAIL

Mr. Richard A. Snay
Chief, Spatial Reference System Div.
United States Dept. of Commerce
NOAA, N/NGS2
SSMC3, Room 8828
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

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STB Docket No. AB-996X

Dear Mr. Snay:

This letter is to advise you that Reading Blue Mountain and Northern Railroad Company ("RBMN") proposes to abandon its line of railroad on the Minersville Running Track that runs from milepost 7.6 to milepost 8.8, located in Norwegian and Cass Townships in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania. The nearest station is New Saint Nicholas (OPSL-2475) located at SPLC-204650. This line traverses through United States Postal ZIP Code 17954. A map showing the location of the line is attached. To RBMN's knowledge, the line does not contain federally granted rights of way.

No local service has been provided on the line for over three years. RBMN plans to seek Surface Transportation Board ("STB") authorization for its abandonment by filing a verified notice of exemption pursuant to the provisions of 49 C.F.R. 1152.50 on or about July 31st, 2006 in Docket No. AB-996X.

RBMN plans to salvage the track and materials following the line's abandonment. (RBMN has not yet determined whether it would remove the two bridges on the line that cross the West Branch of the Schuylkill River as part of the salvage operations following abandonment.) RBMN does not believe that there are any reasonable alternatives to the proposed action. RBMN believes that the abandonment authorization will not have a significant effect upon the environment.

United States Dept. of Commerce
June 1, 2006
RE: Notice of Abandonment
Page 2 of 2

In advance of preparing an environmental/historic report as required by applicable STB regulations, we are consulting with appropriate agencies such as yours as to any concerns which they may have as to environmental or historic preservation effects of the proposed abandonment.

We would appreciate an expression from you by June 30, 2006 that, within the area of your authority, you do not perceive that the abandonment of the line will have a significant effect upon the environment or historic preservation. If you have any questions about the abandonment proposal or if you need assistance in this matter, please call me at (610) 692-9116 (ext. 4322).

Thank you for your cooperation.

Very truly yours,

Leanore D. Bellis
Paralegal

Enclosure (Map)

cc: J. Raffa (RBMN)
Eric M. Hocky, Esquire

213 WEST MINER STREET
PO Box 796
WEST CHESTER, PA 19381
TELEPHONE 610.692.9116
FACSIMILE 610.692.9177
WWW.GGELAW.COM

G&E GOLLATZ
GRIFFIN
& EWING
ATTORNEYS - AT - LAW

LEANORE D. BELLIS
DIRECT DIAL 610.350.4132
lbellis@ggelaw.com

June 1, 2006
VIA: FIRST CLASS MAIL

Pennsylvania Game Commission
Bureau of Law Enforcement
Southeast Regional Office
448 Snyder Road
Reading, PA 19605

RE: Notice of Abandonment
Reading Blue Mountain and Northern Railroad Company -
Minersville Running Track - Schuylkill County, PA
STB Docket No. AB-996X

Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter is to advise you that Reading Blue Mountain and Northern Railroad Company ("RBMN") proposes to abandon its line of railroad on the Minersville Running Track that runs from milepost 7.6 to milepost 8.8, located in Norwegian and Cass Townships in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania. The nearest station is New Saint Nicholas (OPSL-2475) located at SPLC-204650. This line traverses through United States Postal ZIP Code 17954. A map showing the location of the line is attached. To RBMN's knowledge, the line does not contain federally granted rights of way.

No local service has been provided on the line for over three years. RBMN plans to seek Surface Transportation Board ("STB") authorization for its abandonment by filing a verified notice of exemption pursuant to the provisions of 49 C.F.R. 1152.50 on or about July 31st, 2006 in Docket No. AB-996X.

RBMN plans to salvage the track and materials following the line's abandonment. (RBMN has not yet determined whether it would remove the two bridges on the line that cross the West Branch of the Schuylkill River as part of the salvage operations following abandonment.) RBMN does not believe that there are any reasonable alternatives to the proposed action. RBMN believes that the abandonment authorization will not have a significant effect upon the environment.

In advance of preparing an environmental/historic report as required by applicable STB regulations, we are consulting with appropriate agencies such as yours as to any concerns which they may have as to environmental or historic preservation effects of the proposed abandonment.

Pennsylvania Game Commission
June 1, 2006
RE: Notice of Abandonment
Page 2 of 2

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Thank you for your cooperation.

Very truly yours,

Leanore D. Bellis
Paralegal

Enclosure (Map)

cc: J. Raffa (RBMN)
Eric M. Hocky, Esquire

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LEANORE D. BELLIS
DIRECT DIAL 610.350.4132
lbellis@ggelaw.com

G&E GOLLATZ
GRIFFIN
& EWING
ATTORNEYS - AT - LAW

June 1, 2006
VIA: FIRST CLASS MAIL

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission
Southeast Region
Brubaker Valley Road & Lakeview Drive
P.O. Box 9
Elm, PA 17521

RE: Notice of Abandonment
Reading Blue Mountain and Northern Railroad Company -
Minersville Running Track - Schuylkill County, PA
STB Docket No. AB-996X

Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter is to advise you that Reading Blue Mountain and Northern Railroad Company ("RBMN") proposes to abandon its line of railroad on the Minersville Running Track that runs from milepost 7.6 to milepost 8.8, located in Norwegian and Cass Townships in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania. The nearest station is New Saint Nicholas (OPSL-2475) located at SPLC-204650. This line traverses through United States Postal ZIP Code 17954. A map showing the location of the line is attached. To RBMN's knowledge, the line does not contain federally granted rights of way.

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Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission

June 1, 2006

RE: Notice of Abandonment

Page 2 of 2

In advance of preparing an environmental/historic report as required by applicable STB regulations, we are consulting with appropriate agencies such as yours as to any concerns which they may have as to environmental or historic preservation effects of the proposed abandonment.

We would appreciate an expression from you by June 30, 2006 that, within the area of your authority, you do not perceive that the abandonment of the line will have a significant effect upon the environment or historic preservation. If you have any questions about the abandonment proposal or if you need assistance in this matter, please call me at (610) 692-9116 (ext. 4322).

Thank you for your cooperation.

