

GALLAND, KHARASCH, GREENBERG, FELLMAN & SWIRSKY, P.C.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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GEORGE F. GALLAND (1910-1985)

MINNESOTA OFFICE
700 TWELVE OAKS CENTER DRIVE, SUITE 204
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WRITER'S DIRECT E-MAIL ADDRESS
EGREENBERG@GKFLLAW.COM

WRITER'S DIRECT DIAL NUMBER
202-342-5277

*NOT ADMITTED IN DC
OF COUNSEL

March 6, 2007

VIA HAND DELIVERY

The Honorable Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

218757
RECEIVED

MAR 6 2007

TRANSPORTATION BOARD

**Re: Providence and Worcester Railroad Company – Abandonment
Exemption – Slatersville Secondary Track (Woonsocket, RI and
Blackstone, MA), Docket No. AB-254 Sub 9X**

Dear Secretary Williams:

Enclosed for filing is an original and ten copies of a Notice of Exemption in the above-referenced docket, together with a check made payable to the Board in the amount of \$3,100.00.

If you have any questions regarding this filing, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,


Edward D. Greenberg

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
MAR - 7 2007
Part of
Public Record

cc: Marie Angelini, Esq.

FILED
MAR - 6 2007
TRANSPORTATION BOARD



An International Association of Independent Law Firms in Major World Centers

218757

**BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

DOCKET NO. AB-254 (SUB-NO. 9X)

**PROVIDENCE AND WORCESTER RAILROAD COMPANY --
ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION - SLATERSVILLE SECONDARY TRACK
(WOONSOCKET, RI AND BLACKSTONE, MA)**

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**ENTERED
Office of Proceedings**

MAR - 7 2007

**Part of
Public Record**

**FILED
MAR - 6 2007
SURFACE
TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

Mary Tanona, Esq.
Marie Angelini, Esq.
Providence and Worcester
Railroad Company
75 Hammond Street
Worcester, MA 01610
Phone: 508-795-0748

Edward D. Greenberg, Esq.
Galland, Kharasch, Greenberg,
Fellman & Swirsky, P.C.
1054 Thirty-First Street, NW
Washington, DC 20007-4492
Phone: (202) 342-5277

Attorneys for
Providence and Worcester
Railroad Company

Date: March 6, 2007

**FILED
MAR - 6 2007
SURFACE
TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

**BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

DOCKET NO. AB-254 (SUB-NO. 9X)

**PROVIDENCE AND WORCESTER RAILROAD COMPANY --
ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION – SLATERSVILLE SECONDARY TRACK
(WOONSOCKET, RI AND BLACKSTONE, MA)**

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Providence and Worcester Railroad Company ("P&W") submits this verified Notice of Exemption pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50, Subpart F – Exempt Abandonments and Discontinuances of Service and Trackage Rights, for an exempt abandonment of a portion of the Slatersville Secondary Track located in Woonsocket, Rhode Island from Milepost 0.85 +/- at the north side of Boyden Street and continuing to a point that is 1480 +/- feet northerly of the end of the track at Milepost 0.0 in Blackstone, Massachusetts, a total distance of approximately 1.1 miles (the "Line").

Proposed Consummation Date: 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50(d)(2)

The abandonment is proposed to be consummated on or after April 26, 2007 (at least 50 days after filing the Notice of Exemption).

Certification: 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50(b)

P&W certifies that no local traffic has moved over the Line for at least two years, and that no formal complaint filed by a user of rail service on the Line (or filed by a state or local governmental entity acting on behalf of such user) regarding cessation of service over the Line either is pending with this Board or any U.S. District Court or has been decided in favor the complainant within the two-year period. P&W further certifies that there is no overhead traffic on the Line.

Additional Information Required: 49 C.F.R. 1152.22(a)(1) (4), (7)-(8) and (e)(4)

(a) General

(a)(1) The railroad's exact name is Providence and Worcester Railroad Company.

(a)(2) P&W is a common carrier by railroad subject to 49 U.S.C. Subtitle IV, Chapter 105.

(a)(3) P&W intends to abandon the Line from Milepost 0.85 +/- in Woonsocket, Rhode Island and continuing to a point that is 1480 +/- feet northerly of the end of the track at Milepost 0.0 in Blackstone, Massachusetts, a total distance of approximately 1.1 miles. The Line is located in Providence County, Rhode Island, and Worcester County, Massachusetts.

(a)(4) A map showing the location of the Line in conjunction with other rail lines, highways and major roads in the area is attached hereto as Exhibit A and hereby made a part hereof.

(a)(7) The representative to whom correspondence regarding this abandonment should be sent is:

Edward D. Greenberg
Galland, Kharasch, Greenberg, Fellman & Swirsky, P.C.
Canal Square
1054 Thirty-First Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20007
Phone: 202-342-5277
Fax: 202-342-5219

(a)(8) ZIP Code. The Line traverses U.S. Postal Service Zip Codes 02895 and 01504.

(e)(4) Rural and Community Impact. P&W believes that the Line was originally constructed in the late 19th or early 20th centuries and was used by P&W and its

predecessors primarily to serve local shippers. Very little traffic has moved over the portion of the Slatersville Secondary Track to be abandoned in recent years and no traffic has moved in the last four years. The right-of-way varies in width from approximately 22 feet to 105 feet, with most of the right-of-way having a width of 82 feet. This track runs through commercial and industrial areas and a minimal amount of resident areas.

P&W is unaware of any adverse affects on local and existing land use plans. The various state planning agencies in Rhode Island and Massachusetts have been contacted, but P&W has received no response to date.

The property proposed for abandonment is not suitable for public purposes such as roads, highways or other forms of mass transportation, conservation, energy production or transmission, or recreation because the area is adequately served by existing roads and utility lines. There will be no increase in rail traffic, rail yard activity or truck traffic as a result of the proposed action.

There are no shippers on the Line and no commodities have originated or terminated on the Line for over two years. There is no overhead traffic over the line. No formal complaint regarding a cessation of service has been filed, is pending with the Board, or has been decided in favor of a complainant for well over two years.

Based on information in P&W's possession, the line proposed for abandonment does not contain a federally-granted right-of-way. There will be no effect on regional or local transportation systems and patterns and no diversion of traffic to other transportation systems or modes.

Labor Protection

The interests of railroad employees will be protected by the conditions discussed in *Oregon Short Line Railroad Co. – Abandonment – Goshen*, 360 ICC 91 (1979).

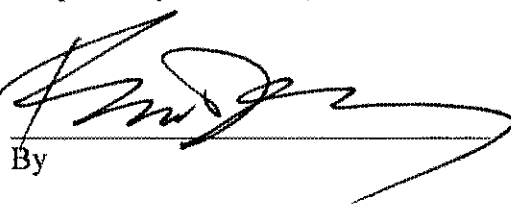
Certifications

Attached hereto as Exhibit B and hereby made a part hereof is a Certificate of Service and Publication pursuant to the notice requirements of 49 C.F.R. §§ 1152.50(d)(1), 1105.11 and 1105.12.

Environmental and Historic Report

A copy of the Transmittal Letter of P&W's Combined Environmental and Historic Report containing the information required by 49 C.F.R. §1105.7(e) and 1105.8, and delivered in accordance with 49 C.F.R. 1105.11, is attached hereto as Exhibit C and made a part hereof. The Combined Environmental and Historic Report indicates that the proposed abandonment does not involve historic properties or structures over fifty (50) years in age.

Respectfully submitted,



By

Edward D. Greenberg
Galland, Kharasch, Greenberg,
Fellman & Swirsky, P.C.
Canal Square
1054 Thirty-First Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20007
Telephone: 202-342-5277
Facsimile: 202-342-2311

Mary Tanona, Esq.
Marie Angelini, Esq.

Providence and Worcester
Railroad Company
75 Hammond Street
Worcester, MA 01610
Phone: 508-795-4000

Attorneys for
Providence and Worcester Railroad
Company

Dated: March 6, 2007

VERIFICATION

[illegible]

I, Marie A. Angelini, Assistant General Counsel of Providence and Worcester Railroad Company, declare under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the United States of America, that I have read the foregoing document and that its assertions are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. I further declare that I am qualified and authorized to submit this verification on behalf of Providence and Worcester Railroad Company. I know that willful misstatements or omissions of material facts constitute Federal criminal violations punishable under 18 U.S.C. 1001 by imprisonment up to five years and fines up to \$10,000 for each offense. Additionally, I know that these misstatements are punishable as perjury under 18 U.S.C. 1621, which provides for fines up to \$2,000 or imprisonment up to five years for each offense.

