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VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Hon. Anne K. Quinlan
Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20024

January 28, 2008

Re: STB Docket No. AB 996 (X)
Reading Blue Mountain & Northern Railroad, Inc. –
Abandonment Exemption - In Schuylkill County, PA

Dear Secretary Quinlan:

Reading Blue Mountain & Northern Railroad, Inc. ("RBMN") hereby moves to withdraw the notice of exemption served by the Board on August 21, 2006, in this proceeding, and to have the proceeding dismissed. RBMN has determined based on discussions with Reading Anthracite Company ("RAC") to continue to provide service over the line that was subject to abandonment. Because RAC filed a notice of its intent to file an offer of financial assistance, and various extensions granted thereafter, the exemption in this proceeding has not yet become effective. See decision served January 25, 2008 (effective date of exemption postponed until May 4, 2008).

Because abandonment authority is permissive and not mandatory, the Board generally grants a carrier's request to withdraw its request for abandonment authority. See *The Cincinnati, New Orleans and Texas Pacific Railway Company – Abandonment Exemption – In Scott County, TN*, STB Docket No. AB-290 (Sub-No. 279X) (served April 24, 2007); *Almono LP – Abandonment Exemption – In Allegheny County, PA*, STB Docket No. Ab-842X (served January 28, 2004). The effect of the dismissal will be that RBMN's common carrier obligation to provide rail service over the line will remain in place.

RAC has authorized the undersigned to state that RAC does not oppose RBMN's request. Please let me know if you need any additional information in connection with this request.

Respectfully,

Eric M. Hocky

EMH/e

cc: Andrew W. Dyer, Jr. (by email)

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