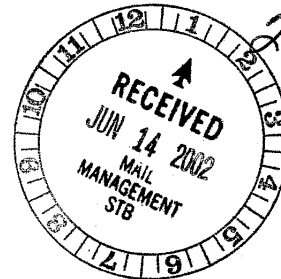




Office of The Administrator

George R. Kolb
Administrator

Room 801 - Municipal Building
530 Greene Street - AUGUSTA, GA. 30911
(706) 821-2400 - FAX (706) 821-2819



June 11, 2002

Mr. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K St., NW, Room 711
Washington, DC 20423

RE: CSX Transportation, Inc. - Abandonment
Richmond County, Georgia
Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 614X)

ENTERED
Office of the Secretary
JUN 14 2002
Part of
Public Record

Dear Mr. Williams:

This comment should be treated as protest or a petition for reconsideration in the above-captioned proceeding. This comment is filed on behalf of Augusta-Richmond County, Georgia which is a political subdivision interested in transportation and/or natural resources, which is hereinafter referred to as 'Commenter'.

While not taking a position on the merits of this abandonment, Commenter requests issuance of a Public Use Condition as well as a Certificate or Notice of Interim Trail Use rather than an outright abandonment authorization between Valuation Station 0+00 at Milepost ANS 0.2 and Valuation Station 84+44.

A. Public Use Condition

Commenter requests the STB to find that this property is suitable for other public use, specifically trail use, and to place the following conditions on the abandonment:

1. An order prohibiting the carrier from disposing of the corridor, other than the tracks, ties and signal equipment, except of public use on reasonable terms. The justification for this condition is that the corridor would make an excellent recreational trail and conversion of the property to trail use is in accordance with local plans. The time period sought is 180 days from the effective date of the abandonment authorization. Commenter needs this much time because we have not had an opportunity to assemble or to review title information, complete a trail plan or commence negotiations with the carrier.

Mr. Vernon A. Williams

June 11, 2002

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2. An order barring removal or destruction of potential trail-related structures such as bridges, trestles, culverts and tunnels. The justification for this condition is that these structures have considerable value for recreational trail purposes. The time period requested is 180 days from the effective date of the abandonment authorization for the same reason as indicated above.

B. Interim Trail Use

The railroad right-of-way in this proceeding is suitable for railbanking. In addition to the public use conditions sought above, Commenter also makes the following request:

STATEMENT OF WILLINGNESS TO ASSUME FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

In order to establish interim trail use and rail banking under Section 8(d) of the National Trails System Act, 16 U.S.C. §1247(d), and 49 C.F.R. §1152.29, Augusta-Richmond County, Georgia is willing to assume full responsibility for management of, for any legal liability arising out of the transfer or use of (unless the user is immune from liability, in which case it need only indemnify the railroad against any potential liability), and for the payment of any and all taxes that may be levied or assessed against the right-of-way owned by CSX Transportation, Inc.

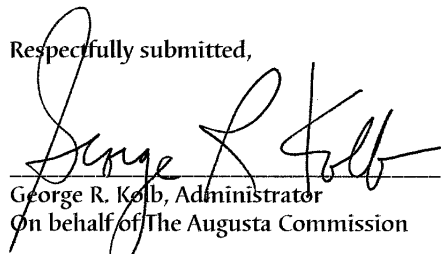
The property, known as the CSX spur line, extends from railroad milepost ANS 0.2 near Sixth and Broad Streets to railroad milepost 84+44 near a warehouse, a distance of 1.6 miles, in Richmond County, Georgia. The right-of-way is part of a line of railroad proposed for abandonment in STB Docket No. 55 (Sub-No.614X).

A map depicting the right-of-way is attached.

Augusta-Richmond County, Georgia acknowledges that use of the right-of-way is subject to the user's continuing to meet its responsibilities described above and subject to possible future reconstruction and reactivation of the right-of-way for rail service.

