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Before the
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
October 1, 2021
Part of
Public Record

STB Docket No. AB 979X (Sub-No. 3X)

CONNECTICUT SOUTHERN RAILROAD, INC.
- ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION - IN HARTFORD COUNTY, CT

ENVIRONMENTAL/HISTORIC REPORT

(color copies included)

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*Counsel for Connecticut Southern
Railroad, Inc.*

Dated: October 1, 2021

Before the
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
STB Docket No. AB 979 (Sub-No. 3X).
CONNECTICUT SOUTHERN RAILROAD, INC.
- ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION - IN HARTFORD COUNTY, CT

ENVIRONMENTAL/HISTORIC REPORT

Connecticut Southern Railroad, Inc. (“CSO” or “Applicant”) will be seeking exemption authority for CSO to abandon a stub-ended rail line between approximately milepost 8.33 (Station 5730+04) and milepost 9.40 (Station 5673+42) (the “Subject Line”). The Subject Line traverses through United States Postal Service ZIP Code 06042. Maps of the Subject Line are attached as Exhibit A.

Applicant plans to seek Surface Transportation Board (“STB”) authorization for the abandonment through a notice of exempt abandonment pursuant to the provisions of 49 CFR §1152.50 on or about October 21, 2021. This Report is being filed in connection therewith, and in accordance with the requirements of 49 CFR §§1105.7 and 1105.8. To prepare this Report, Applicant consulted with various state and federal agencies as required by the Board’s regulations. *See* the letters attached as Exhibit B. Based on the written responses received by Applicant to-date attached as Exhibit C, Applicant states as follows:

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

(49 CFR 1105.7)

1. PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

CSO is a Class III railroad that operates in Connecticut and Massachusetts. CSO acquired the Subject Line in 1996 as part of a transaction to acquire and operate rail lines owned

by Consolidated Rail Corporation.¹ Genesee & Wyoming Inc. acquired control of CSO in 2012.² CSO's railroad traffic consists of imports and exports of commodities such as lumber, steel, carbon dioxide, and recyclables. The Subject Line is an approximately 1.07-mile portion of a stub-ended rail line located in Hartford County, CT. At one time, the line extended 9.6-miles from milepost 0.0 at Hartford to milepost 9.6 in the Town of Manchester. In 2005 CSO abandoned the adjacent segment of the rail line from milepost 9.4 to milepost 9.6.³ The Subject Line last served a customer in approximately July 2016. The Subject Line is stub-ended and therefore there is no overhead traffic. Following the abandonment, CSO plans to sell the Subject Line to the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation ("CTDOT").

2. EFFECTS ON THE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

The abandonment will have no effect on the transportation system because there is no overhead traffic over the Subject Line and the last date of local service to or from the Subject Line was approximately July 2016. As such, no traffic will be diverted. Applicant intends to sell the Subject Line to CTDOT and therefore CTDOT is aware of Applicant's intention to abandon the Subject Line. In any event, Applicant has sent CTDOT a consultation letter seeking comment on this proposed abandonment. *See* the letters attached as part of Exhibit B. CTDOT has not provided a response.

3. LAND USE

(i) Applicant is unaware of any regional or local land use patterns with which the proposed abandonment would be inconsistent. Applicant consulted with the following

¹ *Connecticut Southern Railroad, Inc. – Acquisition and Operation Exemption – Lines of Consolidated Rail Corp.*, STB Finance Docket No. 33120 (served Sept. 27, 1996).

² *Genesee & Wyoming Inc. – Control Exemption – RailAmerica, Inc. et al.* STB Finance Docket 35654 (served Dec. 20, 2012).

³ *Connecticut Southern Railroad, Inc. - Abandonment Exemption – in Hartford County, CT*; STB Docket No. AB-979X (served June 29, 2005).

agencies regarding the proposed abandonment that may be concerned with land use issues: US Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service – Local (“NRCS Local”), US Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service – National (“NRCS National”), Environmental Protection Agency Region 1 (“EPA Region 1”), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New England District Regulatory Office (“ACE”), National Park Service – National (“NPS National”), National Park Service –Region 1 (“NPS Region 1”), U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service – North Atlantic-Appalachian Region (“FWS Local”), National Geodetic Survey, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (“NGS”), CTDOT, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (“CT DEEP”), Town of Manchester General Manager, Stephen Stephanou (“Manchester”).

Copies of these letters dated August 30, 2021 and a supplement letter or email to correct the zip code are attached as part of Exhibit B. To date, Applicant has only received written responses from the following consulted agencies, copies of which are included as part of Exhibit C:

- NGS responded that a “search of NGS’s database did not find any NGS geodetic survey markers in the area” of the proposed abandonment.
- ACE responded that no permit is required from the Corps of Engineers for this abandonment.
- Manchester acknowledged receipt of the consultation letter but has not provided additional comment.

(ii) Applicant does not believe that the proposed abandonment will have any adverse effect on any prime agricultural land. Consultation notices were sent to the potentially concerned agencies listed in paragraph 3(i) above, and as indicated, no responses have been received.

(iii) Applicant consulted with the division of the CT DEEP responsible for the coastal zone management program. *See* Exhibit B. That agency reports that the proposed

abandonment is outside Connecticut's coastal area and will not have any foreseeable effects on coastal resources or uses. *See* Exhibit C.

(iv) Applicant believes that the right of way may be suitable for public purposes. Following the abandonment, Applicant intends to sell its interest in the Subject Line to the State of Connecticut for interim trail use.

4. **ENERGY**

The Subject Line serves no overhead traffic, and no local service has been provided to or from the Subject Line since approximately July 2016. As such,

- (i) the proposed abandonment will have no effect on the transportation of energy sources;
- (ii) the proposed abandonment will have no effect on recyclable commodities;
- (iii) the proposed abandonment will have no effect on overall energy efficiency; and
- (iv) the proposed abandonment will not divert any traffic from rail to motor carriage.

The effects of the proposed abandonment will not exceed the thresholds set forth in 49 CFR 1105.7(e)(4)(iv).

5. **AIR**

The proposed abandonment will not result in any increases in rail or truck traffic or rail yard activity. The effects of the proposed abandonment will not exceed the thresholds set forth in 49 CFR 1105.7(e)(5).

6. **NOISE**

Applicant does not believe that the proposed abandonment will result in any increase in noise levels.

7. SAFETY

Applicant does not believe that the proposed abandonment will have any adverse effect on public health or safety.

8. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

(i) Applicant has consulted with the FWS Local, as well as to the following agencies that are potentially concerned with biological resources: CT DEEP, NPS National, NPS Region 1, ACE, NRCS National, and NRCS Local. Copies of these consultation letters and a subsequent follow up letter or email are attached as part of Exhibit B. As stated above in section 3(i), Applicant received a response from ACE stating that ACE requires no permit in connection with the proposed abandonment.