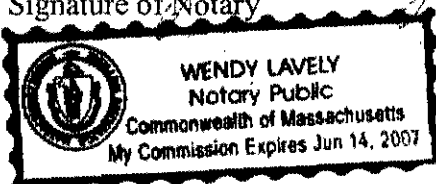
Dated at Worcester, Massachusetts, this 26th day of January, 2007.

Marie A. Angelini
Assistant Secretary

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
County of Worcester

On this 26th day of January, 2007, before me, the undersigned Notary Public, personally appeared Marie A. Angelini, Assistant Secretary, of Providence and Worcester Railroad Company, proved to me through satisfactory evidence of identification, which was personal knowledge to be the person whose name is signed on the preceding or attached document, and acknowledged to me that she signed it voluntarily for its stated purpose(s).

Signature of Notary



(Seal)

My Commission Expires 6/14/2007

EXHIBIT A

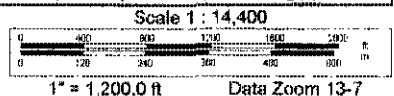
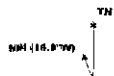
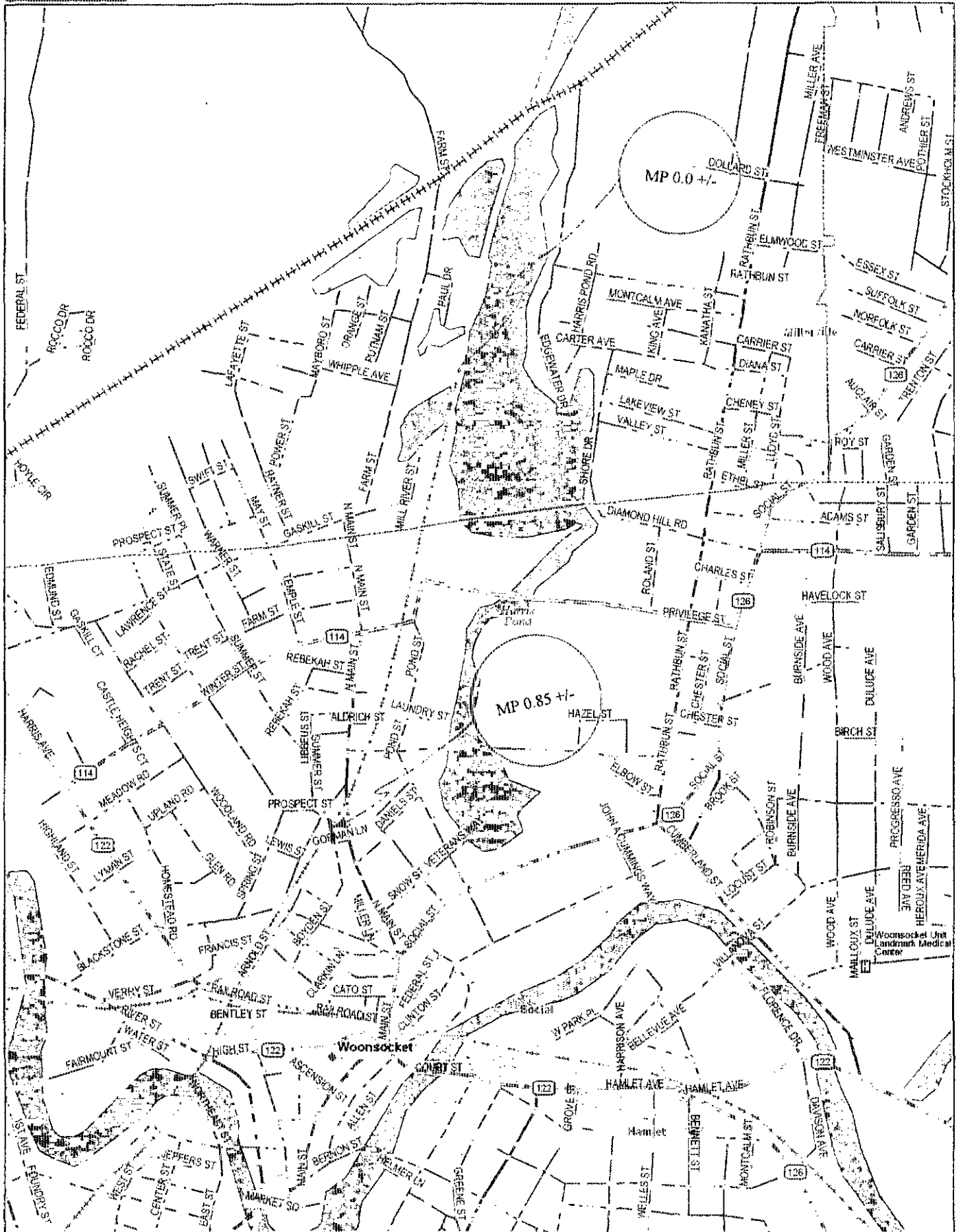


EXHIBIT B

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE AND PUBLICATION

49 C.F.R. § 1152.50(d)(1) – Notice

The undersigned certifies that on January 10, 2007 (at least 10 days before a Notice of Exemption is filed), written notice was given of Providence and Worcester Railroad Company's intent to use the exemption notice procedure to abandon the Slatersville Secondary Track in Providence County, Rhode Island and Worcester County, Massachusetts in Docket No. AB-254 (Sub-No. 9X). Written notice (copies of which are attached hereto as Attachment 1) was served on the following:

Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission
89 Jefferson Blvd.
Warwick, RI 02888

Massachusetts Department of
Telecommunications
1 South Station
Boston, MA 02110

Department of Defense
Military Traffic Management Command
Transportation Engineering Agency
Railroads for National Defense Program
720 Thimble Shoals Blvd., Suite 130
Newport News, VA 23606-2575

The National Park Service
Recreation Resources Assistance Division
Regional Director
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut St., Third Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19106

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Chief of the Forest Service
4th Floor, N.W., Auditors Building
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250-003

49 C.F.R. § 1105.11 – Transmittal Letter for Applicant's Report

The undersigned certifies that on December 12, 2006 (at least 20 days before a Notice of Exemption is filed), a Combined Environmental and Historic Report pursuant to 49 C.F.R. §§ 1105.7 and 1105.8 was served in Docket No. AB-254 (Sub-No. 9X) for abandonment of the Slatersville Secondary Track in Providence County, Rhode Island and Worcester County, Massachusetts on the following:

1. State Clearinghouse (or alternate)
2. State Environmental Protection Agency
3. State Coastal Zone Management Agency
4. Head of each County
5. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (regional office)
6. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
7. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
8. National Park Service
9. U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service
10. The National Geodetic Survey
11. State Historic Preservation Office
12. Other Agencies Consulted (as listed)

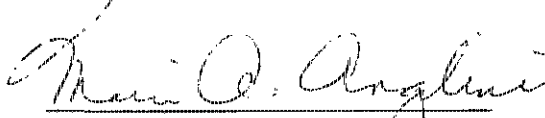
(The Certificate of Service attached to the Combined Environmental and Historic Report lists the names and addresses of the federal, state and local agencies served.)

49 C.F.R. §1105.12 – Newspaper Notice

The undersigned further certifies that a "Notice of Intent to Abandon" was published in the form prescribed by the Board for a Notice of Exemption. The notice was published on time in a major newspaper in the county in which the Line is located as follows:

<u>County</u>	<u>Newspaper</u>	<u>Date</u>
Worcester County (Massachusetts)	Milford Daily News	January 19, 2007
Providence County (Rhode Island)	The Call	January 19, 2007

Dated this 26th day of January, 2007.


Marie A. Angelini
Assistant General Counsel



FOUNDED 1844

January 10, 2007

Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission
89 Jefferson Blvd.
Warwick, RI 02888

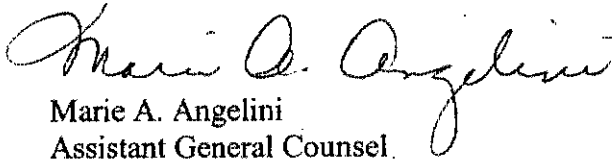
**Re: Providence and Worcester Railroad Company Proposed
Abandonment of Portion of Slatersville Track**

Dear Sir or Madam:

On January 26, 2007, Providence and Worcester Railroad Company is filing with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") a Notice of Exemption seeking authority to abandon a 1.1 +/- mile portion of its branch line known as the Slatersville Secondary Track, located in Woonsocket, Rhode Island at Mile Post 0.85 +/- and continuing a point that is 1480 +/- feet northerly of the end of the track at Mile Post 0.0 in Blackstone, Massachusetts. The line traverses U.S. Postal Service Zip Codes 02895 and 01504. Based on information in our possession, the line does not contain federally granted rights-of-way.