Very truly yours,

Leanore D. Bellis
Paralegal

Enclosure (Map)

cc: J. Raffa (RBMN)
Eric M. Hocky, Esquire

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& EWING
ATTORNEYS - AT - LAW

LEANORE D. BELLIS
DIRECT DIAL 610.350.4132
lbellis@ggelaw.com

June 1, 2006
VIA: FIRST CLASS MAIL

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
300 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

RE: Notice of Abandonment
Reading Blue Mountain and Northern Railroad Company -
Minersville Running Track- Schuylkill County, PA
STB Docket No. AB-996X

Dear Sir or Madam:

Reading Blue Mountain and Northern Railroad Company ("RBMN") proposes to abandon its line of railroad on the Minersville Running Track that runs from milepost 7.6 to milepost 8.8, located in Norwegian Township and Cass Township in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania. The nearest station is New Saint Nicholas (OPSL-2475) located at SPLC-204650. This line traverses through United States Postal ZIP Code 17954. A map showing the location of the line is attached. To RBMN's knowledge, the line does not contain federally granted rights of way.

No local service has been provided on the line for over three years. RBMN plans to seek Surface Transportation Board ("STB") authorization for its abandonment by filing a verified notice of exemption pursuant to the provisions of 49 C.F.R. 1152.50 on or about July 31st, 2006 in Docket No. AB-996X.

RBMN plans to salvage the track and materials following the line's abandonment. RBMN does not believe that there are any reasonable alternatives to the proposed action. RBMN believes that the abandonment will not have a significant effect upon historic preservation.

Based on a review of their records, RBMN believes that the right-of-way includes two structures that may be all or partially over 50 years old - two bridges located at MP 8.09 and MP 7.68. The substructures of these bridges are believed to be nearly 100 years old and consist of stone masonry; the superstructures have wooden stringers. The decks have been rebuilt within the last 50 years. RBMN has not yet determined whether it would remove these bridges as part of the salvage operations following abandonment.

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
June 1, 2006
Page 2 of 2

In advance of preparing an historic report as required by applicable regulations, we are consulting with appropriate agencies such as yours as to any concerns which they may have as to historic preservation effects of the proposed abandonment.

We would appreciate an expression from you by June 30th, 2006, that, within the area of your authority, you do not perceive that the abandonment will have a significant effect upon historic preservation. If you have any questions about the railroads' proposal, or if you need further assistance, please call me at (610) 692-9116 (ext. 4322).

Thank you for your cooperation.

Very truly yours,

Leanore D. Bellis
Paralegal

Enclosure (Map)

cc: J. Raffa (RBMN)
Eric M. Hocky, Esquire

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PO BOX 796
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& EWING
ATTORNEYS - AT - LAW

LEANORE D. BELLIS
DIRECT DIAL 610.350.4132
lbellis@ggelaw.com

June 1, 2006
VIA: FIRST CLASS MAIL

Pedro Cortés
Secretary of the Commonwealth
302 North Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

RE: Notice of Abandonment
Reading Blue Mountain and Northern Railroad Company -
Minersville Running Track - Schuylkill County, PA
STB Docket No. AB-996X

Dear Mr. Cortes:

This letter is to advise you that Reading Blue Mountain and Northern Railroad Company ("RBMN") proposes to abandon its line of railroad on the Minersville Running Track that runs from milepost 7.6 to milepost 8.8, located in Norwegian and Cass Townships in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania. The nearest station is New Saint Nicholas (OPSL-2475) located at SPLC-204650. This line traverses through United States Postal ZIP Code 17954. A map showing the location of the line is attached. To RBMN's knowledge, the line does not contain federally granted rights of way.

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In advance of preparing an environmental/historic report as required by applicable STB regulations, we are consulting with appropriate agencies such as yours as to any concerns which they may have as to environmental or historic preservation effects of the proposed abandonment.

GOLLATZ, GRIFFIN & EWING, P.C.

Secretary of the Commonwealth

RE: Notice of Abandonment

Page 2 of 2

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Thank you for your cooperation.

Very truly yours,

Leanore D. Bellis
Paralegal

Enclosure (Map)

cc: J. Raffa (RBMN)
Eric M. Hocky, Esquire

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LEANORE D. BELLIS
DIRECT DIAL 610.350.4132
lbellis@ggelaw.com

June 1, 2006
VIA: FIRST CLASS MAIL

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Rachel Carson State Office Building
PO Box 8767
400 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8767

RE: Notice of Abandonment
Reading Blue Mountain and Northern Railroad Company -
Minersville Running Track - Schuylkill County, PA
STB Docket No. AB-996X

Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter is to advise you that Reading Blue Mountain and Northern Railroad Company ("RBMN") proposes to abandon its line of railroad on the Minersville Running Track that runs from milepost 7.6 to milepost 8.8, located in Norwegian and Cass Townships in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania. The nearest station is New Saint Nicholas (OPSL-2475) located at SPLC-204650. This line traverses through United States Postal ZIP Code 17954. A map showing the location of the line is attached. To RBMN's knowledge, the line does not contain federally granted rights of way.

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In advance of preparing an environmental/historic report as required by applicable STB regulations, we are consulting with appropriate agencies such as yours as to any concerns which they may have as to environmental or historic preservation effects of the proposed abandonment.

GOLLATZ, GRIFFIN & EWING, P.C.

WEST CHESTER

PHILADELPHIA

WILMINGTON

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

June 1, 2006

RE: Notice of Abandonment

Page 2 of 2

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Thank you for your cooperation.

Very truly yours,

Leanore D. Bellis
Paralegal

Enclosure (Map)

cc: J. Raffa (RBMN)
Eric M. Hocky, Esquire

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LEANORE D. BELLIS
DIRECT DIAL 610.350.4132
lbellis@ggelaw.com

June 1, 2006
VIA: FIRST CLASS MAIL

Pa. Dept. of Environmental Protection
Rachel Carson State Office Building
400 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17105

RE: Notice of Abandonment
Reading Blue Mountain and Northern Railroad Company -
Minersville Running Track - Schuylkill County, PA
STB Docket No. AB-996X

Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter is to advise you that Reading Blue Mountain and Northern Railroad Company ("RBMN") proposes to abandon its line of railroad on the Minersville Running Track that runs from milepost 7.6 to milepost 8.8, located in Norwegian and Cass Townships in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania. The nearest station is New Saint Nicholas (OPSL-2475) located at SPLC-204650. This line traverses through United States Postal ZIP Code 17954. A map showing the location of the line is attached. To RBMN's knowledge, the line does not contain federally granted rights of way.

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Pa. Dept. of Environmental Protection
June 1, 2006
RE: Notice of Abandonment
Page 2 of 2

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Thank you for your cooperation.

