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

ERIC M. HOCKY
DIRECT DIAL 215.320.3720
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217 186

July 31, 2006
VIA: UPS Overnight

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

FILE RECEIVED

AUG - 1 2006

SURFACE
TRANSPORTATION BOARD



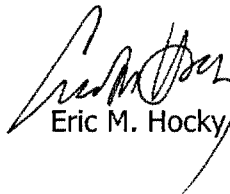
Re: Reading Blue Mountain and Northern Railroad Company -
Abandonment Exemption - Schuylkill County, PA
STB Docket No. AB-996X
Notice of Exemption of Abandonment

Dear Secretary Williams:

Enclosed for filing are the original and ten copies of the Notice of Reading Blue Mountain and Northern Railroad Company for Exemption of Abandonment, together with a check in the amount of \$3,100 representing the filing fee.

Please time-stamp the extra copy of this letter and the Notice to indicate receipt, and return them to me in the stamped, self-addressed envelope provided for your convenience.

Respectfully,


Eric M. Hocky

Enclosures

cc: All Parties on Service List (w/enclosure)

FILED

AUG - 1 2006

SURFACE
TRANSPORTATION BOARD

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

AUG 1 - 2006

Part of
Public Record

GOLLATZ, GRIFFIN & EWING, P.C.

Before the
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

**NOTICE OF
READING BLUE MOUNTAIN AND
NORTHERN RAILROAD COMPANY
FOR EXEMPTION OF ABANDONMENT
FROM REGULATION PURSUANT TO
49 C.F.R. §1152.50**

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

DOCKET NO. AB-996X

ERIC M. HOCKY
GOLLATZ, GRIFFIN & EWING, P.C.
Four Penn Center, Suite 200
1600 JFK Blvd.
Philadelphia, PA 19103
(215) 563-9400

Attorneys for Reading Blue Mountain and Northern
Railroad Company

Dated: July 31, 2006

Before the
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD



**NOTICE OF
READING BLUE MOUNTAIN AND
NORTHERN RAILROAD COMPANY
FOR EXEMPTION OF ABANDONMENT
FROM REGULATION PURSUANT TO
49 C.F.R. §1152.50**

Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania

Docket No. AB-996X

Reading Blue Mountain and Northern Railroad Company ("Applicant") is seeking to abandon a 1.2 mile rail line that is part of its Minersville Branch, located in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania. The last local service on the line to be abandoned was on April 20, 2003. Because the line is at the end of a branch, there is no overhead traffic on the line.

This Notice of Abandonment is given pursuant to the requirements of 49 C.F.R. §1152.50. In accordance with such requirements, Applicant hereby states as follows:

1. The exact name of Applicant is Reading Blue Mountain and Northern Railroad Company.
2. Applicant is a common carrier by railroad subject to 49 U.S.C. Subtitle IV, chapter 105.
3. The relief sought is the abandonment of a portion of Applicant's line of railroad which runs between milepost 7.6 and milepost 8.8, located in Norwegian and Cass Townships in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania.
4. A detailed map of the subject line showing the exact location of the rail line to be abandoned and its relation to other rail lines in the area, highways, water routes and population centers is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

5. The representative of Applicant to whom correspondence should be sent is:

Eric M. Hocky, Esquire
GOLLATZ, GRIFFIN & EWING, P.C.
Four Penn Center, Suite 200
1600 JFK Blvd.
Philadelphia, PA 19103
(215) 563-9400

6. The line to be abandoned traverses United States Postal Service ZIP Code 17954.

7. Applicant believes that the line to be abandoned is not a good candidate for alternative public use. The line is only 1.2 miles long; to the west of the 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.

8. Applicant proposes to consummate the abandonment on or after September 20, 2006.

9. Applicant certifies that:

(a) No local traffic has moved over the line for at least two years. This is the end of a branch line and there is no overhead traffic to be rerouted.