If there are any questions concerning this proposal, please contact our representative directly. Our representative in this matter is Edward D. Greenberg, who may be contacted by telephone at (202) 342-5277 or by mail at Galland, Kharasch, Greenberg, Fellman & Swirsky, P.C., 1054 Thirty-First Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20007. Any documentation in the railroad's possession will be made available promptly to those requesting it.

Very truly yours,


Marie A. Angelini
Assistant General Counsel



FOUNDED 1844

January 10, 2007

Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications
1 South Station
Boston, MA 02110

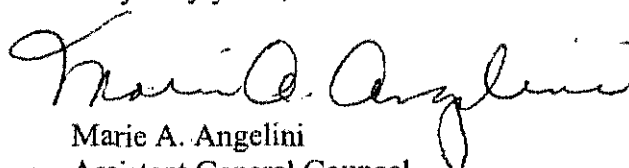
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Very truly yours,


Marie A. Angelini
Assistant General Counsel

PROVIDENCE AND WORCESTER RAILROAD COMPANY
75 HAMMOND STREET, WORCESTER, MA 01610 P.O. BOX 16551, WORCESTER, MA 01601
TELEPHONE (508) 755-4000 FAX (508) 795-0748



FOUNDED 1844

January 10, 2007

Department of Defense
Military Traffic Management Command
Transportation Engineering Agency
Railroads for National Defense Program
720 Thimble Shoals Blvd., Suite 130
Newport News, VA 23606-2575

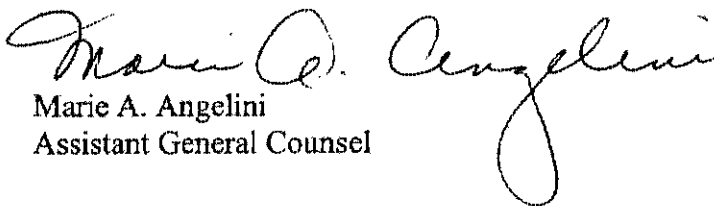
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75 HAMMOND STREET, WORCESTER, MA 01610 P.O. BOX 16551, WORCESTER, MA 01601
TELEPHONE (508) 755-4000 FAX (508) 795-0748



FOUNDED 1844

January 10, 2007

The National Park Service
Recreation Resources Assistance Division
Regional Director
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut St., Third Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19106

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Very truly yours,

Marie A. Angelini
Assistant General Counsel

PROVIDENCE AND WORCESTER RAILROAD COMPANY

75 HAMMOND STREET, WORCESTER, MA 01610

P.O. BOX 16551, WORCESTER, MA 01601

TELEPHONE (508) 755-4000

FAX (508) 795-0748



FOUNDED 1844

January 10, 2007

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Chief of Forest Service
4th Floor, N.W., Auditors Building
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250-0003

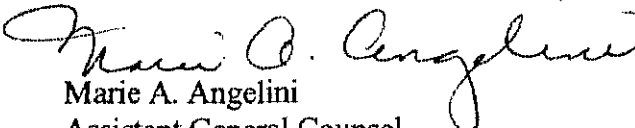
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Assistant General Counsel

PROVIDENCE AND WORCESTER RAILROAD COMPANY
75 HAMMOND STREET, WORCESTER, MA 01610 P.O. BOX 16551, WORCESTER, MA 01601
TELEPHONE (508) 755-4000 FAX (508) 795-0748

NEWSPAPER NOTICES

...that certain lot of parcel of land with all the buildings and improvements thereon situated on School Street in the Town of North Smithfield, County of Providence, State of Rhode Island designated at Lot 33 on Assessor's Plat 5.

If you desire to make any objection of defense to said petition you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer, under oath, setting forth clearly and specifically your objections or defense to each part of said petition, in the office of the Superior Court in Providence on or before the 15th day of February next, that you may then and there show cause, if any, why the prayer of the petition should not be granted.

Unless your appearance is filed by or for you, your default will be recorded, the said petition will be taken as confessed and you will be forever barred from contesting said petition or any decree entered there on. And in addition to the usual service of this notice as required by law, it is ordered that the foregoing citation be published forthwith once each week for three successive weeks in the THE WOONSOCKET CALL a newspaper published in said County of Providence VIZ January 12, 19, 26, 2007.

Phyllis Warner
Deputy Clerk

LEGAL NOTICES INFORMATION

Legal Notices may be mailed to:
LEGAL NOTICES, The Call, 75 Main Street, Box A, Woonsocket, R.I. 02895.

Providence and Worcester Railroad Company

Providence and Worcester Railroad Company gives notice that on or about January 26, 2007, it intends to file with the Surface Transportation Board, Washington, D.C. 20423, a notice of exemption under 49 C.F.R. 1152 Subpart F - Exempt Abandonments permitting the abandonment of a 1.1 mile line of railroad known as the Slatersville Secondary Track, between railroad milepost 0.85 +/- in Woonsocket, Rhode Island, which traverses through United States Postal Service ZIP Code 02895, and a point that is 1480 +/- feet northerly of the end of the track at railroad milepost 0.0 in Blackstone, Massachusetts, which traverses through United States Postal Service ZIP Code 01504 in Providence County, Rhode Island and Worcester County, Massachusetts.

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 the 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 Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA), Surface Transportation Board, Washington, D.C. 20423 or by calling that office 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 trail use, public use, and offers of financial assistance) must be filed directly with the Board's Office of the Secretary, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20423 (See 49 C.F.R. 1104.1(a) and 1104.3(a)), and one copy must be served on applicants' representative (See 49 C.F.R. 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) 565-1594. Copies of any comments or requests for conditions should be served on the applicant's representative:

Edward D. Greenberg
Galland, Kharasch, Greenberg,
Fellman & Swirsky, P.C.
1054 Thirty-First Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20007
Phone: 202-342-5277

FORD Taurus 2002 SE, 80k miles, new battery & tires, excellent shape. \$5000. 401-766-2274

PONTIAC Bonville '97, auto, a/c, 6 cyl., full power, 1 owner, very clean. \$3495. 301-5961

133 Junk Cars Wanted

\$100.00 CASH paid for junk trucks & cars. Bring to 5 Privilege St., Woonsocket, R.I. D & J Auto Salvage. 769-7300

AA ALL AUTOS & TRUCKS WANTED!! MA/Ri \$25 - \$100 FREE SAME DAY REMOVAL (401) 413-6747

AA Autos, trucks, \$50 & up! FREE tow! Scrap metals immediate removal, 7 days. 508-369-8312

JUNK Cars & Trucks wanted, cash paid \$75 +, free removal. 401-965-8949

123 Autos For Sale

Each Apartm
New Electric Range
New Refrigerator
Garbage disposal
Intercom System

Some other amen
Fully equipped
Walking distan
bank, school
Loft Style #
On-Site Mai
24 hour emerger

Just imagine ...
all at a rent affe

Rental
1 BR - \$
2 BR - \$
3 BR - \$

Applications for these n
available by contacting th
ing at (401) 597-6697.
available for qualified app



APPLICANTS MUST MEET

123 Autos For Sale

FOR SALE

\$2

2007 SPECIAL

7 DAYS

(50¢ Per A)

"A" WOOD

of a Deal

Cars, Vans, Trucks, SUV

Call Our Classified D

401-766-3

FROM THE LOCAL FRONT

For mortgagor's(e) title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 34403, Page 338.

These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax liens, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

TERMS OF SALE:

SLATERSVILLE SECONDARY TRACK

LEGAL NOTICE

Providence and Worcester Railroad Company gives notice that on or about January 26, 2007, it intends to file with the Surface Transportation Board, Washington, D.C. 20423, a notice of exemption under 49 C.F.R. 1152 Subpart F - Exempt Abandonments permitting the abandonment of a 1.1-mile line of railroad known as the Slatersville Secondary Track, between railroad milepost 0.85 +/- in Woonsocket, Rhode Island, which traverses through United States Postal Service ZIP Code 02895, and a point that is 1480 +/- feet northerly of the end of the track at railroad milepost 0.0 in Blackstone, Massachusetts, which traverses through United States Postal Service ZIP Code 01504 in Providence County, Rhode Island and Worcester County, Massachusetts.

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 the 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 Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA), Surface Transportation Board, Washington, D.C. 20423 or by calling that office 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 trail use, public use, and offers of financial assistance) must be filed directly with the Board's Office of the

Secretary, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20423 (See 49 C.F.R. 1104.1(a) and 1104.3(a)), and one copy must be served on applicant's representative (See 49 C.F.R. 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) 565-1594. Copies of any comments or requests for conditions should be served on the applicant's representative.