(ii) Applicant does not believe that there are any wildlife sanctuaries or refuges, National or State parks or forests in the vicinity of the proposed abandonment. Consultation letters were sent to the agencies identified in the paragraph 8(i) and Applicant has not received any responses related to wildlife sanctuaries or refuges, National or State parks or forests.

9. WATER

(i) The proposed abandonment and any salvage will be handled in a manner that is consistent with the applicable local, State and Federal water quality standards. Applicant consulted with the agencies identified in paragraph 8(i) and other than the response from ACE that stated that no ACE permits are required in connection with the abandonment, Applicant has not received a response from any other relevant agency.

(ii) Applicant sent a consultation letter regarding the proposed abandonment to the ACE. A copy of this letter is attached as part of Exhibit B and the ACE response that no permit is required is included as part of Exhibit C.

(iii) Applicant does not believe that any Clean Water Act permits will be required. Consultation letters were sent to CT DEEP and EPA. Copies of these letters are attached as part of Exhibit B and neither agency has provided a response.

10. PROPOSED MITIGATION

Since no adverse environmental impacts are expected, no mitigation is proposed.

11. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR RAIL CONSTRUCTION

Not applicable.

12. CONSULTATION

Applicant has consulted with the following agencies: NRCS Local, NRCS National, EPA Region 1, ACE, NPS National, NPS Region 1, FWS Local, NGS, CT DEEP, CT DOT, Manchester. *See Exhibit B.*

13. CERTIFICATIONS

Applicant certifies that:

- (a) It consulted with the agencies listed in 49 CFR 1105.7, as described in paragraph 12 above.
- (b) On this date, it sent copies of this report to each of the agencies consulted as shown on the attached certificate of service.
- (c) Notice of the proposed abandonment was published in the *Journal Inquirer* on September 21, 2021. A copy of the form of notice and a certification of publication are attached as Exhibit D.
- (d) Applicant will not file its verified notice of abandonment until at least twenty (20) days after the consulted agencies have been served with a copy of this report.

HISTORIC REPORT (49 CFR 1105.8)

1. U.S.G.S TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

U.S.G.S. topographic maps showing the location of the proposed abandonment are attached as Exhibit E.

2. DESCRIPTION OF RIGHT OF WAY

Applicant intends to file a notice of exemption to abandon the segment of rail line between approximately milepost 8.33 (Station 5730+04) and milepost 9.40 (Station 5673+42) (the “Subject Line”).

The Subject Line is located near the Town of Manchester and is located within a developed urban area. The right of way ranges from 63 to 83 feet wide. The right of way is crossed by 3 local roadways.

3. PHOTOGRAPHS OF HISTORIC STRUCTURE(S)

The Subject Line includes a small bridge over Lydall Brook located at approximately milepost 9.0. CSO only acquired the line in 1996 and does not have any engineering or historic records relating to the bridge. Accordingly, CSO does not know if the current bridge is over 50 years old. Enclosed as Exhibit F are photographs of the bridge. From these photographs, it does not appear that the bridge structure itself would be of any historical significance.

4. DATES OF CONSTRUCTION OF HISTORIC STRUCTURE(S)

As stated above, a small bridge exists on the Subject Line at approximately milepost 9.0. CSO does not know the age of the current bridge.

5. HISTORY OF CARRIER OPERATIONS IN THE AREA

CSO acquired the Subject Line in 1996 as part of a transaction to acquire and operate rail lines owned by the Consolidated Rail Corporation.⁴ Genesee & Wyoming Inc. gained control of CSO in 2012.⁵ CSO's railroad traffic consists of imports and exports of commodities such as lumber, steel, carbon dioxide, and recyclables. The Subject Line is an approximately 1.07-mile portion of a stub-ended rail line located in Hartford County, CT. At one time, the line extended 9.6-miles from milepost 0.0 at Hartford to milepost 9.6 in the Town of Manchester. CSO abandoned an adjacent segment of the rail line from milepost 9.4 to milepost 9.6 in 2005.⁶ The Subject Line last served a customer in approximately July 2016. The line is stub-ended and therefore there is no overhead traffic on the Subject Line. Following the abandonment, CSO plans to sell the Subject Line to the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation ("CTDOT") for interim trail use.

There have been no rail operations on or over the Subject Line since July 2016.

6. SUMMARY OF STRUCTURE DOCUMENTATION

As noted above, a small bridge exists on the Subject Line at approximately milepost 9.0. CSO only acquired the line in 1996 and does not have any engineering or historic records relating to the bridge.

7. OPINION REGARDING CRITERIA FOR LISTING

Based on readily available information in CSO's possession, CSO does not believe that the Subject Line or right of way represent an historical resource or that any protective conditions

⁴ *Connecticut Southern Railroad, Inc. – Acquisition and Operation Exemption – Lines of Consolidated Rail Corp.*, STB Finance Docket No. 33120 (served Sept. 27, 1996).

⁵ *Genesee & Wyoming Inc. – Control Exemption – RailAmerica, Inc. et al.* STB Finance Docket 35654 (served Dec. 20, 2012).

⁶ *Connecticut Southern Railroad, Inc. - Abandonment Exemption – in Hartford County, CT*; STB Docket No. AB-979X (served June 29, 2005).

are warranted. However, Applicant has submitted a project notification form containing a consultation letter and a map to the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office (“SHPO”) providing notice of the proposed abandonment. *See* Exhibit G. The SHPO has not responded to Applicant’s letter.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

Applicant is unaware of any prior subsurface ground disturbance or fill, or environmental conditions which might affect the archeological recovery of resources or the surrounding terrain. Moreover, Applicant intends to transfer its interest of the Subject Line to CTDOT and intends to include the ties and ballast as part of the conveyance. CSO intends to only remove track and ancillary track material. This salvage work would take place within the right of way, would be surface work only and would not disturb subsurface resources.