(b) No formal complaint by a user of rail service on the line, or a state or local government entity acting on behalf of such user, regarding cessation of service over the line either is pending with the Board or any U.S. District Court or has been decided in favor of the complainant within the two year period.

10. Although no employees of Applicant will be affected by the abandonment, Applicant recognizes that this abandonment will be made subject to the employee protective conditions in *Oregon Short Line Railroad Co.--Abandonment--Goshen*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979).

11. An environmental/historic report in accordance with the requirements of 49 C.F.R. §§1105.7 and 1105.8 was filed with the Board on July 11, 2004. As noted in the report, Applicant has complied with the notice requirements of 49 C.F.R. §1105.11. Applicant is sending

a letter to the Board simultaneously with the filing of this Notice supplementing the environmental/historic report.

12. Applicant has complied with the notice requirements of 49 C.F.R. §1152.50(d)(1).

Copies of the notices are attached hereto as Exhibit B.

Respectfully submitted,



ERIC M. HOCKY
GOLLATZ, GRIFFIN & EWING, P.C.
Four Penn Center, Suite 200
1600 JFK Blvd.
Philadelphia, PA 19103
(215) 563-9400

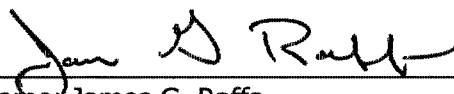
Attorneys for Reading Blue Mountain and Northern
Railroad Company

DATED: July 31, 2006

VERIFICATION

I hereby verify on behalf of Reading Blue Mountain and Northern Railroad Company, under penalty of perjury, that the foregoing is true and correct. Further, I certify that I am qualified and authorized to file this Verification.

Executed on July 31, 2006.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James G. Raffa", is written over a horizontal line.

Name: James G. Raffa
Title: VP Real Estate

EXHIBIT A - MAP

A COPY OF THIS MAP WAS INCLUDED
WITH EACH LETTER.

BOX INDICATES
ABANDONMENT PORTION
MP 7.6 TO MP 8.8

Black Indicates RHMN
active property

MAPQUEST
© 1999 MapQuest.com, Inc.