Very truly yours,

Leanore D. Bellis
Paralegal

Enclosure (Map)

cc: J. Raffa (RBMN)
Eric M. Hocky, Esquire

213 WEST MINER STREET
PO BOX 796
WEST CHESTER, PA 19381
TELEPHONE 610.692.9116
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ATTORNEYS - AT - LAW

LEANORE D. BELLIS
DIRECT DIAL 610.350.4132
lbellis@ggelaw.com

June 1, 2006
VIA: FIRST CLASS MAIL

Pa. Dept. of Environmental Protection
Northeast Regional Office
2 Public Square
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711-0790

RE: Notice of Abandonment
Reading Blue Mountain and Northern Railroad Company -
Minersville Running Track - Schuylkill County, PA
STB Docket No. AB-996X

Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter is to advise you that Reading Blue Mountain and Northern Railroad Company ("RBMN") proposes to abandon its line of railroad on the Minersville Running Track that runs from milepost 7.6 to milepost 8.8, located in Norwegian and Cass Townships in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania. The nearest station is New Saint Nicholas (OPSL-2475) located at SPLC-204650. This line traverses through United States Postal ZIP Code 17954. A map showing the location of the line is attached. To RBMN's knowledge, the line does not contain federally granted rights of way.

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Pa. Dept. of Environmental Protection
June 1, 2006
RE: Notice of Abandonment
Page 2 of 2

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Thank you for your cooperation.

Very truly yours,

Leanore D. Bellis
Paralegal

Enclosure (Map)

cc: J. Raffa (RBMN)
Eric M. Hocky, Esquire

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ATTORNEYS - AT - LAW

LEANORE D. BELLIS
DIRECT DIAL 610.350.4132
lbellis@ggelaw.com

June 1, 2006
VIA: FIRST CLASS MAIL

PA Department of Environmental Protection
Coastal Zone Management Program
P.O. Box 2063
400 Market Street, 15th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063

RE: Notice of Abandonment
Reading Blue Mountain and Northern Railroad Company -
Minersville Running Track - Schuylkill County
STB Docket No. AB-996X

Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter is to advise you that Reading Blue Mountain and Northern Railroad Company ("RBMN") proposes to abandon its line of railroad on the Minersville Running Track that runs from milepost 7.6 to milepost 8.8, located in Norwegian Township and Cass Township in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania. The nearest station is New Saint Nicholas (OPSL-2475) located at SPLC-204650. This line traverses through United States Postal ZIP Code 17954. A map showing the location of the line is attached. To RBMN's knowledge, the line does not contain federally granted rights of way. Any documentation in the railroad's possession will be made available promptly to those requesting it.

No local service has been provided on the line for over three years. RBMN plans to seek Surface Transportation Board ("STB") authorization for its abandonment by filing a verified notice of exemption pursuant to the provisions of 49 C.F.R. 1152.50 on or about July 31st, 2006 in Docket No. AB-996X.

RBMN plans to salvage the track and materials following the line's abandonment. RBMN does not believe that there are any reasonable alternatives to the proposed action. RBMN believes that the abandonment will not have a significant effect upon the environment.

Please advise us whether the line is within Pennsylvania's coastal zone. If it is within the coastal zone, please advise further (1) if the proposed abandonment is an action listed for review in Pennsylvania's coastal zone management plan, and (2) if the action is so listed, whether the proposed action is consistent with the coastal zone management plan. We would appreciate a response from you by June 30, 2006.

GOLLATZ, GRIFFIN & EWING, P.C.

Coastal Zone Management Program

June 1, 2006

Page 2 of 2

If you have any questions about the railroads' proposal or if you need assistance in this matter, please call me at (610) 692-9116 (ext. 4322).

Thank you for your cooperation.

Very truly yours,

Leanore D. Bellis
Paralegal

Enclosure (Map)

cc: J. Raffa (RBMN)
Eric M. Hocky, Esquire

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LEANORE D. BELLIS
DIRECT DIAL 610.350.4132
lbellis@ggelaw.com

June 1, 2006
VIA: FIRST CLASS MAIL

Schuylkill County Commissioners
401 N. Second Street
Pottsville, PA 17901

RE: Notice of Abandonment
Reading Blue Mountain and Northern Railroad Company -
Minersville Running Track - Schuylkill County, PA
STB Docket No. AB-996X

Dear Sirs and/or Madams:

This letter is to advise you that Reading Blue Mountain and Northern Railroad Company ("RBMN") proposes to abandon its line of railroad on the Minersville Running Track that runs from milepost 7.6 to milepost 8.8, located in Norwegian and Cass Townships in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania. The nearest station is New Saint Nicholas (OPSL-2475) located at SPLC-204650. This line traverses through United States Postal ZIP Code 17954. A map showing the location of the line is attached. To RBMN's knowledge, the line does not contain federally granted rights of way.

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In advance of preparing an environmental/historic report as required by applicable STB regulations, we are consulting with appropriate agencies such as yours as to any concerns which they may have as to environmental or historic preservation effects of the proposed abandonment.

Schuylkill County Commissioners

June 1, 2006

RE: Notice of Abandonment

Page 2 of 2

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Enclosure (Map)

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LEANORE D. BELLIS
DIRECT DIAL 610.350.4132
lbellis@ggelaw.com

June 1, 2006
VIA: FIRST CLASS MAIL

Region 3
Environmental Protection Agency
1650 Arch Street (3PM52)
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029

RE: Notice of Abandonment
Reading Blue Mountain and Northern Railroad Company -
Minersville Running Track - Schuylkill County, PA
STB Docket No. AB-996X

Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter is to advise you that Reading Blue Mountain and Northern Railroad Company ("RBMN") proposes to abandon its line of railroad on the Minersville Running Track that runs from milepost 7.6 to milepost 8.8, located in Norwegian and Cass Townships in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania. The nearest station is New Saint Nicholas (OPSL-2475) located at SPLC-204650. This line traverses through United States Postal ZIP Code 17954. A map showing the location of the line is attached. To RBMN's knowledge, the line does not contain federally granted rights of way.

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GOLLATZ, GRIFFIN & EWING, P.C.

WEST CHESTER

PHILADELPHIA

WILMINGTON

Environmental Protection Agency
June 1, 2006
RE: Notice of Abandonment
Page 2 of 2

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Paralegal

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June 1, 2006
VIA: FIRST CLASS MAIL

US Fish and Wildlife Service
Northeast Regional Office
300 Westgate Center Drive
Hadley, MA 01035-9589

RE: Notice of Abandonment
Reading Blue Mountain and Northern Railroad Company -
Minersville Running Track - Schuylkill County, PA
STB Docket No. AB-996X

Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter is to advise you that Reading Blue Mountain and Northern Railroad Company ("RBMN") proposes to abandon its line of railroad on the Minersville Running Track that runs from milepost 7.6 to milepost 8.8, located in Norwegian and Cass Townships in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania. The nearest station is New Saint Nicholas (OPSL-2475) located at SPLC-204650. This line traverses through United States Postal ZIP Code 17954. A map showing the location of the line is attached. To RBMN's knowledge, the line does not contain federally granted rights of way.