Edward D. Greenberg
Galland, Kharasch, Greenberg,
Fellman & Swirsky, P.C.
1054 Thirty-First Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20007
Phone: 202-342-5277

AD#11228325
MDN 1/19/07

In addition, you must file a written affidavit of objections to the petition, stating specific facts and grounds upon which the objection is based, within thirty (30) days after the return day (or such other time as the court, on motion with notice to the petitioner, may allow) in accordance with Probate Rule 18.

WITNESS, HON. DAVID H. KOPELMAN, ESQUIRE, First Justice of said Court at CANTON this day, January 10, 2007.

Patrick W. McDermott
Register of Probate

AD#11228761
MDN 1/19/07

20 ARCHER AVE.
LEGAL NOTICE
COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL
COURT



Case No. 335421

To: Henry S. Bertulli and Michelle Bertulli and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for Lender (Countrywide Home Loans, Inc.) and Lender's successors and assigns claiming to be the holder of mortgage covering real property in Milford, numbered 20 Archer Avenue given by Henry S. Bertulli and Michelle Bertulli to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS") solely as nominee for Lender (Countrywide Home Loans, Inc.) and Lender's successors and assigns dated December 06, 2005, recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 37891, Page 110 has filed with said court a complaint for authority to, foreclose said mortgage in the manner following: by entry and possession and exercise of power of sale.

If you are entitled to the benefits of

EXHIBIT C

BEFORE THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

STB DOCKET NO. AB-254 (SUB-NO. __)

**PROVIDENCE AND WORCESTER RAILROAD COMPANY --
ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION – SLATERSVILLE SECONDARY TRACK
(WOONSOCKET, RI AND BLACKSTONE, MA)**

COMBINED ENVIRONMENTAL AND HISTORICAL REPORT

Providence & Worcester Railroad Company ("P&W") is proposing to abandon: a portion of the track known as the Slatersville Secondary Track in Woonsocket, Rhode Island from Mile Post 0.85 +/- at the north side of Boyden Street and continuing to a point that is 1480.3 +/- feet northerly of the end of track at Mile Post 0.0 in Blackstone, Massachusetts, a total distance of approximately 1.1 miles, a portion of which is located lying within Providence County, Rhode Island, and the remainder of which is located in Worcester County, Massachusetts, in United States Postal Service zip codes 02895 (Woonsocket) and 01504 (Blackstone). In regard thereto, P&W submits this Combined Environmental and Historical Report in compliance with the reporting requirements of the Surface Transportation Board regulations at 49 C.F.R. §§ 1105.7 and 1105.8.

(1) Proposed action and alternatives. Describe the proposed action, including commodities transported, the planned disposition (if any) of any rail line and other structures that may be involved, and any possible changes in current operations or maintenance practices. Also describe any reasonable alternatives to the proposed action. Include a reasonable, detailed map and drawings clearly delineating the project.

Response:

P&W proposes to abandon a portion of the track known as the Slatersville Secondary Track from Mile Post 0.85 at the north side of Boyden Street in Woonsocket,

Rhode Island, to the end of the line, 1480.3 +/- feet northerly of the end of track at Mile Post 0.0 in Blackstone, Massachusetts, a total distance of approximately 1.1 miles.

No traffic has moved over this line, in either local or overhead service, for at least the past four years and P&W is not aware that any user of rail service has filed any formal complaint with the Board or any U.S. District Court regarding cessation of service over the line.

There are no reasonable alternatives to the proposed abandonment, as there is no further need for rail service along the subject track.

P&W intends to abandon in place track materials, such as rails and ties, and to leave the underlying roadbed intact. P&W does not intend to perform any activities that would cause sedimentation or erosion of the soil.

A copy of a map reflecting the track being abandoned is attached as Attachment 1.

(2) Transportation system. Describe the effects of the proposed action on regional or local transportation systems and patterns. Estimate the amount of traffic (passenger or freight) that will be diverted to other transportation systems or modes as a result of the proposed action.

Response:

The proposed abandonment would have a minimal effect on regional or local transportation systems or patterns. As explained above, there has been no local or overhead rail service over this line for at least the last four years.

(3) Land use.

(i) Based on consultation with local and/or regional planning agencies and/or a review of the official planning documents prepared by such agencies, state whether the proposed action is consistent with existing land use plans. Describe any inconsistencies.

Response:

P&W has reviewed planning documents of the area of the proposed abandonment and believes the proposed action is consistent with existing land use plans. Nonetheless, the Rhode Island Department of Administration Statewide Planning Program for the State of Rhode Island ("RIDOA") and the Massachusetts Executive Office of Communities & Development ("Mass Clearinghouse") were notified by letters dated November 22 and December 12, 2006, respectively, of the proposed abandonment. (See Attachments 2 and 3.) Although RIDOA did respond on December 8, 2006 (See Attachment 2), as of the date of this report, the Mass Clearinghouse has not responded. P&W will provide the Board with copies of any responses it receives.

In addition, P&W notified the City of Woonsocket, Rhode Island and the Town of Blackstone, Massachusetts of the proposed abandonment in letters dated November 22 and December 12, 2006. (See Attachments 4 and 5.) Although the City of Woonsocket responded in a letter dated December 12, 2006 (Attachment 4), there has been no response from the Town of Blackstone. P&W will provide the Board with copies of any responses it receives.

(ii) Based on consultation with the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, state the effect of the proposed action on any prime agricultural land.

Response:

The United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service ("NRCS"), was notified of the proposed abandonment by letter dated December 12, 2006. (See Attachment 6.) As of the date of this report, the NRCS has not responded. P&W will provide the Board copies of any response it receives.

(iii) If the action effects land or water uses within a designated coastal zone, include the coastal zone information required by § 1105.9.

Response:

The Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council ("Council") and the Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management Program ("Mass CZMP") were notified by letters dated December 12, 2006 of the proposed abandonment. (See Attachments 7 and 8.) As of the date of this report, neither the Council nor the Mass CZMP has responded. P&W will provide the Board copies of any responses it receives.

(iv) If the proposed action is an abandonment, state whether or not the right-of-way is suitable for alternative public use under 49 U.S.C. § 10905 and explain why.

Response:

P&W is not aware that the right-of-way proposed for abandonment is suitable for alternative public use under 49 U.S.C. § 10905. Although the relevant state agencies have been notified of P&W's proposal to abandon this track, no agency has indicated that it has an interest in using the property for any alternative public use.

(4) Energy.

(i) Describe the effect of the proposed action on transportation of energy resources.

Response:

No traffic has moved over the line over the past four years and P&W is not aware of any potential need for rail service, so that the proposed abandonment will have no effect on the transportation of energy resources.

(ii) Describe the effect of the proposed action on recyclable commodities.

Response:

No traffic has moved over the line over the past four years, so that the proposed abandonment will have no effect on recyclable commodities.

(iii) State whether the proposed action will result in an increase or decrease in overall energy efficiency and explain why.

Response:

The proposed action will have no effect on overall energy efficiency, as there have been no rail shipments on this track over the past four years.

(iv) If the proposed action will cause diversions from rail to motor carriage of more than:

(A) 1,000 rail carloads a year, or

(B) an average of 50 rail carloads per mile per year for any part of the affected Line, quantify the resulting net change in energy consumption and show the data and methodology used to arrive at the figure given.

Response:

As there have been no rail shipments over this track in the past 4 years, the proposed abandonment will not cause any diversion of rail traffic to motor carriage.

(5) Air.

(i) If the proposed action will result in either:

(A) an increase in rail traffic of at least 100% (measured in gross ton miles annually) or an increase of at least eight trains a day on any segment of rail line affected by the proposal, or

(B) an increase in rail yard activity of at least 100% (measured by carload activity), or

(C) an average increase in truck traffic of more than 10% of the average daily traffic or 50 vehicles a day on any affected road segment, quantify the anticipated effect on air emissions. For a proposal under 49 U.S.C. § 10901 (or § 10505) to construct a new line or re-institute service over a previously abandoned line, only the eight train a day provision in §§ (5)(i)(A) will apply.

Response:

(i) As there have been no rail shipments over this track in the past four years, the proposed abandonment will not result in any increase in rail traffic, any increase in rail yard activity, or any increase in truck traffic.