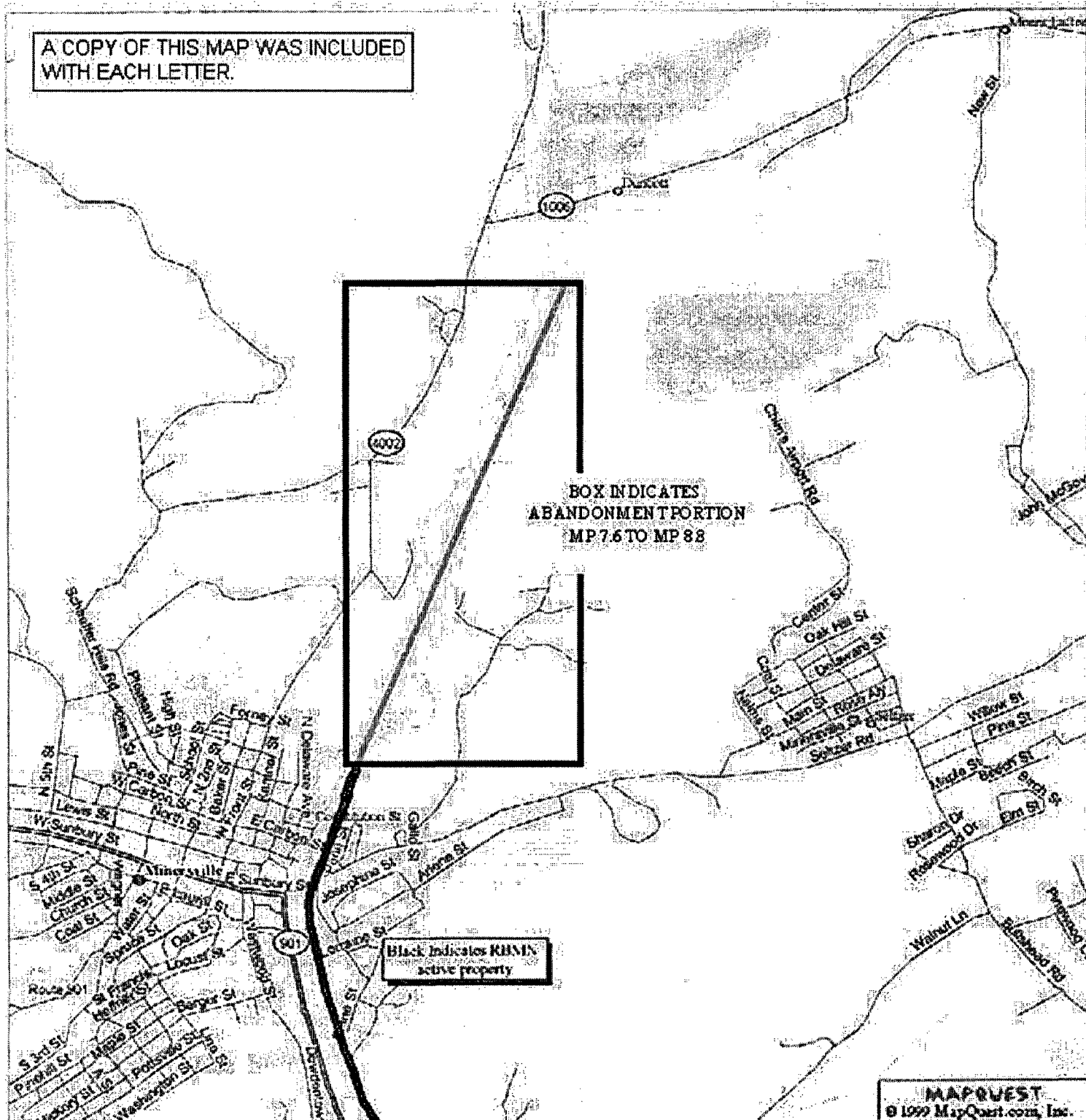


EXHIBIT B - 10 DAY NOTICES

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

July 17, 2006
VIA: FIRST CLASS MAIL

Office of Chief of Forest Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Auditor's Building
201 14th Street S.W. and Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

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") will be filing a verified notice of exempt abandonment pursuant to the provisions of 49 C.F.R. 1152.50. RBMN will be filing the notice with the Surface Transportation Board on or about July 31, 2006. The proposed abandonment covers 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 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.

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 authorization will not have a significant effect upon the environment.

GOLLATZ, GRIFFIN & EWING, P.C.

WEST CHESTER

PHILADELPHIA

WILMINGTON

U.S. Department of Agriculture

July 17, 2006

Re: Notice of Abandonment

Page 2 of 2

RBMN filed an Environmental/Historic Report with the Surface Transportation Board on July 11, 2006, and will provide a copy upon request.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Leanore D. Bellis".

Leanore D. Bellis
Paralegal

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

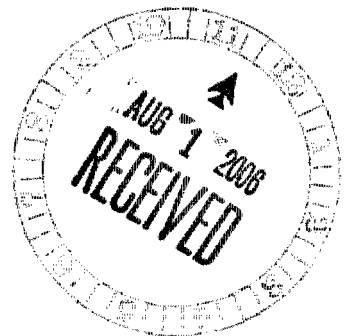
213 WEST MINER STREET
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GC&E GOLLATZ
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& EWING
ATTORNEYS - AT - LAW

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

July 17, 2006
VIA: FIRST CLASS MAIL

National Park Service
Land Resources Division
1849 C Street, NW
1201 Eye Street
9th Floor
Washington, DC 20240-0001



RE: Notice of Abandonment
Reading Blue Mountain and Northern Railroad Company -
Minersville Running Track - Schuylkill County, PA
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PHILADELPHIA

WILMINGTON

National Park Service

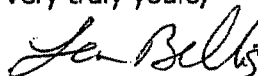
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Leanore D. Bellis
Paralegal

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