



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION I
ONE CONGRESS STREET SUITE 1100
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02114-2023

VIA E-FILING

219023

April 6, 2007

The Honorable Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-001

Re: New England Transrail Petition for Exemption
STB Finance Docket No. 34797

Dear Secretary Williams:

Region I of the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") does not intend to participate in the April 19 oral argument concerning jurisdictional issues in this matter. This letter, however, will update the Board and interested parties on the status of EPA's investigation of the Olin Chemical Superfund Site. NET has proposed developing the part of the Olin Site that fronts 51 Eames Street, in Wilmington, Massachusetts.

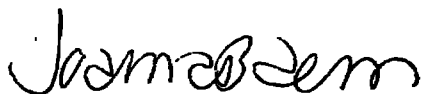
EPA is still in negotiations with the potentially responsible parties for the performance of a remedial investigation and feasibility study ("RI/FS") at the Olin site.¹ Thus, the RI/FS has not commenced, and EPA's knowledge of the Site has not changed materially since our letter of May 11, 2006 to the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis. We therefore reiterate the main points of that letter – specifically, that the Board may want to consider deferring its environmental review until the relevant parts of the RI/FS are complete, and that, whenever the Board's environmental review does go forward, EPA strongly recommends that the review take the form of an environmental impact statement, rather than an environmental assessment.

If the Board and its staff have questions concerning the Superfund process, please direct them to the Site Remedial Project Manager, Jim DiLorenzo, at (617) 918-1247, and to the case attorney, Wes Kelman, at (617) 918-1540. In addition, we would appreciate it if the Board and all interested parties would direct correspondence related to this matter to Jim DiLorenzo at 1 Congress Street, Suite 1100 (HBO), Boston, MA 02114-2023 or

¹ For additional information on the Superfund cleanup process during and after the RI/FS, please see our letter to the Board of January 26, 2006.

via email at dilorenzo.jim@epa.gov.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joanna Jerison', written in a cursive style.

Joanna Jerison
Chief, Superfund Legal Office, EPA Region I

cc: Service list (by first-class mail)