



MASSACHUSETTS WATER RESOURCES AUTHORITY

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Frederick A. Laskey
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ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
March 19, 2021
Part of
Public Record

March 17, 2021

Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Surface Transportation Board
Office of Proceedings
395 E. Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

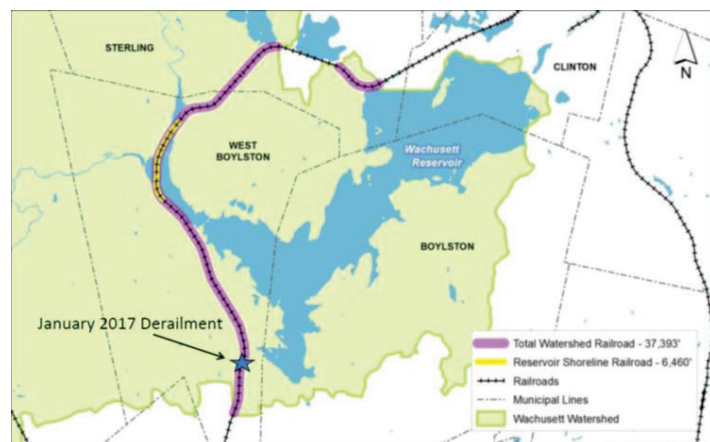
**Re: STB Docket No. FD 36472, CSX Corporation and CSX Transportation, Inc., et al.—
Control and Merger—Pan Am Systems, Inc., Pan Am Railways, Inc., Boston and
Maine Corporation, Maine Central Railroad Company, Northern Railroad, Pan Am
Southern LLC, Portland Terminal Company, Springfield Terminal Railway
Company, Stony Brook Railroad Company, and Vermont & Massachusetts
Railroad Company**

Dear Ms. Brown:

Please accept this correspondence in connection with the above referenced proceeding. For the reasons set forth herein, the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) perceives regional implications from the proposed control and merger between CSX Transportation, Inc (CSXT). and Pan Am Systems Inc. Given its potentially-substantial regional impact, MWRA respectfully requests that the proposed transaction not be considered as “minor” under the Surface Transportation Board’s rules, as requested by the applicants, but, rather, as “significant.”

MWRA is a public authority established by an act of the Massachusetts Legislature in 1984 to provide wholesale water and sewer services to 3.1 million people and more than 5,500 large industrial users in 61 communities primarily in eastern Massachusetts, including the City of Boston.

The PanAm Railways’ (Pan Am) Worcester Main Line was first laid out in the mid-1800s prior to construction of Wachusett Reservoir, and runs for 23.7 miles from Ayer to Worcester Massachusetts. Approximately 7.6 miles of the Worcester Mainline is located within the Wachusett Watershed and in many areas runs immediately adjacent to, or over the reservoir itself. The location of these tracks within the watershed causes concern that a train derailment



could result in railcars rupturing and their contents entering the water supply for over 3.0 million people

MWRA's Waterworks System draws its drinking water from the Quabbin Reservoir (412 billion gallons) which is transferred to the Wachusett Reservoir (65 billion gallons) prior to treatment. The Worcester Main Line crosses directly over the reservoir via a causeway and also over numerous streams within the watershed that flow quickly and directly into the reservoir. A derailment resulting in a spill could have a detrimental impact on the safety and quality of the drinking water supply for 3.0 million people. MWRA is not aware of another instance of a freight railroad operating within the source reservoir system of an unfiltered water supply within the United States.



MWRA recently has met with CSXT to provide an overview of the environmental and public health concerns associated with the Worcester Main Line. As part of the presentation, MWRA provided potential areas for future discussion related to hazardous incident response, the current owner's speed restriction within the watershed, potential future track improvements and equipment to monitor railcars for irregularities and defects. These items, MWRA believes, are essential to minimizing the risk of derailment within the watershed. CSXT has not followed up with MWRA to continue discussions on these matters.



In 2017, a train carrying contaminated soils derailed within the watershed adjacent to a stream that flows into the reservoir. If those cars had spilled their contents, and the contaminated soil was carried into the reservoir, the impacts to the watershed could have been significant.

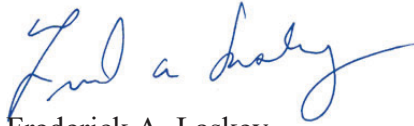
MWRA believes that potential impacts of changes of operations on this line should be closely reviewed. The potential damage to the public health of 3.0 million people living and working in Eastern Massachusetts, as well as the potential economic impact to Massachusetts and potentially much of New England as a result of a derailment and spill impacting the water supply would have a regional, if not national impact. MWRA believes that this level of impact warrants the above referenced filing to be considered

significant by the Surface Transportation Board, so that parties such as MWRA have adequate

time to address appropriate mitigation, and the Surface Transportation Board, in turn, can consider and impose public-protecting conditions as necessary.

The public served by MWRA's Waterworks System, thanks you in advance for your consideration of these comments. If you should have any questions or require additional information please feel free to contact me at 617-788-1101 or Fred.Laskey@mwra.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Fred A. Laskey", written in a cursive style.

Frederick A. Laskey
Executive Director

cc. All Parties of Record



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March 17, 2021

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Maine Corporation, Maine Central Railroad Company, Northern Railroad, Pan Am
Southern LLC, Portland Terminal Company, Springfield Terminal Railway
Company, Stony Brook Railroad Company, and Vermont & Massachusetts
Railroad Company**

I certify that I have served copies of this document upon all parties of record in this proceeding,
by email.

Massachusetts Water Resources Authority by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Matthew Horan", written over a horizontal line.

Matthew R. Horan
Deputy Director, Finance/Treasurer

A handwritten date in blue ink, "March 17, 2021", written over a horizontal line.

Date

Enclosure: Notice of Service by Electronic Mail

From: [Horan, Matt](#)
To: ["jbartos@geclaw.com"; "rwimbish@fletcher-sippel.com"; "jmcinerney@barkanmeizlish.com"; "barry.finegold@masenate.gov"; "redelman@mooneygreen.com"; "gordon.landrigian@vermont.gov"; "rculliford@panamrailways.com"; "brodar@atda.org"; "allison.b.greenstein@doj.nh.gov"; "jbartos@geclaw.com"; "ediehl@smart-union.org"; "rwimbish@fletcher-sippel.com"; "abird@geclaw.com"; "jgilbert@fletcher-sippel.com"; "alarocca@steptoe.com"; "wmullins@bakerandmiller.com"](#)
Subject: Surface Transportation Board - Docket Number: FD_36472
Date: Wednesday, March 17, 2021 4:24:24 PM
Attachments: [MWRA STB letter March 2021.pdf](#)

Re: STB Docket No. FD 36472, CSX Corporation and CSX Transportation, Inc., et al.—Control and Merger—Pan Am Systems, Inc., Pan Am Railways, Inc., Boston and Maine Corporation, Maine Central Railroad Company, Northern Railroad, Pan Am Southern LLC, Portland Terminal Company, Springfield Terminal Railway Company, Stony Brook Railroad Company, and Vermont & Massachusetts Railroad Company

Attached please find the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority's letter dated March 17, 2021, which was filed today with the Surface Transportation Board in connection with the above proceeding.

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