Respectfully submitted,



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jmarks@clarkhill.com
*Counsel for Connecticut Southern
Railroad, Inc.*

Dated: October 1, 2021

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 1st day of October 2021, I served a copy of the foregoing Environmental and Historic Report on the persons listed below by email or first class mail, postage prepaid:

Mr. Thomas L. Morgart, State Conservationist USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Connecticut State Office 344 Merrow Road, Suite A thomas.morgart@ct.usda.gov	Environmental Protection Agency New England, Region 1 5 Post office Squire – Suite 100 Boston, MA 02109-3912 r1web.mail@epa.gov
United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service Office of the Chief 1400 Independence Ave., SW Room 5105-A Washington, DC 20250	U.S. Army Corp of Engineers 696 Virginia Road Concord, MA 01742-2751 cenae-r-ct@usace.army.mil
National Park Service 1849 C Street, NW Washington, DC 20240	National Park Service Region 1 1234 Market Street 20th Floor Philadelphia, PA 19107
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service North Atlantic-Appalachian Region Regional Director's Office 300 Westgate Center Dr. Hadley, MA 01035-9587 Northeast@fws.gov	National Geodetic Survey ngs.infocenter@noaa.gov
Connecticut Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection 79 Elm Street Hartford, CT 06106-5127 deep.webmaster@ct.gov	Mr. Steve Stephanou Town of Manchester General Manager 41 Center Street Manchester, CT 06040 sstephanou@manchesterct.gov
State Historic Preservation Office	Julie Thomas

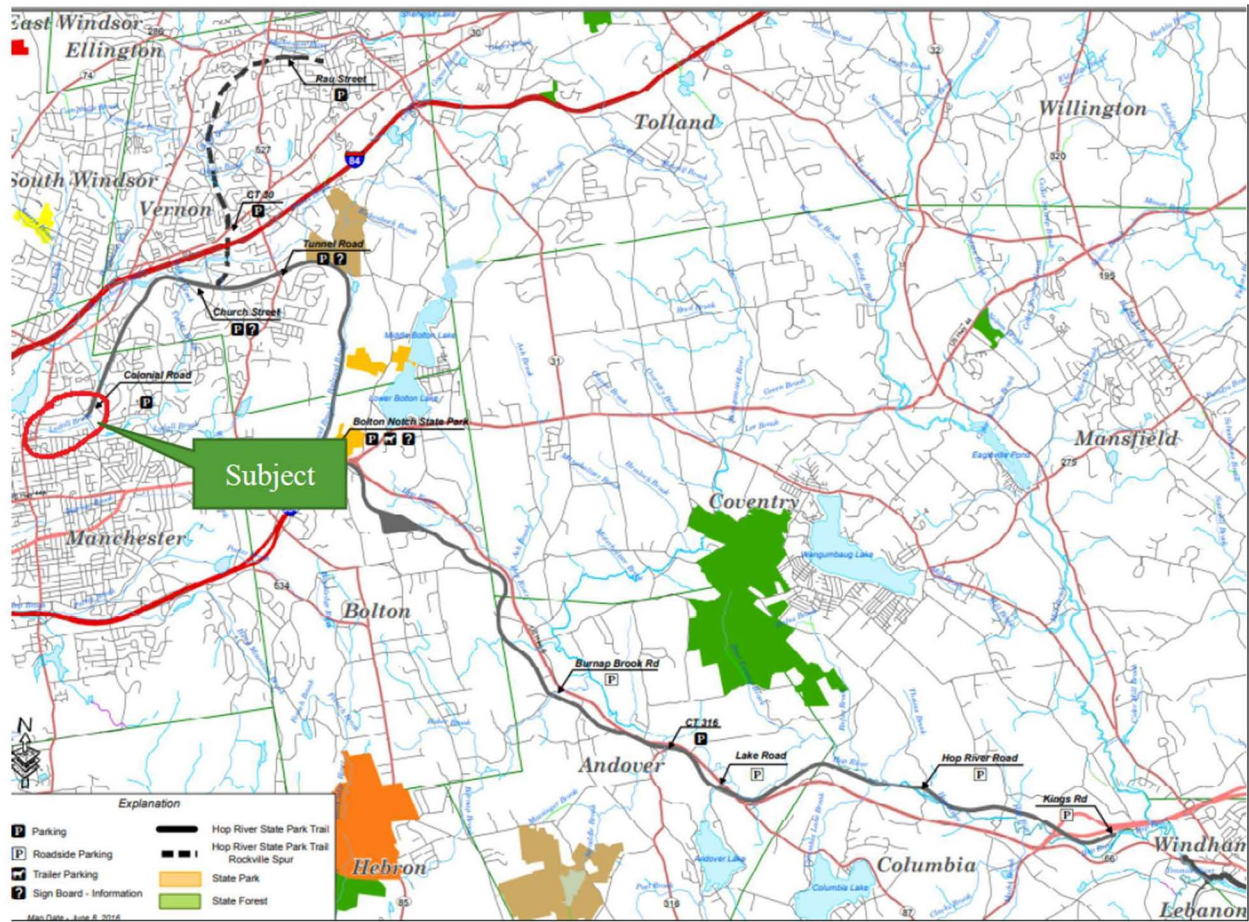
Attn: Environmental Review 450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 5 Hartford, CT 06103	Supervising Rail Officer Office of Rails Connecticut Department of Transportation 2800 Berlin Turnpike Newington CT, 06131 Julie.thomas@ct.gov
Mr. David Blatt Connecticut Coastal Management Program Office of Planning and Development David.blatt@ct.gov	

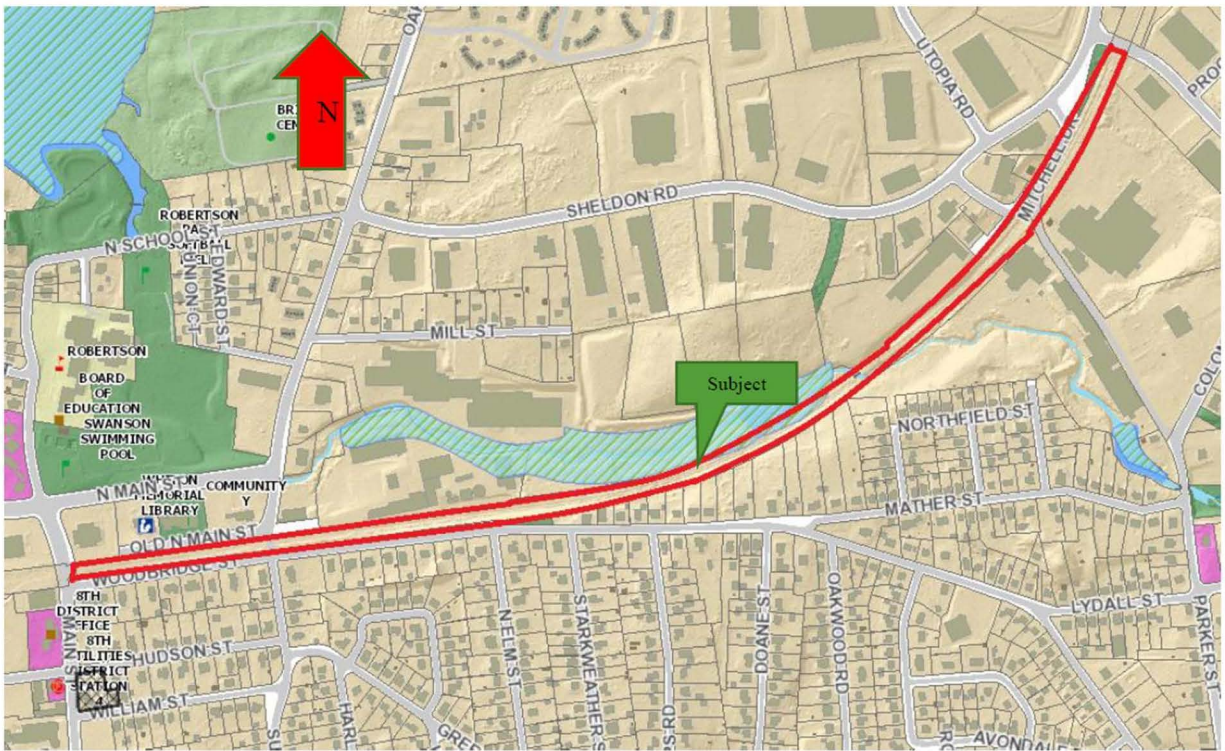
Justin J. Marks
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202.772.0916
jmarks@clarkhill.com