No local service has been provided on the line for over three years. RBMN plans to seek Surface Transportation Board ("STB") authorization for its abandonment by filing a verified notice of exemption pursuant to the provisions of 49 C.F.R. 1152.50 on or about July 31st, 2006 in Docket No. AB-996X.

RBMN plans to salvage the track and materials following the line's abandonment. (RBMN has not yet determined whether it would remove the two bridges on the line that cross the West Branch of the Schuylkill River as part of the salvage operations following abandonment.) RBMN does not believe that there are any reasonable alternatives to the proposed action. RBMN believes that the abandonment authorization will not have a significant effect upon the environment.

In advance of preparing an environmental/historic report as required by applicable STB regulations, we are consulting with appropriate agencies such as yours as to any concerns which they may have as to environmental or historic preservation effects of the proposed abandonment.

US Fish and Wildlife Service
June 1, 2006
RE: Notice of Abandonment
Page 2 of 2

We would appreciate an expression from you by June 30, 2006 that, within the area of your authority, you do not perceive that the abandonment of the line will have a significant effect upon the environment or historic preservation. If you have any questions about the abandonment proposal or if you need assistance in this matter, please call me at (610) 692-9116 (ext. 4322).

Thank you for your cooperation.

Very truly yours,

Leanore D. Bellis
Paralegal

Enclosure (Map)

cc: J. Raffa (RBMN)
Eric M. Hocky, Esquire

EXHIBIT B



One Credit Union Place, Suite 340, Harrisburg, PA 17110
717-237-2100 717-237-2238 fax

June 26, 2006

Leanore D. Bellis
GG & E Attorneys at Law
213 West Miner Street
P.O. Box 796
West Chester, PA 19381

Re:
Abandonment—Reading Blue Mountain and Northern Railroad Schuylkill County, PA

As requested in a letter dated June 1, 2006 we have reviewed the project location for possible areas of concern to the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

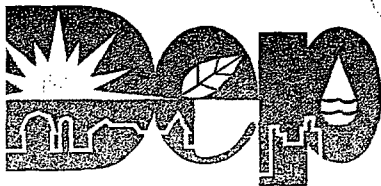
Some of the areas inside the project boundaries are mapped as Prime Farmland or Additional Farmland of Statewide Importance. If these areas have not already been converted to development or are not indicated as urbanized area on U.S. Census maps, and if federal funds will be used to convert them to non-agricultural use, a Farmland Conversion Impact Rating, FormAD-1006 should be completed to evaluate the impacts to agricultural lands. Copies of the form can be downloaded from <http://www.info.usda.gov/nrcs/fpcp/fppa.htm>

As for any project involving earthmoving, both temporary and permanent erosion and sedimentation control practices should be planned, implemented and maintained. We recommend consultation with appropriate county conservation districts for review of erosion and sedimentation control plans and practices.

Contact me at telephone number (717) 237-2218; fax number (717) 237-2238; email: timothy.emenheiser@pa.usda.gov if you need more information or further assistance.


Tim Emenheiser
Resource Conservationist

Cc: Dennis DiOrio, District Conservationist, Pottsville, PA



Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Rec'd
6/9/06

2 Public Square
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711-0790
June 7, 2006

Northeast Regional Office

570-826-2511
Fax 570-830-3054

Ms. Leanore D. Bellis
Gollatz, Griffin & Ewing
213 West Miner Street
P. O. Box 796
West Chester, PA 19381

Dear Ms. Bellis:

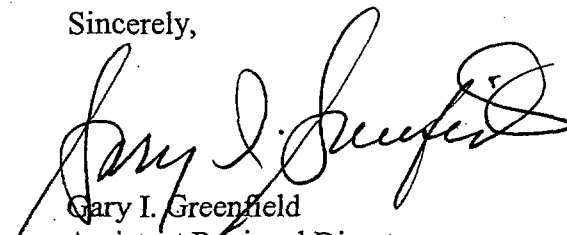
Thank you for your letter of June 1, 2006 concerning your proposal to abandon the line of railroad on the Minersville Running Track that runs from milepost 7.6 to milepost 8.8, located in Norwegian and Cass Townships, Schuylkill County.

Based on the brief narrative supplied with the Notice of Abandonment, I concur that the abandonment will not have a significant effect on the environment. However, if Reading Blue Mountain and Northern Railroad Company plans to remove the two bridges on the line that cross the West Branch of the Schuylkill River as part of salvage operations following the abandonment, I believe that there would be an environmental impact and it would be necessary for you to contact the Department to discuss applicable permits.

Thank you for the opportunity to learn about this project

Please contact me if there are any questions or if you need additional information.

Sincerely,



Gary I. Greenfield
Assistant Regional Director
Northeast Regional Office





Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Rachel Carson State Office Building

P.O. Box 2063

Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063

June 6, 2006

Rec'd
6/12/06

Water Planning Office

717-772-5622

Leanore D. Bellis, Paralegal
Gollatz, Griffin & Ewing
213 West Miner Street
PO Box 796
West Chester, PA 19381

Re: DEP File No. CZ7:FPL

Dear Ms. Bellis:

On June 5, 2006, the Pennsylvania Coastal Resources Management (CRM) Program received in this office the **Notice of Abandonment, Reading Blue Mountain and Northern Railroad Company- Minersville Running Track - Schuylkill County STB Docket No. AB-996X.**

The aforementioned abandonment of this rail line is subject to our federal consistency review under 15 CFR Part 930 Subpart D - Consistency for Federally Licensed and Permit Activities. We have determined that this activity occurring in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania is located outside of Pennsylvania's coastal zones, and will not impact upon them. As such, this activity is consistent with Pennsylvania's CRM Program.