(ii) *If the proposed action affects a class 1 or non-attainment area under the Clear Air Act, and will result in either:*

(A) an increase in rail traffic of at least 50% (measured in gross ton miles annually) or an increase of at least three trains a day on any segment of rail line,

(B) an increase in rail yard activity of at least 20% (measured by carload activity), or

(C) an average increase in truck traffic of more than 10% of the average daily traffic or 50 vehicles a day on a given road segment, then state whether any expected increased emissions are within the parameters established by the State Implementation Plan. However, for a rail construction under 49 U.S.C. § 10901 (or 49 U.S.C. § 10505), or a case involving the reinstitution of service over a previously abandoned line, only the three train a day threshold in this item shall apply.

Response:

(ii) As there have been no rail shipments on this track over the past four years, the proposed abandonment will not result in any increases in rail or truck traffic or rail yard activity.

(iii) *If transportation of ozone depleting materials (such as nitrogen oxide and freon) is contemplated, identify: the materials and quantity; the frequency of service; safety practices (including any speed restrictions); the applicant's safety record (to the extent available) on derailments, accidents and spills; contingency plans to deal with accidental spills; and the likelihood of an accidental release of ozone depleting materials in the event of a collision or derailment.*

Response:

(iii) As no traffic that has moved over the line in the past four years, the proposed abandonment does not involve or affect the transportation of ozone depleting materials.

(6) Noise. *If any of the thresholds identified in item (5)(i) of this section are surpassed, state whether the proposed action will cause:*

(i) *an incremental increase in noise levels of three decibels Ldn or more*
or

(ii) *an increase to a noise level of 65 decibels Ldn or greater. If so, identify sensitive receptors (e.g., schools, libraries, hospitals, residences, retirement communities, and nursing homes) in the project area and quantify the noise increase for these receptors if the thresholds are surpassed.*

Response:

The thresholds identified in item (5)(i) will not be surpassed.

(7) Safety.

(i) *Describe any effects of the proposed action on public health and safety (including vehicle delay time at railroad grade crossings).*

Response:

The proposed abandonment will have no adverse effect on public health or safety; to the contrary, the elimination of several existing grade crossings will have a positive effect on public safety.

(ii) *If hazardous materials are expected to be transported, identify: the materials and quantity; the frequency of service; whether chemicals are being transported that, if mixed, could react to form more hazardous compounds; safety practices (including any speed restrictions); the applicant's safety record (to the extent available) on derailments, accidents and hazardous spills; the contingency plans to deal with accidental spills; and the likelihood of an accidental release of hazardous materials.*

Response:

The proposed abandonment does not involve or affect the transportation of hazardous materials.

(iii) *If there are any known hazardous waste sites or sites where there have been known hazardous materials spills on the right-of-way, identify the location of those sites and the types of hazardous materials involved.*

Response:

P&W's records do not indicate that there are any hazardous waste sites, or sites where there have been hazardous material spills, on the track that is proposed for abandonment.

(8) Biological resources.

(i) Based on consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, state whether the proposed action is likely to adversely affect endangered or threatened species or areas designated as a critical habitat, and if so, describe the effects.

Response:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was notified by the proposed abandonment by letter dated December 12, 2006 and responded by letter dated January 3, 2006. (See Attachment 9.)

(ii) State whether wildlife sanctuaries or refuges, National or State parks or forests will be affected, and describe any effects.

Response:

P&W does not believe the proposed abandonment will affect any wildlife sanctuaries or refuges, National or State parks or forests. The U.S.D.A. Natural Resource Conservation Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service were notified of the proposed abandonment by letters dated December 12, 2006. (See Attachments 6 and 9.) As of the date of this report, no response has been received in regard to the proposed abandonment from the U.S.D.A. Natural Resource Conservation Service. However, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife service advised that there were no adverse effects on wildlife due to the proposed abandonment. (See Attachment 9.) P&W will provide the Board copies of any responses it receives.

(9) Water.

(i) Based on consultation with State water quality officials, state whether the proposed action is consistent with applicable Federal, State or local water quality standards. Describe any inconsistencies.

Response:

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management ("RIDEM") and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection ("Mass DEP") were notified

of the proposed abandonment on December 12, 2006. (See Attachments 10 and 11.) As of the date of this report, no response has been received from these agencies. P&W will provide the Board with copies of any response it receives.

(ii) Based on consultation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, state whether permits under section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1344) are required for the proposed action and whether any designated wetlands or 100-year flood plains will be affected. Describe effects.

Response:

The U.S. Army Corp. of Engineers was notified of the proposed abandonment by letter dated December 12, 2006. (See Attachment 12.) As of the date of this report, no response has been received. P&W will provide the Board with copies of responses it receives.

(iii) State whether permits under section 402 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1342) are required for the proposed action. (Applicants should contact the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency or the state environmental protection agency or equivalent agency if they are unsure whether such permits are required.)

Response:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the RIDEM and Mass DEP were notified of the proposed abandonment by letters dated December 12, 2006. (See Attachments 13, 10 and 11.) As of the date of this report, no response has been received. P&W will provide the Board with copies of any responses it receives.

*(10) **Proposed Mitigation.** Describe any actions that are proposed to mitigate adverse environmental impacts, indicating why the proposed mitigation is appropriate.*

Response:

There have been no rail shipments on this track in the past four years. The proposed abandonment will accordingly not have any adverse environmental impacts in the area and no mitigating action will be necessary.

(11) National Geodetic Survey.

Response:

By letter dated December 12, 2006, P&W notified the National Geodetic Survey of the proposed abandonment. (*See Attachment 14.*)

HISTORIC REPORT
49 C.F.R. § 1105.8(D)

(1) Map.

A U.S.G.S. topographic map showing the location of the portion of the Slatersville Secondary Track proposed to be abandoned is attached hereto as Appendix 1. There are no railroad structures, other than track, that are 50 years old or older.

(2) Description of Line.

The portion of the Slatersville Secondary Track proposed to be abandoned runs from Mile Post 0.85 to a point 1408.3 +/- feet beyond the end of track at Mile Post 0.0, a distance of approximately 1.1 miles. The right-of-way varies in width from approximately 22 feet to 105 feet with most of the right-of-way having a width of 82 feet. This track runs through commercial and industrial areas and a minimal residential area.

(3) Photographs.

There are no railroad structures on these branches that are 50 years old or older.

(4) Information on Structures.

The right-of-way that is proposed for abandonment has been operated by P&W since 1973, although it was not acquired by P&W until 1982. Based on information in P&W's files, the company believes that the line was originally constructed in the late nineteenth (19th) or early twentieth (20th) centuries and was used by P&W and its predecessors primarily to serve local shippers. Very little traffic has moved over the portion of the Slatersville Secondary Track to be abandoned in recent years, and no traffic has moved in the past four years.

(5) *Brief History of Operations.*

No operational changes by P&W are contemplated as a result of the proposed abandonment of these affected portions of the Slatersville Secondary Track.

(6) *Engineering Documents.*

Not applicable. There are no railroad structures on the portion of the Slatersville Secondary Track that is proposed for abandonment that are 50 years old or older, other than track. P&W does not believe, based on readily available information in its possession, that the track proposed for abandonment meets the criteria for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Further, P&W does not believe that there is a likelihood of archaeological resources or any other previously unknown historic properties in the project area. The Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission ("RI Historical Commission") and the Massachusetts Historical Commission ("Mass Historical Commission") were notified by letters dated December 12, 2006 of the proposed abandonment. (See Attachments 15 and 16.) As the date of this report, no response has been received in regard to the proposed abandonment. P&W will provide the Board copies with any response it receives.