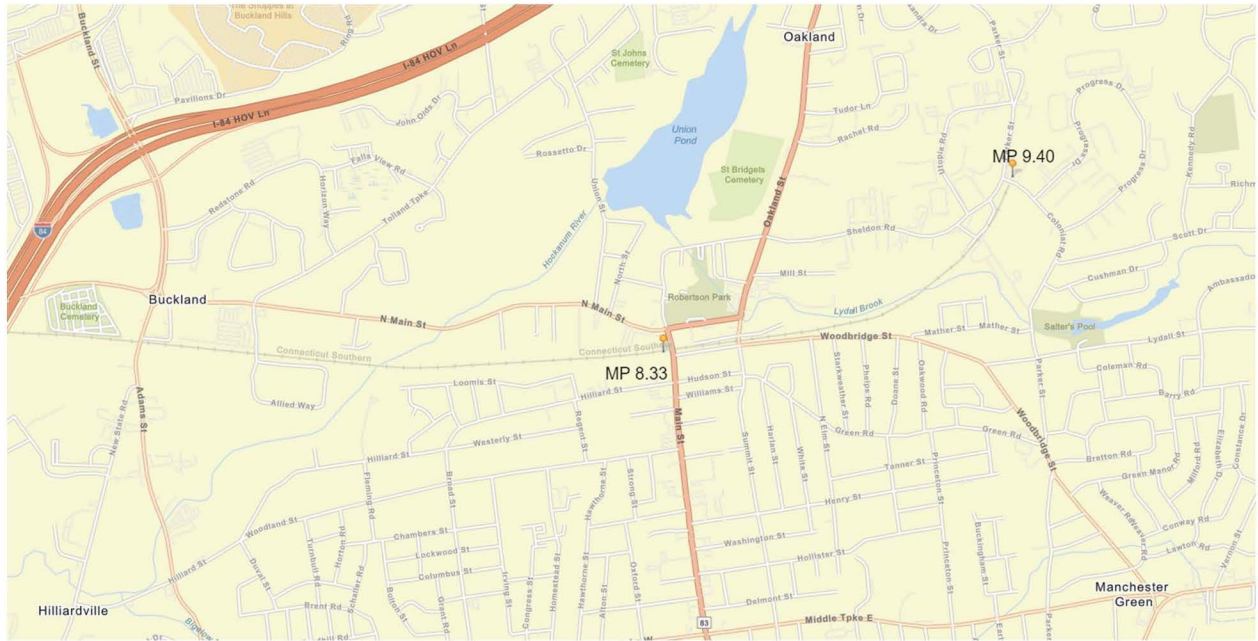
ENVIRONMENTAL/HISTORIC REPORT

EXHIBIT A

MAPS







ENVIRONMENTAL/HISTORIC REPORT

EXHIBIT B

CONSULTATION LETTERS



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Email:jjmarks@ClarkHill.com

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T (202) 772-0909
F (202) 772-0919

August 31, 2021

VIA EMAIL AND FIRST-CLASS MAIL

ALL AGENCIES ON THE
ATTACHED SERVICE LIST

Re: Connecticut Southern Railroad, Inc. – Abandonment Exemption –
in Hartford County, CT
Surface Transportation Board Docket No. AB 979 (Sub-No. 3X)

Dear Madam/Sir:

This letter is to advise you that Connecticut Southern Railroad, Inc. ("CSO") intends to file a notice for exemption for CSO to abandon the following segment of rail line (the "Subject Line"): Between approximately milepost 8.33 (Station 5730+04) and milepost 9.40 (Station 5673+42). The Subject Line traverses through United States Postal Service ZIP Code 06402. Maps of the Subject Line are enclosed.

CSO plans to seek Surface Transportation Board ("STB") authorization for the abandonment of the Subject Line through a notice of exempt abandonment pursuant to the provisions of 49 CFR § 1152.50 on or after October 20, 2021 in STB Docket No. AB 979 (Sub-No. 3X).

Based upon information in CSO's possession, the Subject Line does not contain federally granted rights of way. CSO intends to remove the rail, ties, and other track materials and will reuse or sell depending on the condition and functional utility. CSO intends to transfer the property to the Connecticut Department of Transportation, an agency of the State of Connecticut for trail use. CSO believes that the abandonment will not have a significant effect upon the environment.

In advance of preparing an environmental report as required by applicable STB regulations, we are consulting with appropriate agencies such as yours as to any concerns which they may have as to environmental effects of the proposed abandonment.

We would appreciate an expression from you by September 29, 2021 that, within the area of your authority, you do not perceive that the abandonment will have a significant effect upon the environment (or expressing any concerns that you have). If you have any questions about the railroad's proposal or if you need assistance in this matter, please call me at (202) 772-0916.