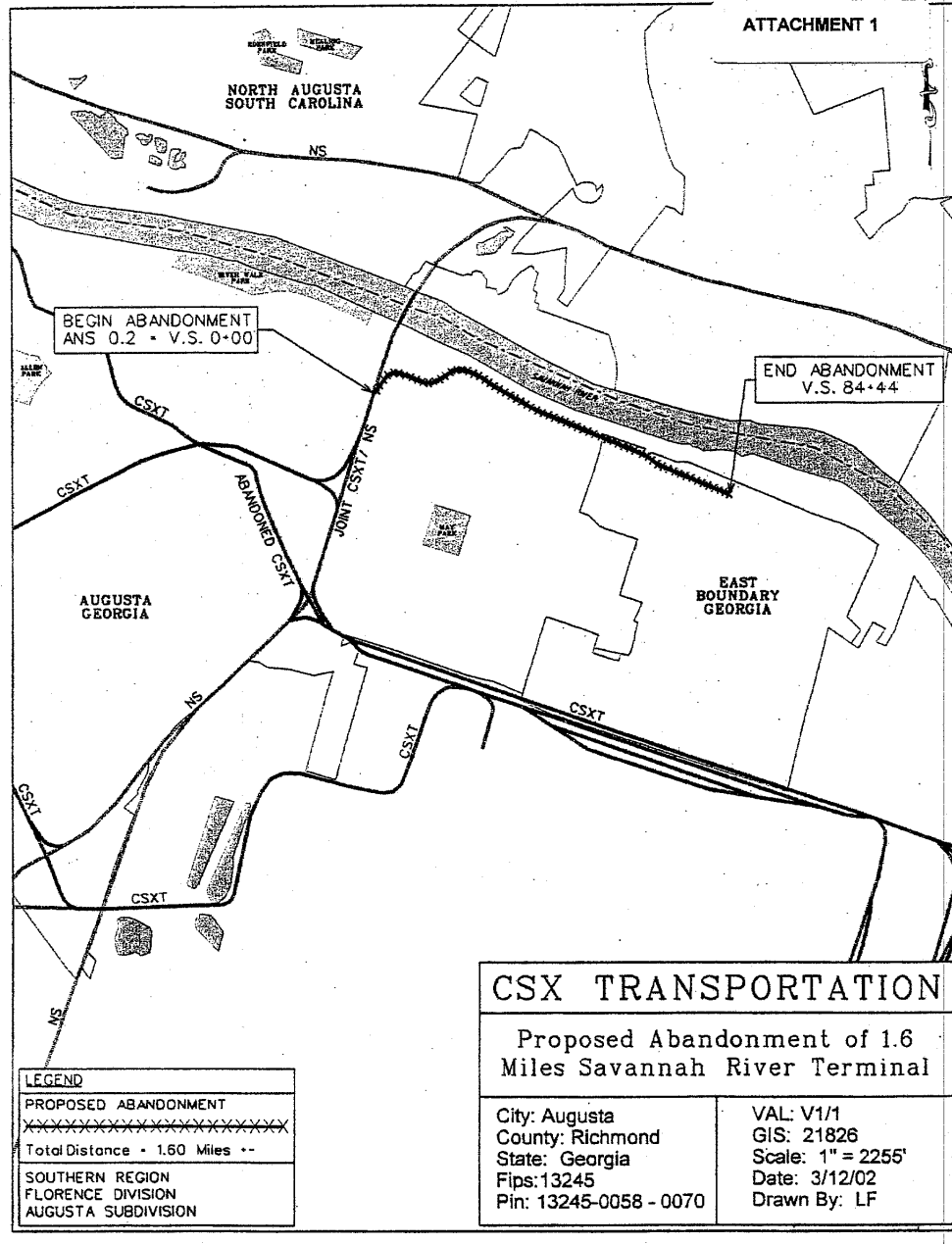
By my signature below, I certify service upon CSX Transportation, Inc, by U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, first class, this 11th day of June 2002.