Sincerely,

Lawrence J. Toth
Environmental Planner
Coastal Resources Management Program



EXHIBIT C

READING BLUE MOUNTAIN
AND NORTHERN RAILROAD
COMPANY'S MINERSVILLE
RUNNING TRACK

TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

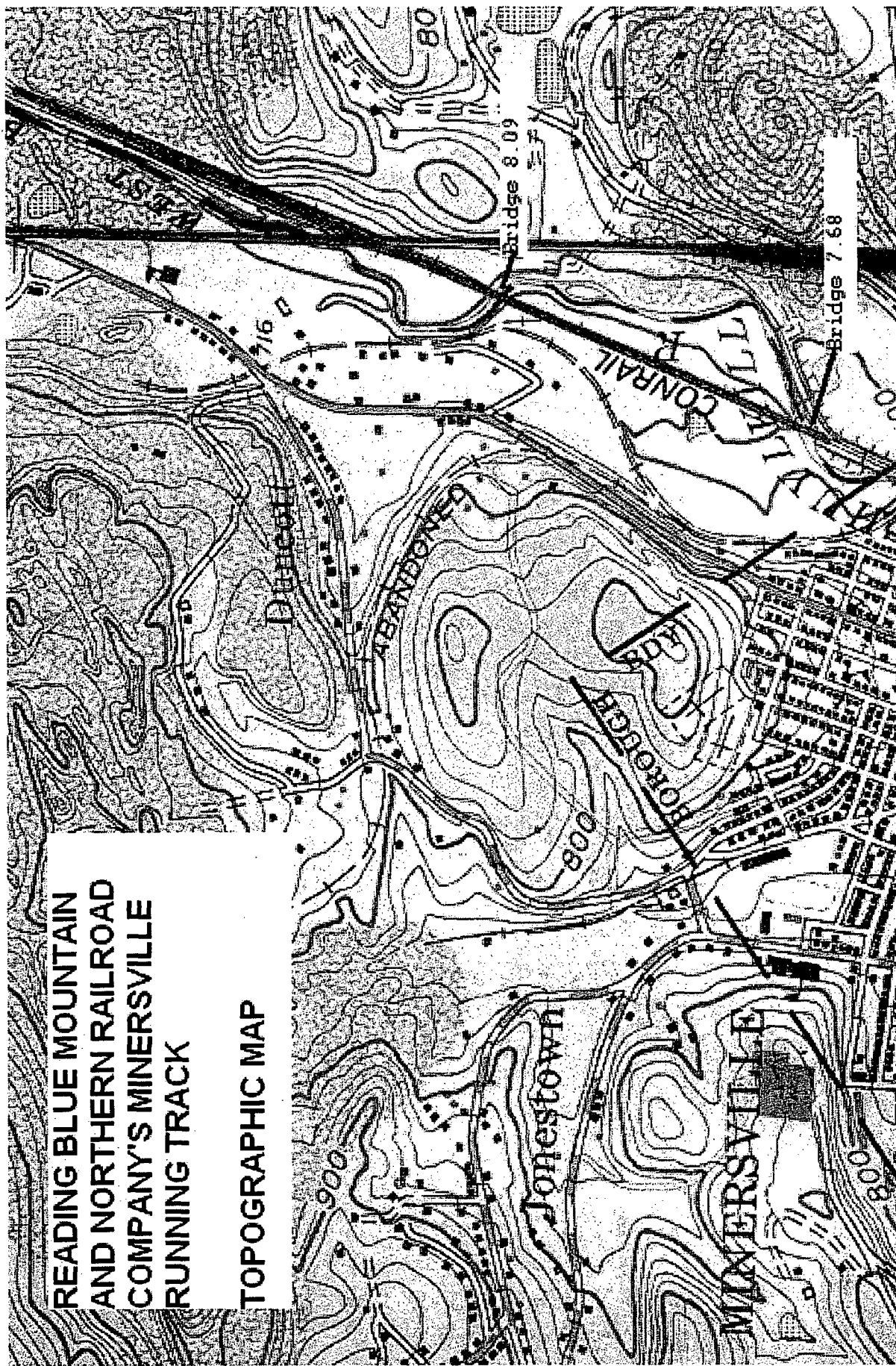


EXHIBIT D

NOTICE

Reading Blue Mountain and Northern Railroad Company ("RBMN") gives notice that on or about July 31, 2006, it intends to file with the Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423, a Notice of Abandonment pursuant to 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F – Exempt Abandonments, permitting the abandonment of the 1.2 mile portion of the the Minersville Running Track from milepost 7.6 to milepost 8.8, located in Norwegian and Cass Townships in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania. The nearest station is New Saint Nicholas (OPSL-2475) located at SPLC-204650. This line traverses through United States Postal ZIP Code 17954. At this time, RBMN intends to salvage the track and materials following the line's abandonment. RBMN's proceeding will be docketed as AB-996X.

The Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) will generally prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA), which will normally be available 25 days after the filing of RBMN's notice of exemption. Comments on environmental and energy matters should be filed no later than 15 days after the EA becomes available to the public and will be addressed in a Board decision. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA or make inquiries regarding environmental matters by writing to the SEA, Surface Transportation Board, Mercury Building, 1925 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20423 or by calling SEA at 202-565-1545.

Appropriate offers of financial assistance to continue rail service can be filed with the Board. Requests for environmental conditions, public use conditions, or rail banking/trails use also can be filed with the Board. An original and 10 copies of any pleading that raises matters other than environmental issues (such as trails use, public use, and offers of financial assistance) must be filed directly with the Board's Office of the Secretary, Mercury Building, 1925 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20423 [see 49 CFR 1104.1(a) and 1104.3(a)], and one copy must be served on applicants' representative [see 49 CFR 1104.12(a)]. Questions regarding offers of financial assistance, public use or trails use may be directed to the Board's Office of Congressional and Public Services at 202-565-1592. Copies of any comments or requests for conditions should be served on the applicant's representative: Eric Hocky, Gollatz, Griffin & Ewing, P.C., Four Penn Center, Suite 200, 1600 JFK Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA 19103, (215) 563-9400.

EXHIBIT E

EXHIBIT E

**RIGHT OF WAY DETAILS
OF
THE MINERSVILLE ABANDONMENT
DOCKET NO. AB-996X**

According to the Schuylkill County Tax Parcel Website the following list is the adjoining property owners:

From the southwest portion of the proposed abandonment heading north:

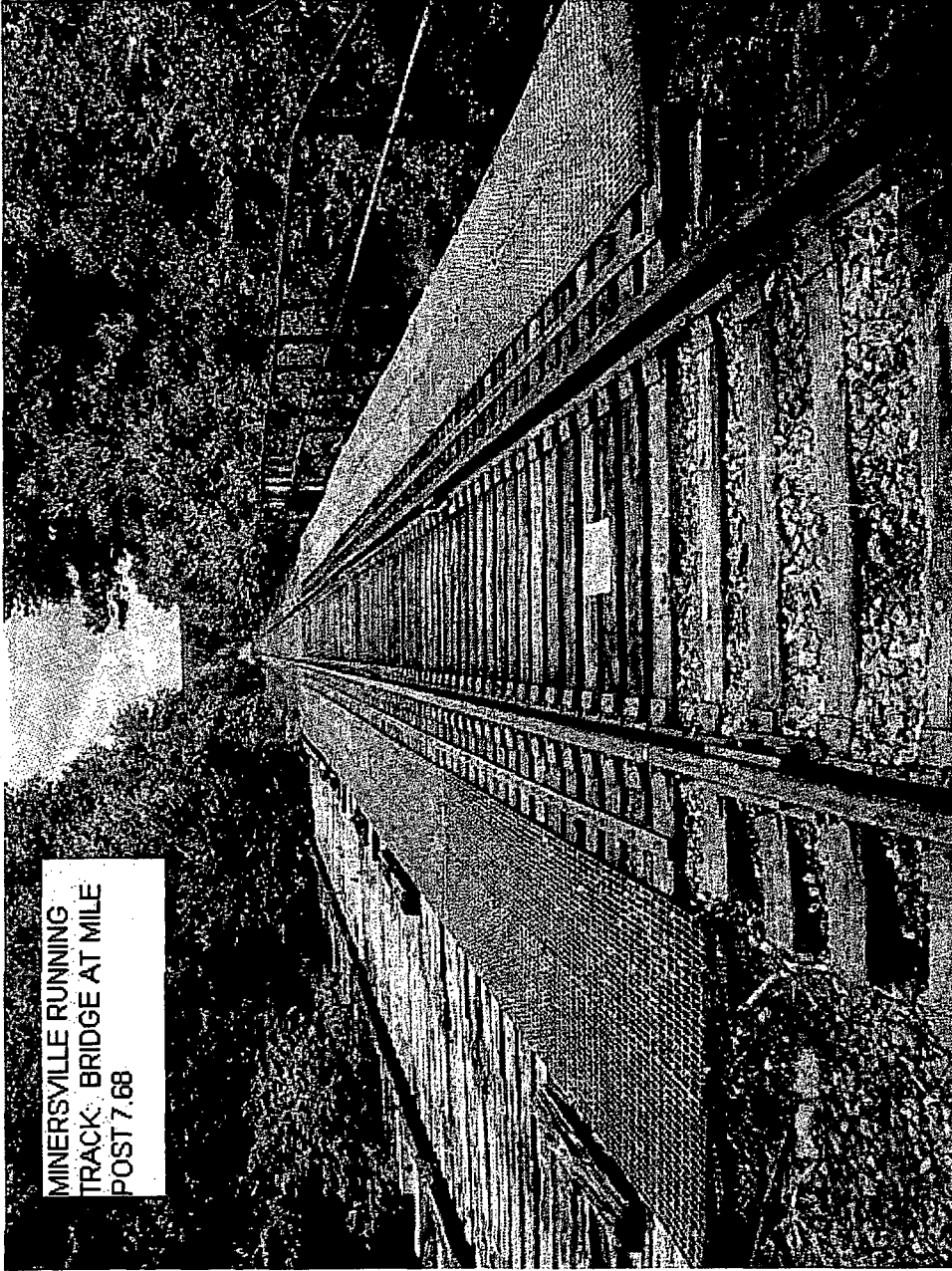
Reading Anthracite Coal Company (mostly marshland, undeveloped) 4 acres
Rosaline Binnix (undeveloped, somewhat wooded, coal waste) .3 acres
Katherine Smitresky (undeveloped, somewhat wooded, coal waste) .6 acres
Enoch & Mary Elko (undeveloped, somewhat wooded, coal waste) 3.1 acres
Walter & Cecilia Lapinski (undeveloped, somewhat wooded, coal waste) 3.1 acres

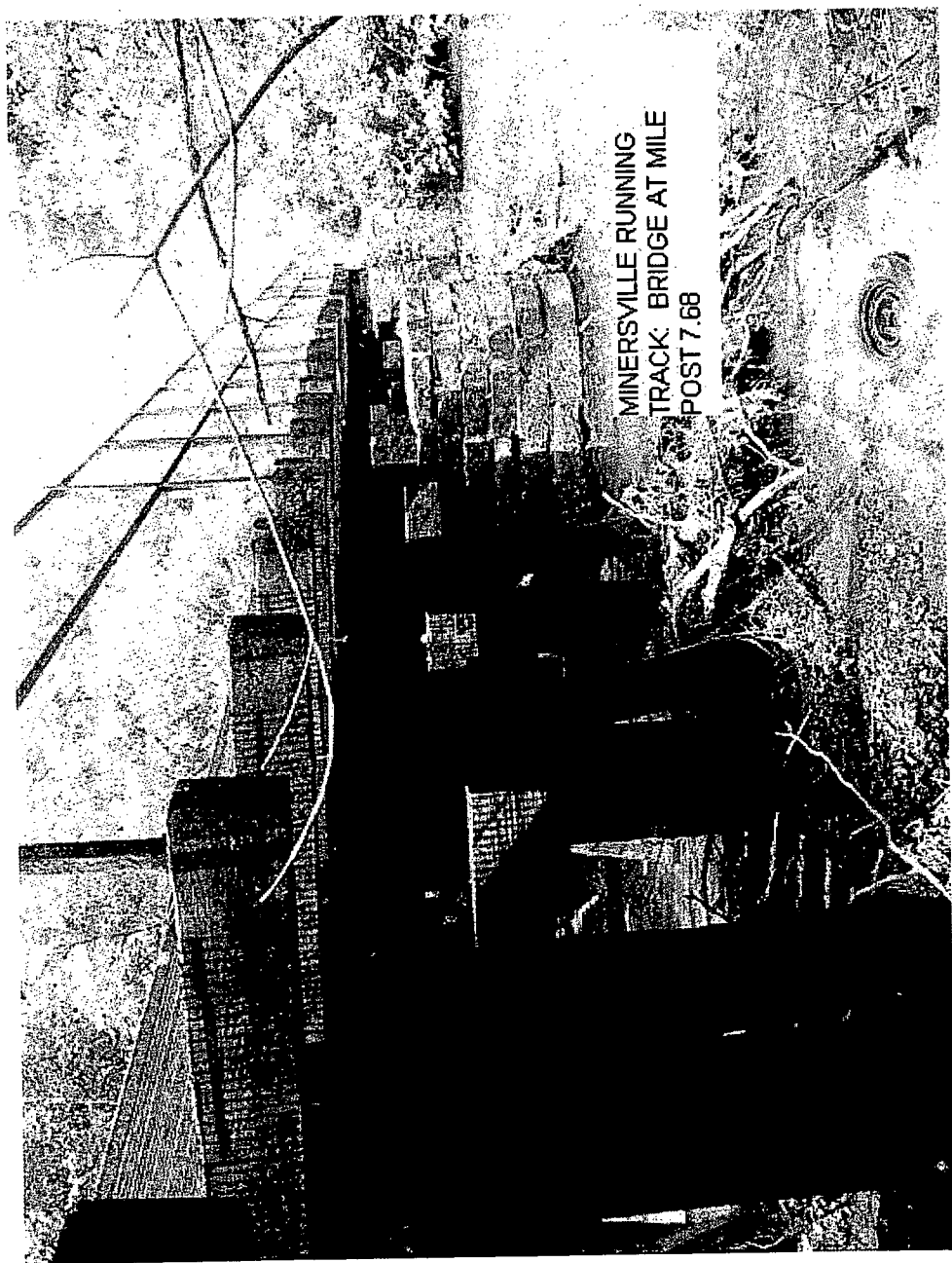
From the southeast portion of the proposed abandonment heading north:

Sunny Rod and Gun Club (cabin, pavilion, mostly undeveloped) 11.2 acres
Mike Gula (car junk yard) 8.3 acres
Reading Anthracite (undeveloped, somewhat wooded, coal waste) 10.8
Enoch & Mary Elko (undeveloped, somewhat wooded, coal waste) 15 acres

EXHIBIT F

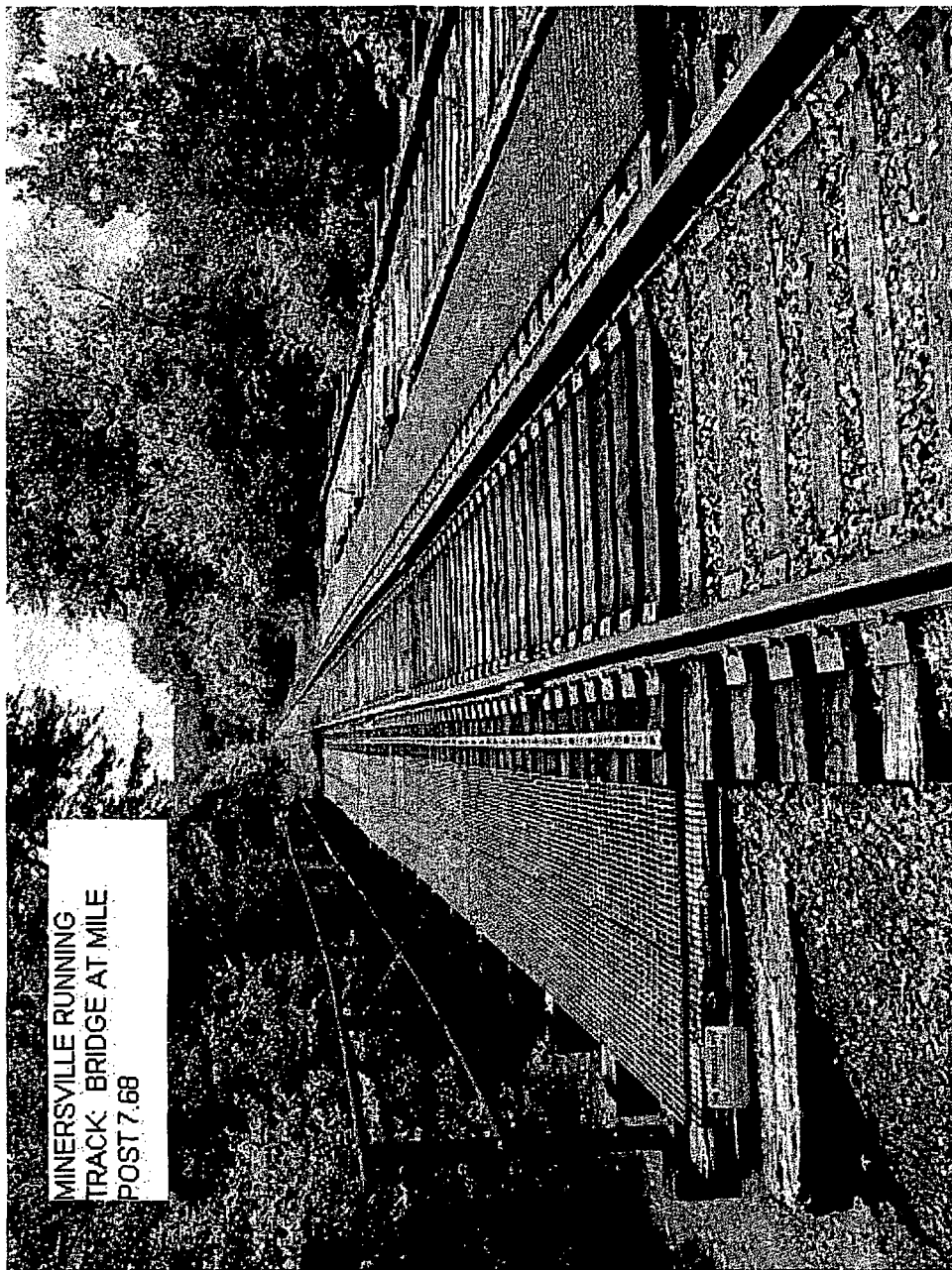
MINERSVILLE RUNNING
TRACK: BRIDGE AT MILE
POST 7.68

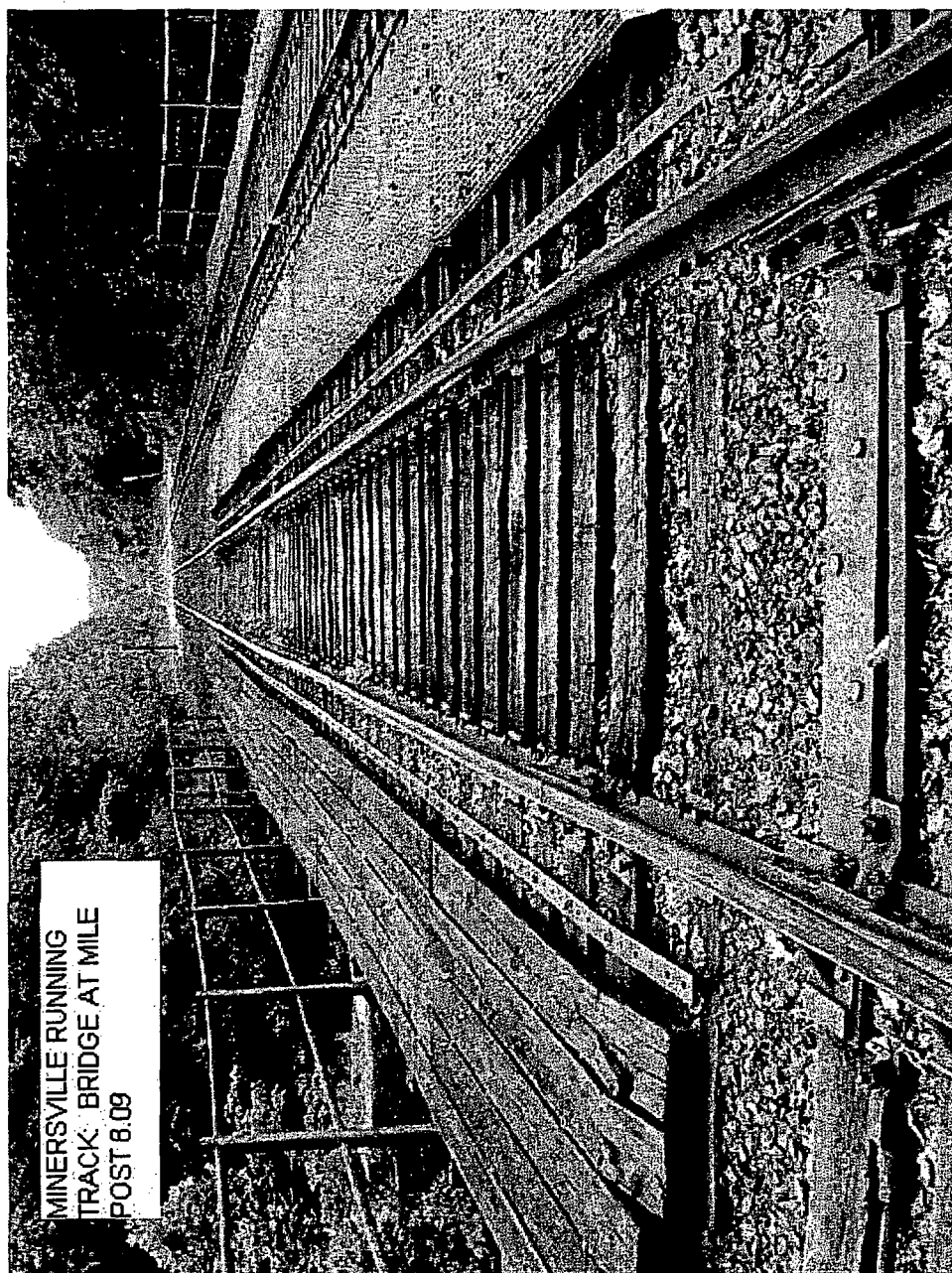




MINERSVILLE RUNNING
TRACK: BRIDGE AT MILE
POST 7.68

MINERSVILLE RUNNING
TRACK: BRIDGE AT MILE
POST 7.68





MINERSVILLE RUNNING
TRACK: BRIDGE AT MILE
POST 8.09





MINERSVILLE RUNNING
TRACK: BRIDGE AT MILE
POST 8.09

EXHIBIT G



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
Bureau for Historic Preservation
Commonwealth Keystone Building, 2nd Floor
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0093
www.phmc.state.pa.us

Rec'd
6/23/06

June 19, 2006

Leanore D. Bellis
Gollatz Griffin & Ewing
213 West Miner Street
PO Box 796
West Chester, PA 19381

TO EXPEDITE REVIEW USE
BHP REFERENCE NUMBER

Re: File No. ER 06-2245-107-A
STB: Notice of Abandonment
Reading Blue Mountain & Northern
Railroad Company, Minersville
Running Track, Cass Twp.
Schuylkill Co.

Dear Ms. Bellis:

The Bureau for Historic Preservation (the State Historic Preservation Office) has reviewed the above named project in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended in 1980 and 1992, and the regulations (36 CFR Part 800) of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. These requirements include consideration of the project's potential effect upon both historic and archaeological resources.

Based on our survey files, which include both archaeological sites and standing structures, there are no National Register eligible or listed historic or archaeological properties in the area of this proposed project. Therefore, your responsibility for consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office for this project is complete. Should you become aware, from any source, that historic or archaeological properties are located at or near the project site, please notify the Bureau for Historic Preservation at (717) 783-8946.

Sincerely,

Douglas C. McLearen, Chief
Division of Archaeology &
Protection

DCM/tmw

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this date a copy of the foregoing Environmental/
Historic Report was served on the persons shown on the attached list by first class mail, postage
prepaid.



ERIC M. HOCKY