August 31, 2021
Page 2

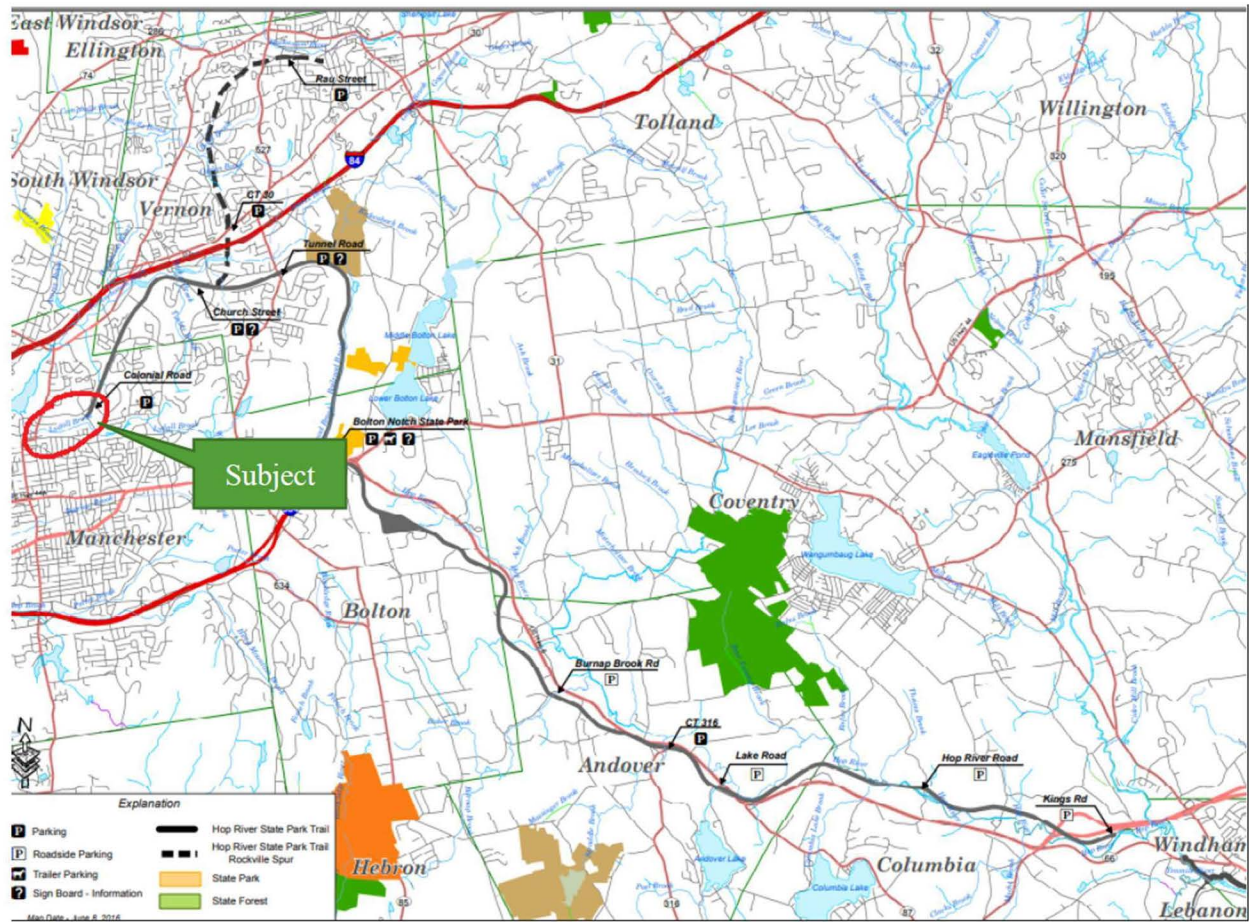
Thank you for your cooperation.