(7) *Historic Criteria.*

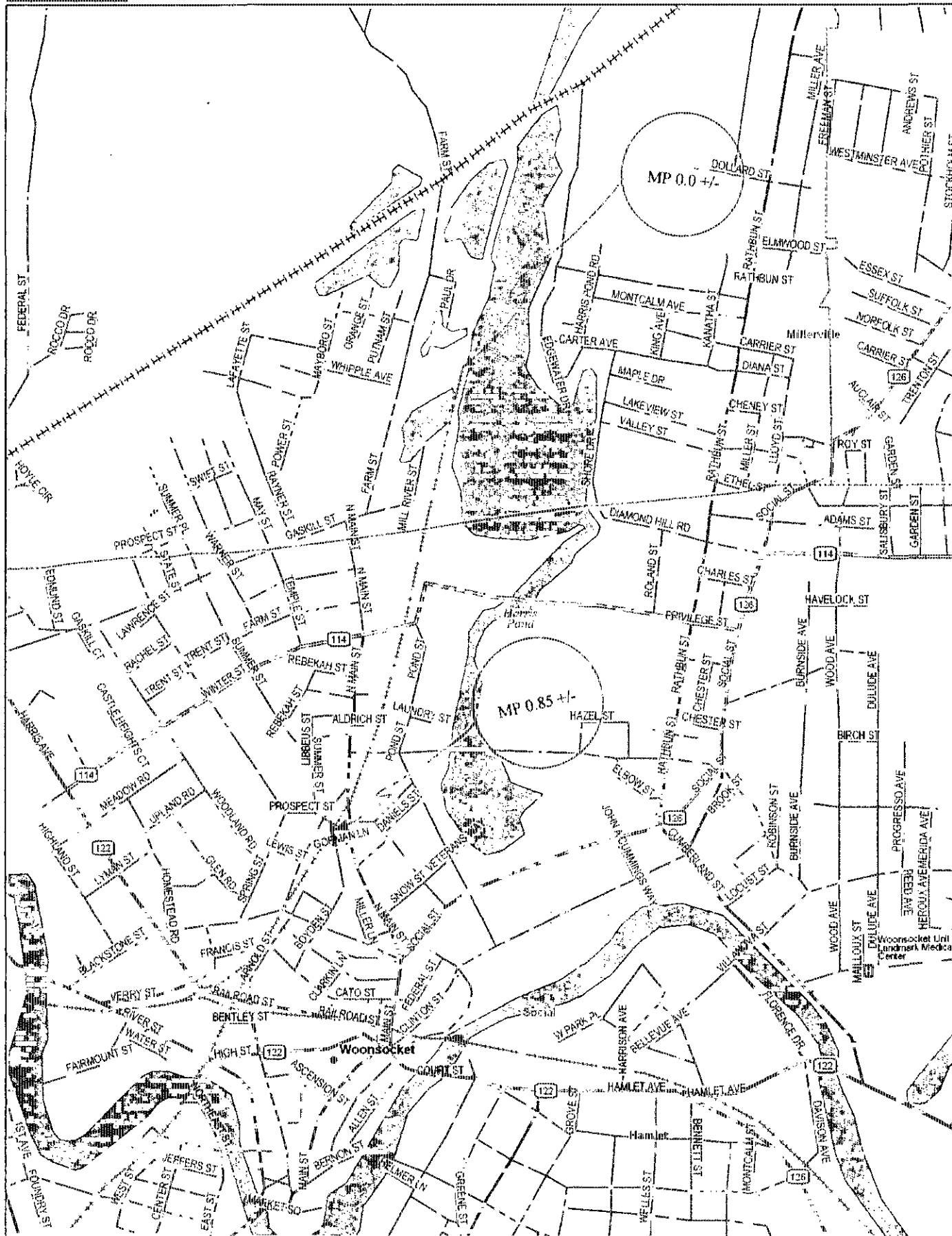
P&W does not believe, based on readily available information in its possession, that the portion of track proposed for abandonment meets the criteria for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Further, P&W does not believe that there is a likelihood of archaeological resources or any other previously unknown historic properties in the project area. The RI Historical Commission and the Mass Historical Commission were notified by letters dated December 12, 2006 of the proposed

abandonment. (See Attachments 12 and 13.) As the date of this report, no response has been received in regard to the proposed abandonment. P&W will provide the Board copies of any responses it receives.

(8) *Ground Disturbances.*

Based on readily available information in its possession, P&W does not know of any other sub-surface ground disturbance or fill, environmental conditions (naturally occurring or man-made) that might affect the archaeological recovery of resources and the surrounding terrain.

250222



November 22, 2006



State of Rhode Island
Department of Administration
Statewide Planning Program
Division of Planning
One Capitol Hill – 4th Floor
Providence, RI 02908

FOUNDED 1844

**Re: Providence and Worcester Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment of
Portion of Slatersville Track**

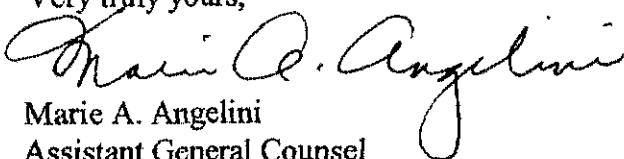
Dear Sir or Madam:

On December 29, 2006, Providence and Worcester Railroad Company is filing with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") a Notice of Exemption seeking authority to abandon a 1.1 +/- mile portion of its branch line known as the Slatersville Secondary Track, located in Woonsocket, Rhode Island at Mile Post 0.85 +/- and continuing to a point that is 1480.3 feet northerly of the end of track at Mile Post 0.0 in Blackstone, Massachusetts. Attached is an environmental and historic report describing the proposed action and any expected environmental and/or historic effects, as well as a map of the affected area.

We are providing this report so that you may review the information that will form the basis for the STB's independent environmental analysis of this proceeding. If any of the information is misleading or incorrect, if you believe that pertinent information is missing, or if you have any questions about the Board's environmental review process, please contact the Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA), Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20423, telephone (202) 565-1500. Because the applicable statutes and regulations impose stringent deadlines for processing this action, your written comments to SEA (with a copy to our representative) would be appreciated within 3 weeks.

Your comments will be considered by the Board in evaluating the environmental and/or historic preservation impacts of the contemplated action. If there are any questions concerning this proposal, please contact our representative directly. Our representative in this matter is Edward D. Greenberg, who may be contacted by telephone at (202) 342-5277 or by mail at Galland, Kharasch, Greenberg, Fellman & Swirsky, P.C., 1054 Thirty-First Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20007.

Very truly yours,


Marie A. Angelini
Assistant General Counsel

Enclosures

PROVIDENCE AND WORCESTER RAILROAD COMPANY
75 HAMMOND STREET, WORCESTER, MA 01610 P.O. BOX 16551, WORCESTER, MA 01601
TELEPHONE (508) 755-4000 FAX (508) 795-0748



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

Department of Administration
STATEWIDE PLANNING PROGRAM
One Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908 - 5872

December 8, 2006

Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20423

RE: Providence and Worcester Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment of Portion of Slatersville Secondary Track in Woonsocket, RI

Dear Madam or Sir:

We are in receipt of a letter dated November 22, 2006 from the Providence and Worcester Railroad Company (P&W) notifying us of their intent to abandon a portion of the Slatersville Secondary Track. Our comments on the draft Combined Environmental and Historical Report were requested.

Page 3 of the report, item (3)(iv) states "If the proposed action is an abandonment, state whether or not the right-of-way is suitable for alternative public use under 49 U.S.C. Section 10905 and explain why." The response provided by P&W states "P&W is not aware that the right-of-way proposed for abandonment is suitable for alternative public use under 49 U.S.C. Section 10905."

The City of Woonsocket is currently conducting a Commuter Rail Feasibility Study, funded through RI Statewide Planning using PL funds from the Federal Highway Administration. The project began in August 2006. An Advisory Committee established for this study includes a representative of the P&W. The study will determine the feasibility of the establishment or re-establishment of passenger rail service from Woonsocket to Boston, Providence, and Worcester. The service to Boston could potentially be run on the tracks proposed for abandonment. The study is anticipated to be completed by June of 2007. Major findings will likely be available before that date. Until the study is complete or substantially complete, it is premature to determine whether or not the right-of-way is suitable for future public use.

Additionally, several elements of the State Guide Plan, adopted by the State Planning Council, contain statements and policies that are relevant to this proposed action.

TRANSPORTATION 2025, State Guide Plan Element 611, 2004

LU.2.d Promote protection of property and rights of way to secure the long term transportation needs of the state. (p. 80)

LU.3.q Acquire and preserve active and abandoned rail rights-of-way for future transportation use. These include the Pontiac Secondary, the Newport Secondary, and others designated in the Freight Rail Plan. They can have multiple uses over the long term. (p. 82)

FREIGHT RAIL PLAN, State Guide Plan Element 661, 1993

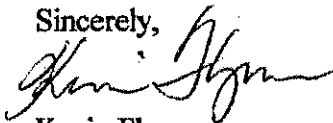
"In situations where the track is removed or conditions dictate that viable passenger or freight rail service cannot be re-established, rail right-of-way should be land banked by the state. Public ownership can make these rights-of-way available for other interim transportation options, recreational use, open space, or other public purposes. Linear rights-of-way have proven their value when converted to such uses as bike paths and utility corridors for telecommunications, pipelines, and electric power transmission." (p. 7.2)

INDUSTRIAL LAND USE PLAN, State Guide Plan Element 212, 2001

This plan identifies the industrial area served, or formerly served, by the portion of the track to be abandoned in Woonsocket as having "moderate potential" for expanded industrial use. The industrial area straddles the track and comprises 42 acres, 39 of which are in industrial use and three vacant (i.e., undeveloped). Rail access and proximity to a state highway are considered amenities in the Industrial Land Use Plan; this area has both, in addition to being fully serviced with utilities.