Dated: July 10, 2006

SERVICE/ADDRESS LIST

Pedro Cortes
Secretary of the Commonwealth
302 North Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Rachel Carson State Office Building
PO Box 8767
400 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8767

Pa. Dept. of Environmental Protection
Rachel Carson State Office Building
400 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17105

Gary I. Greenfield
Assistant Regional Director
Northeast Regional Office
Pa. Dept. of Environmental Protection
Northeast Regional Office
2 Public Square
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711-0790

Lawrence J. Toth
Environmental Planner
PA Department of Environmental Protection
Coastal Zone Management Program
P.O. Box 2063
400 Market Street, 15th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063

Schuylkill County Commissioners
401 N. Second Street
Pottsville, PA 17901

Environmental Protection Agency
Region 3
1650 Arch Street (3PM52)
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029

US Fish and Wildlife Service
Northeast Regional Office
300 Westgate Center Drive
Hadley, MA 01035-9589

David Densmore
Supervisor
US Dept. of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Pennsylvania Field Office
315 South Allen Street
Suite 322
State College, PA 16801-4805

U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District
P.O. Box 1715
Baltimore, MD 21201-1715

Northeast Region
Regional Director
National Park Service
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut St., Fifth Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19106

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
5601 Sunnyside Ave.
Mailstop 5410, Room 1-1290A
Beltsville MD 20705-5410

State Conservationist
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
One Credit Union Place, Suite 340
Harrisburg, PA 17110-2993

Mr. Richard A. Snay
Chief, Spatial Reference System Div.
United States Dept. of Commerce
NOAA, N/NGS2
SSMC3, Room 8828
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Pennsylvania Game Commission
Bureau of Law Enforcement
Southeast Regional Office
448 Snyder Road
Reading, PA 19605

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission
Southeast Region
Brubaker Valley Road & Lakeview Drive
P.O. Box 9
Elm, PA 17521

Douglas C. McLearen, Chief
Division of Archaeology & Protection
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Building, 2nd Floor
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0093