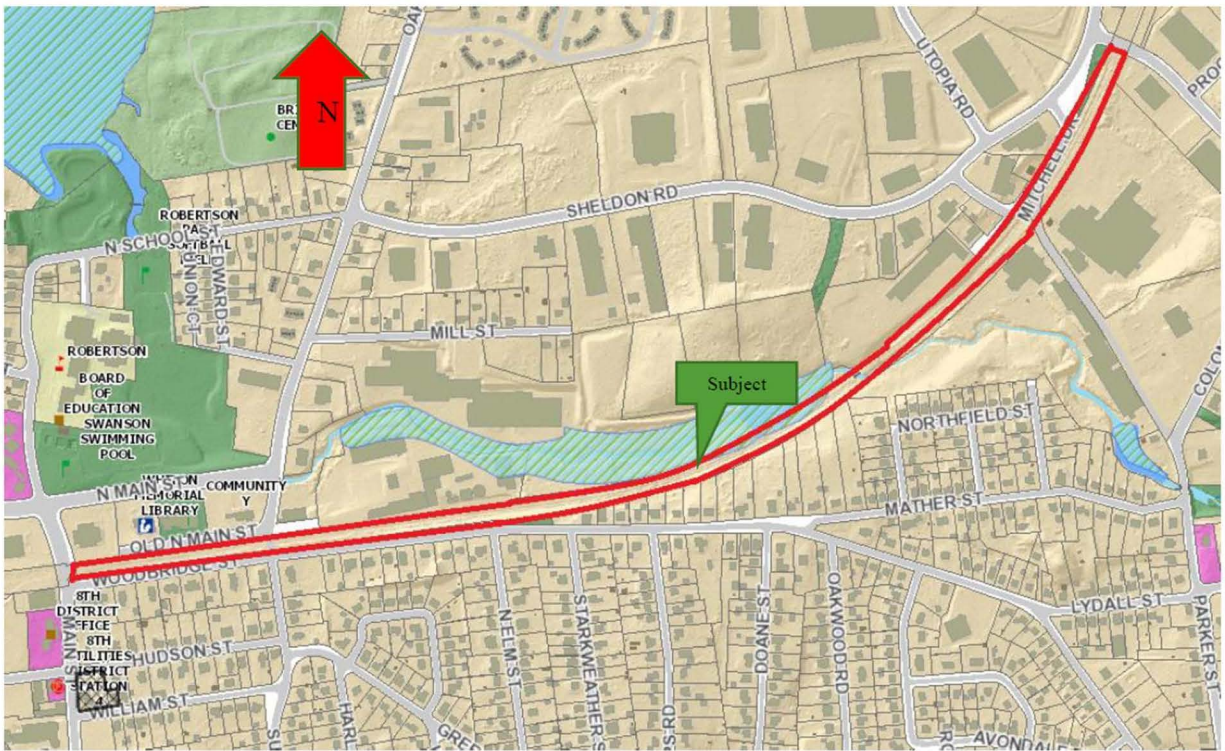
Sincerely,

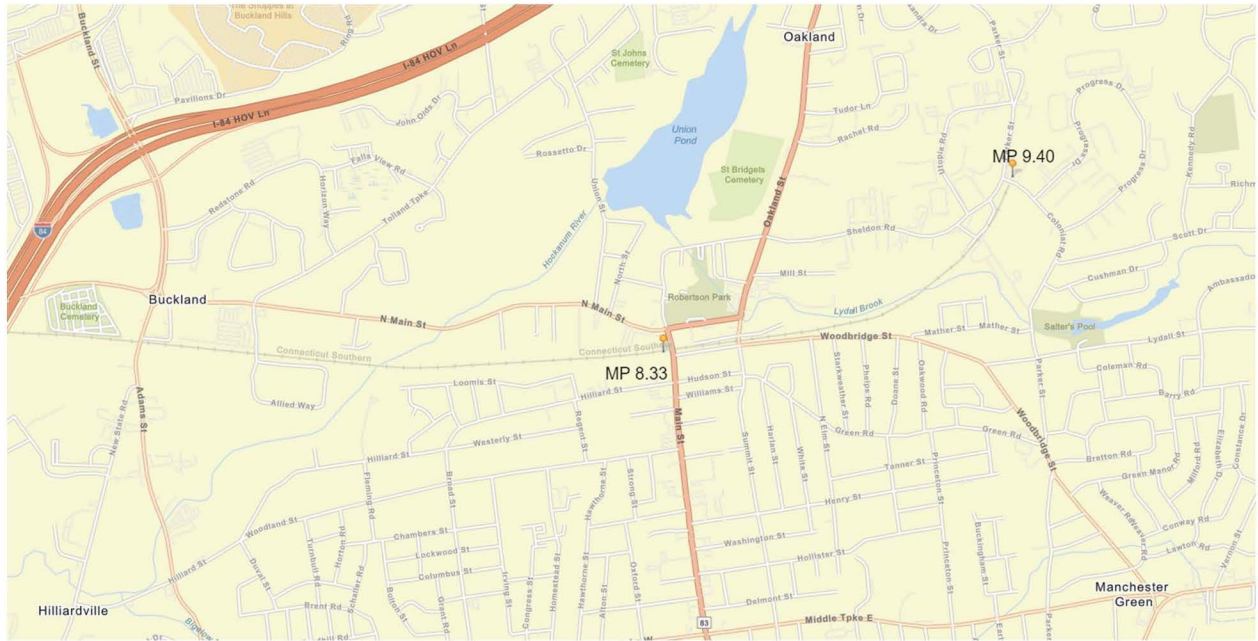
A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Justin J. Marks". The signature is written in a cursive style with a vertical line to the right of the name.

Justin J. Marks
Counsel to *Connecticut Southern Railroad, Inc.*

Enclosure







Mr. Thomas L. Morgart, State Conservationist USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Connecticut State Office 344 Merrow Road, Suite A thomas.morgart@ct.usda.gov	Environmental Protection Agency New England, Region 1 5 Post office Squire – Suite 100 Boston, MA 02109-3912 r1web.mail@epa.gov
United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service Office of the Chief 1400 Independence Ave., SW Room 5105-A Washington, DC 20250	U.S. Army Corp of Engineers 696 Virginia Road Concord, MA 01742-2751 gregory.r.penta@usace.army.mil
National Park Service 1849 C Street, NW Washington, DC 20240	National Park Service Region 1 1234 Market Street 20th Floor Philadelphia, PA 19107
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service North Atlantic-Appalachian Region Regional Director's Office 300 Westgate Center Dr. Hadley, MA 01035-9587 Northeast@fws.gov	National Geodetic Survey ngs.infocenter@noaa.gov
Connecticut Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection 79 Elm Street Hartford, CT 06106-5127 deep.webmaster@ct.gov	Mr. Steve Stephanou Town of Manchester General Manager 41 Center Street Manchester, CT 06040 sstephanou@manchesterct.gov



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September 16, 2021

VIA EMAIL AND FIRST-CLASS MAIL

ALL AGENCIES ON THE
ATTACHED SERVICE LIST

Re: Connecticut Southern Railroad, Inc. – Abandonment Exemption –
in Hartford County, CT
Surface Transportation Board Docket No. AB 979 (Sub-No. 3X)

Dear Madam/Sir:

On August 31, 2021, the Connecticut Southern Railroad, Inc. ("CSO") sent you a letter advising you and inviting comment – if you have any – on its intention to file a notice for exemption for CSO to abandon a segment of rail line in Hartford County, Connecticut between approximately milepost 8.33 (Station 5730+04) and milepost 9.40 (Station 5673+42).

That letter contained a typo misidentifying the United States Postal Service ZIP Code that the rail line traverses. This letter is to inform you that the correct zip code is 06042.

As previously mentioned, we would appreciate an expression from you by September 29, 2021 that, within the area of your authority, you do not perceive that the abandonment will have a significant effect upon the environment (or expressing any concerns that you have). If you have any questions about the railroad's proposal or if you need assistance in this matter, please call me at (202) 772-0916.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Justin J. Marks'.

Justin J. Marks
Counsel to Connecticut Southern Railroad, Inc.

Enclosure

Mr. Thomas L. Morgart, State Conservationist USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Connecticut State Office 344 Merrow Road, Suite A thomas.morgart@ct.usda.gov	Environmental Protection Agency New England, Region 1 5 Post office Squire – Suite 100 Boston, MA 02109-3912 r1web.mail@epa.gov
United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service Office of the Chief 1400 Independence Ave., SW Room 5105-A Washington, DC 20250	U.S. Army Corp of Engineers 696 Virginia Road Concord, MA 01742-2751 gregory.r.penta@usace.army.mil
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Connecticut Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection 79 Elm Street Hartford, CT 06106-5127 deep.webmaster@ct.gov	Mr. Steve Stephanou Town of Manchester General Manager 41 Center Street Manchester, CT 06040 sstephanou@manchesterct.gov



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August 30, 2021

Mr. David Blatt
Connecticut Coastal Management Program
Office of Planning and Development

David.blatt@ct.gov

Re: Connecticut Southern Railroad, Inc. – Abandonment Exemption –
in Hartford County, CT
Surface Transportation Board Docket No. AB 979 (Sub-No. 3X)

Dear Mr. Blatt:

This letter is to advise you that Connecticut Southern Railroad, Inc. ("CSO") intends to file a notice for exemption for CSO to abandon the following segment of rail line (the "Subject Line"): Between approximately milepost 8.33 (Station 5730+04) and milepost 9.40 (Station 5673+42). The Subject Line traverses through United States Postal Service ZIP Code 06402. Maps of the Subject Line are enclosed.

CSO plans to seek Surface Transportation Board ("STB") authorization for the abandonment of the Subject Line through a notice of exempt abandonment pursuant to the provisions of 49 CFR § 1152.50 on or after October 20, 2021 in STB Docket No. AB 979 (Sub-No. 3X).

Based upon information in CSO's possession, the Subject Line does not contain federally granted rights of way. CSO intends to remove the rail, ties, and other track materials and will reuse or sell depending on the condition and functional utility. CSO intends to transfer the property to the Connecticut Department of Transportation, an agency of the State of Connecticut for trail use. CSO believes that the abandonment will not have a significant effect upon the environment.

In advance of preparing an environmental report as required by applicable STB regulations, we are consulting with appropriate agencies such as yours as to any concerns which they may have as to environmental effects of the proposed abandonment.

Your agency has jurisdiction over coastal zones in Connecticut, please advise if the Subject Line is within the Connecticut coastal zone. If this project is within the coastal zone, please advise further (1) if the proposed abandonment is an action listed for review in Connecticut coastal zone management plan, and (2) if the action is so listed, whether the proposed action is consistent with the coastal zone management plan.