The Statewide Planning Program respectfully requests deferral of any action by the Surface Transportation Board until the Study has been completed and the re-use potential of this corridor has been fully examined.

Sincerely,



Kevin Flynn
Associate Director

Cc: Edward D. Greenberg, Galland, Kharasch, Greenberg, Fellman & Swirsky, P.C.
Marie A. Angelini, Providence & Worcester Railroad Company
Ralph Rizzo, Federal Highway Administration
Steve Devine, RI Department of Transportation
Mayor Susan Menard, City of Woonsocket
Joel Matthews, City of Woonsocket
Catherine Ady, City of Woonsocket
George Johnson, Bruce Vild, Katherine Trapani



FOUNDED 1844

December 12, 2006

Massachusetts Executive Office of Communities & Development
1 Congress Street
Tenth Floor
Boston, MA 02114

**Re: Providence and Worcester Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment of Portion of
Slatersville Track**

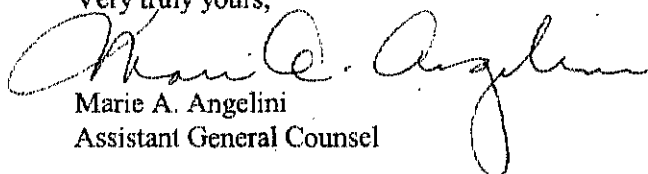
Dear Sir or Madam:

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We are providing this report so that you may review the information that will form the basis for the STB's independent environmental analysis of this proceeding. If any of the information is misleading or incorrect, if you believe that pertinent information is missing, or if you have any questions about the Board's environmental review process, please contact the Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA), Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20423, telephone (202) 565-1500. Because the applicable statutes and regulations impose stringent deadlines for processing this action, your written comments to SEA (with a copy to our representative) would be appreciated within 3 weeks.

Your comments will be considered by the Board in evaluating the environmental and/or historic preservation impacts of the contemplated action. If there are any questions concerning this proposal, please contact our representative directly. Our representative in this matter is Edward D. Greenberg, who may be contacted by telephone at (202) 342-5277 or by mail at Galland, Kharasch, Greenberg, Fellman & Swirsky, P.C., 1054 Thirty-First Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20007.

Very truly yours,


Marie A. Angelini
Assistant General Counsel

Enclosures

PROVIDENCE AND WORCESTER RAILROAD COMPANY
75 HAMMOND STREET, WORCESTER, MA 01610 P.O. BOX 16551, WORCESTER, MA 01601
TELEPHONE (508) 755-4000 FAX (508) 795-0748



November 22, 2006

FOUNDED 1844

City of Woonsocket
169 Main Street
Woonsocket, R.I. 02895

**Re: Providence and Worcester Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment of
Portion of Slatersville Track**

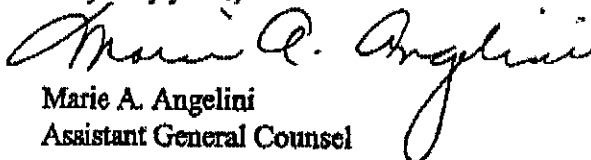
Dear Sir or Madam:

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Your comments will be considered by the Board in evaluating the environmental and/or historic preservation impacts of the contemplated action. If there are any questions concerning this proposal, please contact our representative directly. Our representative in this matter is Edward D. Greenberg, who may be contacted by telephone at (202) 342-5277 or by mail at Galland, Kharasch, Greenberg, Fellman & Swirsky, P.C., 1054 Thirty-First Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20007.

Very truly yours,


Marie A. Angelini
Assistant General Counsel

Enclosures

PROVIDENCE AND WORCESTER RAILROAD COMPANY
75 HAMMOND STREET, WORCESTER, MA 01610 P.O. BOX 16551, WORCESTER, MA 01601
TELEPHONE (508) 755-4000 FAX (508) 795-0748



CITY OF WOONSOCKET, RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

December 12, 2006

Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20423

RE: Providence & Worcester Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment of Portion of Slatersville
Secondary Track in Woonsocket, RI

Dear Madam or Sir:

I am writing this letter in response to the proposal by the Providence & Worcester Railroad Company (P&W) to abandon a portion of the Slatersville Secondary Track in Woonsocket, RI. I have had the opportunity to review their draft combined environmental and historical report, dated November 22, 2006. Please now allow me to address some of the comments provided and to provide you with additional information, which was omitted from the abandonment proposal.

Under section (1) entitled, *Proposed action and alternatives*, P&W writes, "there are no reasonable alternatives to the proposed abandonment, as there is no further need for rail service along the subject track." On this point, the City of Woonsocket ardently disagrees. In August 2006, the City initiated a Commuter Rail Feasibility Study. Under this study, this portion of the Slatersville Secondary Track is the key to connecting Woonsocket and Northern Rhode Island to existing commuter rail lines with service to Boston and it may be that this feasibility study will show that the use of this subject track for commuter rail service is a reasonable alternative. This study is funded through the RI Statewide Planning Program with funds from the Federal Highway Administration and will be completed before June 2007.

Under section (2) entitled, *Transportation system*, P&W writes, "the proposed abandonment would have a minimal effect on regional or local transportation systems or patterns." While it is true that this portion of the Slatersville Secondary Track is not now tied into an existing regional or local transportation systems, it is attached to an intact rail corridor in Massachusetts, and the potential exists to reconnect this section of track to a regional system. It is because of this potential, that the city sought and received federal funding to explore this transportation opportunity.

Under section (3) entitled, *Land use*, P&W writes that the proposed abandonment is "consistent with existing land use plans." I have had the opportunity to review a number of state and local land use plans and based on this review, I must respectfully disagree with P&W's assessment that the proposed abandonment is consistent with existing land use plans. The City of Woonsocket's Comprehensive Plan states "the return of passenger rail service connecting Woonsocket with... Boston is a desirable goal for the future. The City should oppose any proposals to dismantle, or cause to be removed from future service, any existing railroad rights-of-way that would be needed for the return of

FORWARD WOONSOCKET
"A CITY ON THE MOVE"

these passenger routes." The State of Rhode Island's Transportation 2025 plan, Freight Rail plan, and Industrial Land Use plan, all contain language that strongly supports the preservation of existing rail rights-of-way.

Also under section (3), *Land use*, P&W writes that they are "not aware that the right-of-way proposed for abandonment is suitable for alternative public use." Part of the City's Commuter Rail Feasibility Study included the creation of a Project Advisory Committee. A representative from P&W sits on this committee. This committee assists the City over the course of the project, as we assess the potential for using the Slatersville Secondary Track for the expansion of commuter rail service in the area.

Thank you for providing the City of Woonsocket with the opportunity to comment on the proposed abandonment of the Slatersville Secondary Track. Examining the commuter rail reuse potential of this portion of track is a great priority for the City. This feasibility study has generated a high level of interest in the local community and has gained the support of numerous community groups and neighboring towns and cities, as evidenced by high attendance at our public meetings and through positive press coverage in local and state newspapers (copies enclosed). Because of the possibility for commuter rail reuse of this section of track, the City of Woonsocket respectfully requests that any decision regarding the abandonment of the Slatersville Secondary Track be put off until the City can complete its Commuter Rail Feasibility Study. This study is being completed by the firm of Edwards and Kelcey, one of the leading transportation planning and engineering firms in the area. By June 2007 this study will be complete and the true potential for reuse of this line will be known. The City of Woonsocket appreciates your attention in this matter. If you have any questions regarding this issue, please do not hesitate to contact me directly, I may be reached at 401-767-1418.