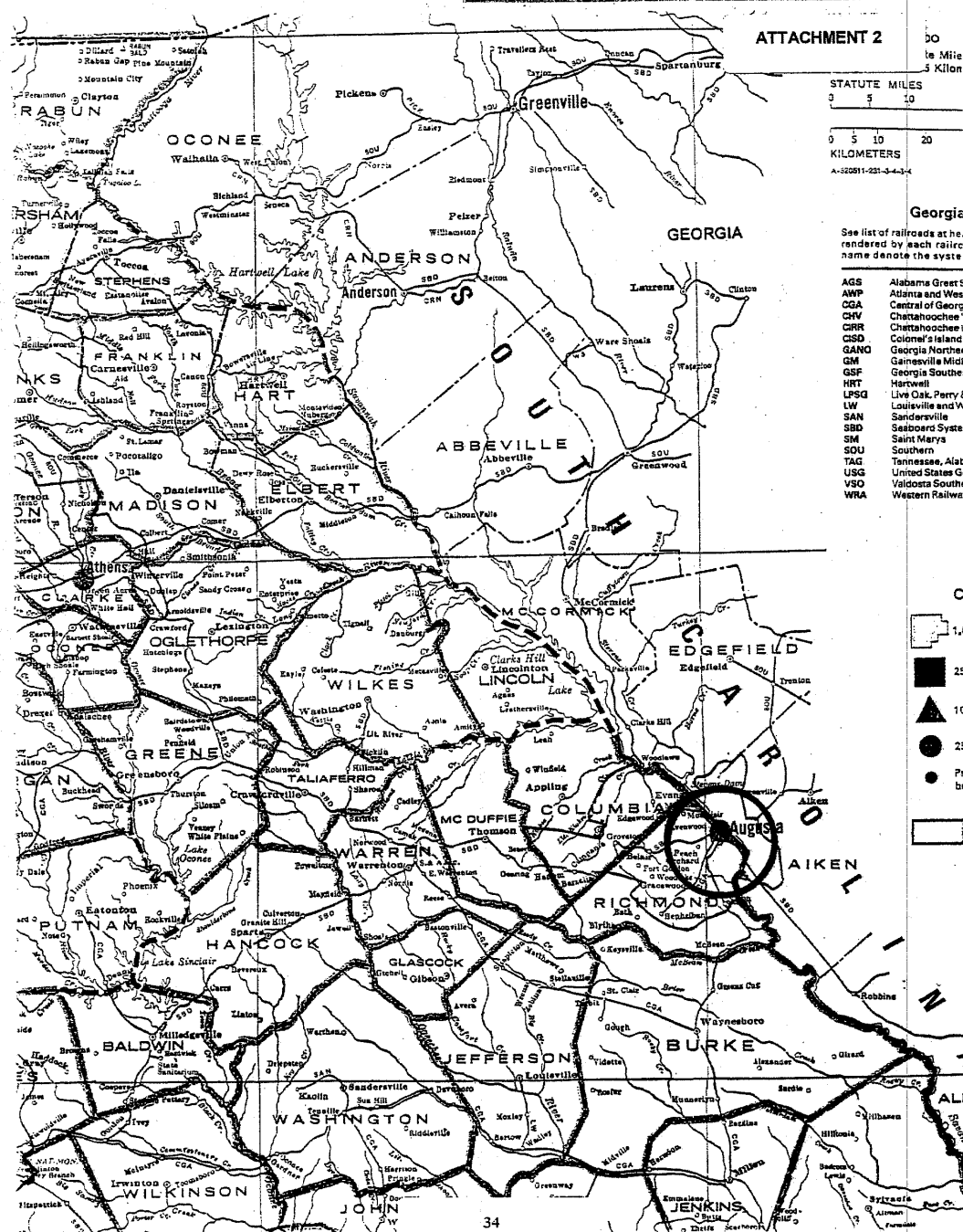
Respectfully submitted,


George R. Kolb, Administrator
On behalf of The Augusta Commission

Attachment

ATTACHMENT 1





AUGUSTA EAST QUADRANGLE
Georgia - South Carolina
1965 - Photorevised 1981
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AUGUSTA EAST QUADRANGLE
Georgia - South Carolina
1965 - Photorevised 1981
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