August 30, 2021
Page 2

We would appreciate an expression from you by September 29, 2021 that, within the area of your authority, you do not perceive that the abandonment will have a significant effect upon the environment (or expressing any concerns that you have). If you have any questions about the railroad's proposal or if you need assistance in this matter, please call me at (202) 772-0916.

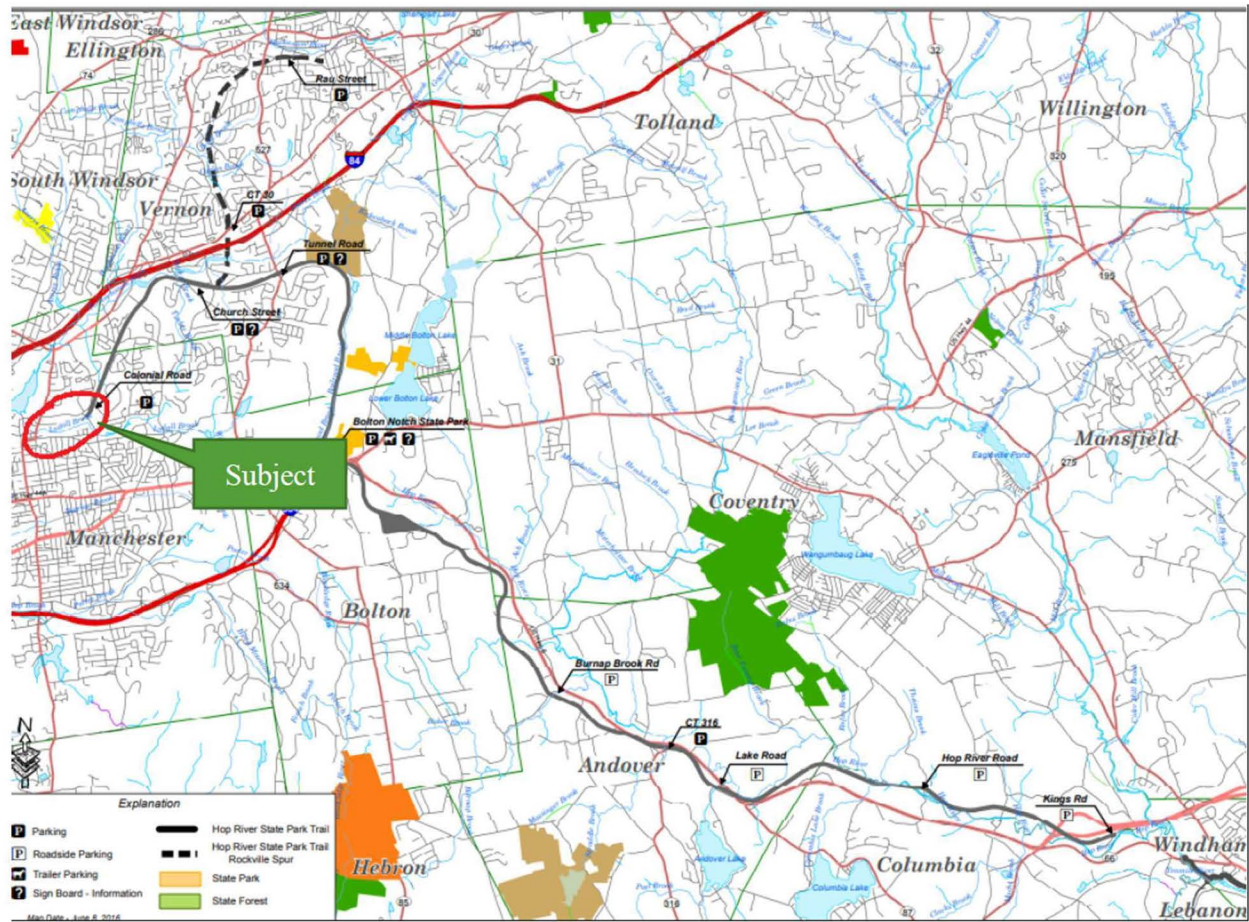
Thank you for your cooperation.

