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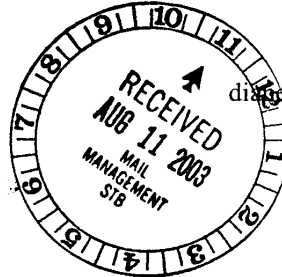
August 5, 2003

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Public Record

The Honorable Vernon Williams  
Secretary, Surface Transportation Board  
1925 K Street NW, Room 711  
Washington D.C. 20423-00001



Diane P. Gerth  
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208672

**Re:    *Soo Line Railroad Company – Notice of Intent to File – Notice of Exemption  
Abandonment of Trackage located in Racine County, Wisconsin  
S.T.B. Docket No. AB-57 (Sub. No. 53X)***

Dear Mr. Williams:

This letter is in response to the recent Petition of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation for a Notice of Interim Trail Use for the above-referenced line of railroad. The Petition was filed by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation on behalf of itself and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Please be advised that Soo Line Railroad Company has no objection to the imposition of a Trail Use Condition, but would respectfully request that the railroad be allowed to dispose of rail materials located along the corridor. In its request for the trail use, the Wisconsin DOT has indicated that it has no objection to the removal of rail related materials along the line. Soo Line has no intention of removing any of the bridges or culverts on the line, but the track, ties and other rail related structures are valuable recyclable commodities. A Trail Use Condition that allows CPR to engage in limited salvage activities would allow the removal and re-use of the materials in an expedient manner and will not interfere with any potential corridor re-use.

If there are any questions relating to this request, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,  
LEONARD, STREET AND DEINARD  
PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

DIANE P. GERTH

DPG/kaa

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cc: Steve Fisk  
Judy Mitchell  
Jim Habermehl