Sincerely,



Catherine Ady
City Planner

cc: Edward D. Greenberg, Galland, Kharasch, Greenberg, Fellman & Swirsky, P.C. ✓
Marie A. Angelini, Providence & Worcester Railroad Company
Ralph Rizzo, Federal Highway Administration
Steve Devine, RI Department of Transportation
Mayor Susan D. Menard, City of Woonsocket
Joel D. Mathews, Director of Planning and Development
Kevin Flynn, RI Statewide Planning Program
Katherine Trapani, RI Statewide Planning Program
David Nelson, Edwards and Kelcey



December 12, 2006

FOUNDED 1844

Town of Blackstone
15 St. Paul Street
Blackstone, MA 01504

**Re: Providence and Worcester Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment of
Portion of Slatersville Track**

Dear Sir or Madam:

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Very truly yours,

Marie A. Angelini
Assistant General Counsel

Enclosures

PROVIDENCE AND WORCESTER RAILROAD COMPANY
75 HAMMOND STREET, WORCESTER, MA 01610 P.O. BOX 16551, WORCESTER, MA 01601
TELEPHONE (508) 755-4000 FAX (508) 795-0748



December 12, 2006

FOUNDED 1844

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resource Conservation Service
Rhode Island State Office/Service Center
60 Quaker Lane, Suite 46
Warwick, RI 02886

**Re: Providence and Worcester Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment of
Portion of Slatersville Track**

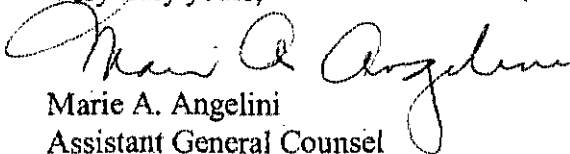
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Marie A. Angelini
Assistant General Counsel

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75 HAMMOND STREET, WORCESTER, MA 01610 P.O. BOX 16551, WORCESTER, MA 01601
TELEPHONE (508) 755-4000 FAX (508) 795-0748



December 12, 2006

FOUNDED 1844

Executive Director
Coastal Resources Management Council
Stedman Office Building
4808 Tower Hill Road
Wakefield, RI 02879

**Re: Providence and Worcester Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment of
Portion of Slatersville Track**

Dear Sir or Madam:

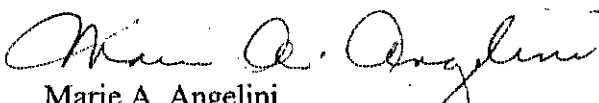
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Enclosures

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TELEPHONE (508) 755-4000 FAX (508) 795-0748



December 12, 2006

FOUNDED 1844

Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management Program
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
251 Causeway Street
Eighth Floor
Boston, MA 02114

**Re: Providence and Worcester Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment of
Portion of Slatersville Track**

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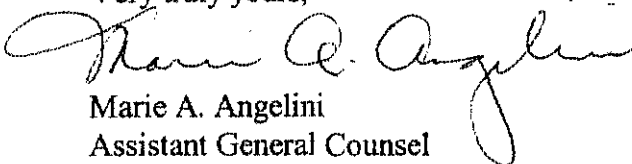
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Enclosures

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75 HAMMOND STREET, WORCESTER, MA 01610

P.O. BOX 16551, WORCESTER, MA 01601

TELEPHONE (508) 755-4000

FAX (508) 795-0748



December 12, 2006

FOUNDED 1844

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Region 5
300 West Gate Center Drive
Hadley, MA 01035

**Re: Providence and Worcester Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment of
Portion of Slatersville Track**

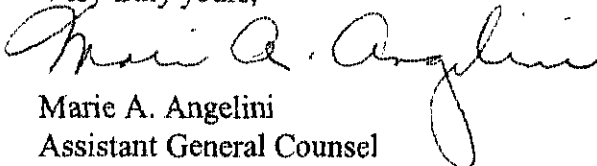
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United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
New England Field Office
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300
Concord, New Hampshire 03301-5087



January 3, 2007

Reference:	<u>Project</u>	<u>Location</u>
	Railroad abandonment (Slatersville)	Woonsocket, RI Blackstone, MA

Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20423

Gentlemen:

This responds to Providence and Worcester Railroad Company's Marie Angelini's recent correspondence requesting information on the presence of federally-listed and/or proposed endangered or threatened species in relation to the proposed activity(ies) referenced above.

Based on information currently available to us, no federally-listed or proposed, threatened or endangered species or critical habitat under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are known to occur in the project area(s). Preparation of a Biological Assessment or further consultation with us under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act is not required.

This concludes our review of listed species and critical habitat in the project location(s) and environs referenced above. No further Endangered Species Act coordination of this type is necessary for a period of one year from the date of this letter, unless additional information on listed or proposed species becomes available.

Thank you for your coordination. Please contact us at 603-223-2541 if we can be of further assistance. **In the future, in order to expedite your reply, please direct any inquiries of this nature to this office at the above address.**

Sincerely yours,

Anthony P. Tur
Endangered Species Specialist
New England Field Office

CC: Edward Greenberg, Galland, Kharasch, Greenberg, Fellman & Swirsky, P.C.



December 12, 2006

FOUNDED 1844

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
235 Promenade Street
Providence, RI 02908-5767

**Re: Providence and Worcester Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment of
Portion of Slatersville Track**

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Marie A. Angelini
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75 HAMMOND STREET, WORCESTER, MA 01610 P.O. BOX 16551, WORCESTER, MA 01601
TELEPHONE (508) 755-4000 FAX (508) 795-0748



December 12, 2006

FOUNDED 1844

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
251 Causeway Street
Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

**Re: Providence and Worcester Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment of
Portion of Slatersville Track**

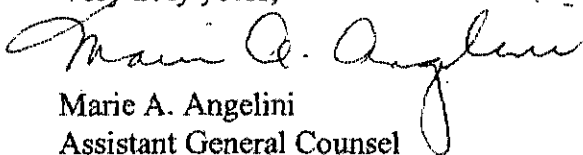
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TELEPHONE (508) 755-4000 FAX (508) 795-0748



December 12, 2006

FOUNDED 1844

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New England District
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742

**Re: Providence and Worcester Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment of
Portion of Slatersville Track**

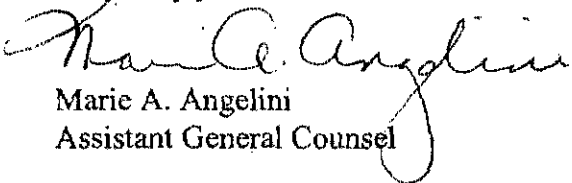
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December 12, 2006

FOUNDED 1844

U.S. Department of Environmental Protection
Northeast Regional Office
1 Congress Street
Boston, MA 02114

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Assistant General Counsel

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P.O. BOX 16551, WORCESTER, MA 01601

TELEPHONE (508) 755-4000

FAX (508) 795-0748



December 12, 2006

FOUNDED 1844

National Geodetic Survey
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Springs, MD 20910

**Re: Providence and Worcester Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment of
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Marie A. Angelini
Assistant General Counsel

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75 HAMMOND STREET, WORCESTER, MA 01610

P.O. BOX 16551, WORCESTER, MA 01601

TELEPHONE (508) 755-4000

FAX (508) 795-0748



December 12, 2006

FOUNDED 1844

Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission
Old State House
150 Benefit Street
Providence, RI 02903

**Re: Providence and Worcester Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment of
Portion of Slatersville Track**

Dear Sir or Madam:

On December 29, 2006, Providence and Worcester Railroad Company is filing with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") a Notice of Exemption seeking authority to abandon a 1.1 +/- mile portion of its branch line known as the Slatersville Secondary Track, located in Woonsocket, Rhode Island at Mile Post 0.85 +/- and continuing to a point that is 1480.3 feet northerly of the end of track at Mile Post 0.0 in Blackstone, Massachusetts. Attached is an environmental and historic report describing the proposed action and any expected environmental and/or historic effects, as well as a map of the affected area.

We are providing this report so that you may review the information that will form the basis for the STB's independent environmental analysis of this proceeding. If any of the information is misleading or incorrect, if you believe that pertinent information is missing, or if you have any questions about the Board's environmental review process, please contact the Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA), Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20423, telephone (202) 565-1500. Because the applicable statutes and regulations impose stringent deadlines for processing this action, your written comments to SEA (with a copy to our representative) would be appreciated within 3 weeks.

Your comments will be considered by the Board in evaluating the environmental and/or historic preservation impacts of the contemplated action. If there are any questions concerning this proposal, please contact our representative directly. Our representative in this matter is Edward D. Greenberg, who may be contacted by telephone at (202) 342-5277 or by mail at Galland, Kharasch, Greenberg, Fellman & Swirsky, P.C., 1054 Thirty-First Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20007.

Very truly yours,


Marie A. Angelini
Assistant General Counsel

Enclosures

PROVIDENCE AND WORCESTER RAILROAD COMPANY
75 HAMMOND STREET, WORCESTER, MA 01610 P.O. BOX 16551, WORCESTER, MA 01601
TELEPHONE (508) 755-4000 FAX (508) 795-0748



December 12, 2006

FOUNDED 1844

Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125

**Re: Providence and Worcester Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment of
Portion of Slatersville Track**

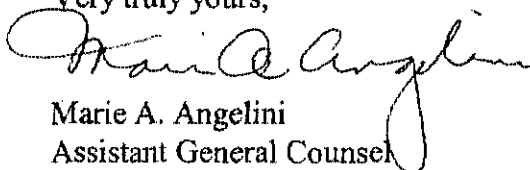
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