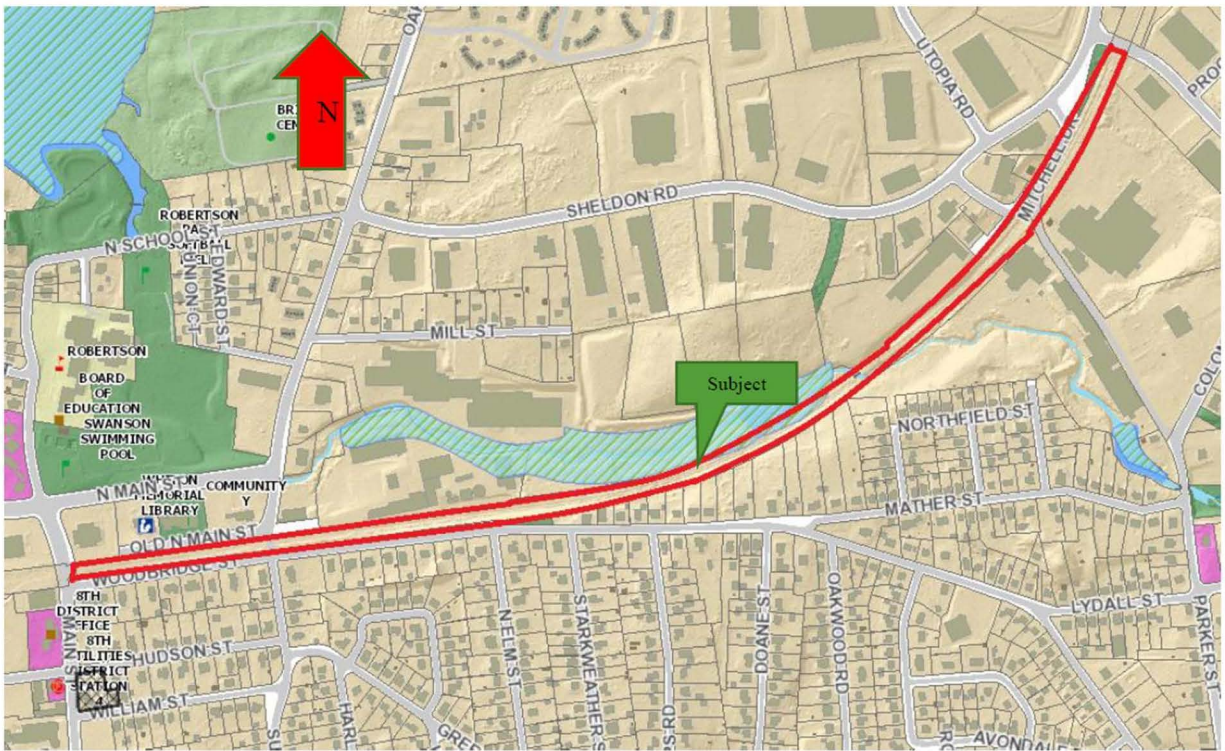
Sincerely,

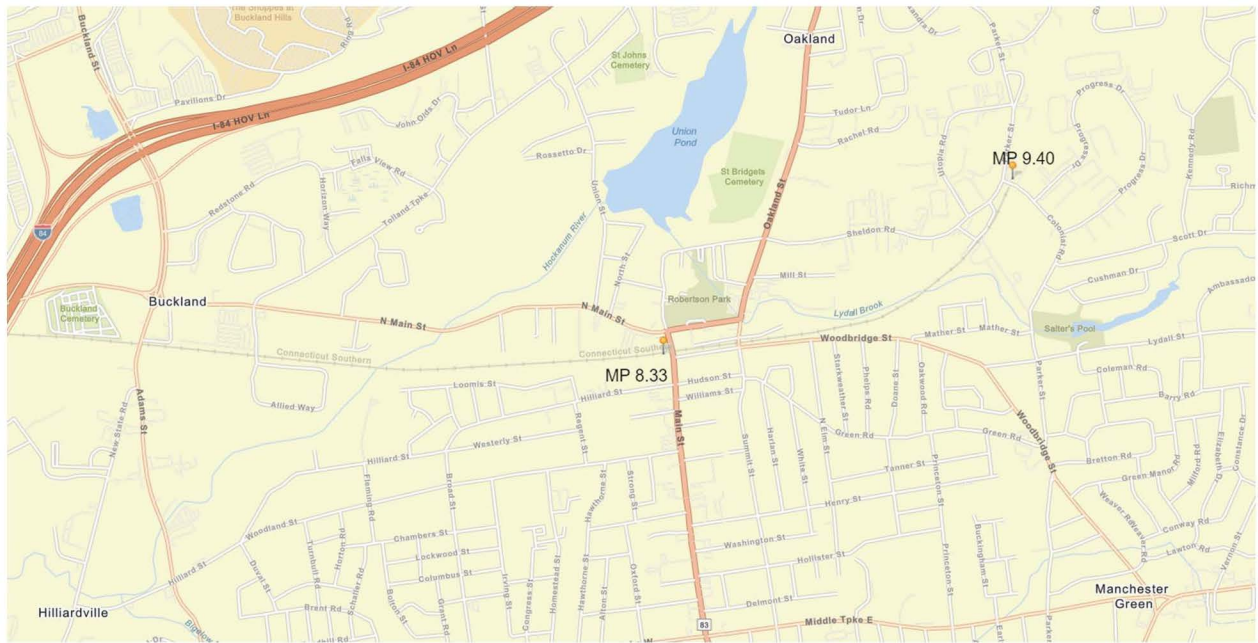
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Justin J. Marks". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Justin J. Marks
Counsel to Connecticut Southern Railroad, Inc.

Enclosure







Marks, Justin J.

From: Marks, Justin J.
Sent: Thursday, September 16, 2021 1:24 PM
To: Blatt, David
Cc: Riese, Frederick
Subject: RE: Connecticut Southern Railroad Abandonment in Manchester, CT

Mr. Blatt:

In my letter to you on August 30, 2021 regarding the Connecticut Southern Railroad abandonment, I stated that the zip code that the rail line to be abandoned traverses through is 06402. That was wrong. The correct zip code is 06042.

I do not think this fact changes your prior statement that the rail line falls outside Connecticut's coastal area.

But, I wanted to be sure that I contacted you to correct the record.

Thank you,

Justin

Justin J. Marks

Attorney at Law

Clark Hill

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jmarks@clarkhill.com | www.clarkhill.com

From: Blatt, David <David.Blatt@ct.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 31, 2021 1:44 PM
To: Marks, Justin J. <jmarks@ClarkHill.com>
Cc: Riese, Frederick <Frederick.Riese@ct.gov>
Subject: RE: Connecticut Southern Railroad Abandonment in Manchester, CT
Importance: Low

[External Message]

Mr. Marks:

This is to confirm that the railroad abandonment project that you inquired about is outside Connecticut's coastal area and will not have any foreseeable effects on coastal resources or uses. Accordingly, the project needs no further review or approval from us. Good luck with the project.

David J. L. Blatt
Supervising Environmental Analyst
Land and Water Resources Division
Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford CT 06106-5129
Phone (860) 424-3610

Fax (860) 424-4054
david.blatt@ct.gov

From: Marks, Justin J. <jmarks@ClarkHill.com>
Sent: Monday, August 30, 2021 1:18 PM
To: Blatt, David <David.Blatt@ct.gov>
Subject: Connecticut Southern Railroad Abandonment in Manchester, CT

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Blatt:

Please see the attached letter regarding the abandonment of a line of railroad by the Connecticut Southern Railroad, Inc.

Thank you,

Justin J. Marks

Attorney at Law

Clark Hill

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F (202) 772-0919

September 8, 2021

VIA EMAIL

Julie Thomas
Supervising Rail Officer
Office of Rails
Connecticut Department of Transportation
2800 Berlin Turnpike
Newington CT, 06131
Julie.thomas@ct.gov

Re: Connecticut Southern Railroad, Inc. – Abandonment Exemption –
in Hartford County, CT
Surface Transportation Board Docket No. AB 979 (Sub-No. 3X)

Dear Ms. Thomas:

The Connecticut Southern Railroad, Inc. ("CSO") intends to file a notice for exemption for CSO to abandon a segment of rail line between approximately milepost 8.33 (Station 5730+04) and milepost 9.40 (Station 5673+42) (the "Subject Line"). The Subject Line traverses through United States Postal Service ZIP Code 06402. Maps of the Subject Line are enclosed.

CSO plans to seek Surface Transportation Board ("STB") authorization for the abandonment of the Subject Line through a notice of exempt abandonment pursuant to the provisions of 49 CFR § 1152.50 on or after October 20, 2021 in STB Docket No. AB 979 (Sub-No. 3X).

Considering that CSO intends to transfer the property to the Connecticut Department of Transportation for trail use, you may already be aware of CSO's intentions. However, in advance of preparing an environmental report as required by applicable STB regulations, we are consulting with appropriate agencies such as yours as to any concerns which they may have as to environmental effects of the proposed abandonment.

Based upon information in CSO's possession, the Subject Line does not contain federally granted rights of way. CSO intends to remove the rail, ties, and other track materials and will reuse or sell depending on the condition and functional utility. CSO believes that the abandonment will not have a significant effect upon the environment.

September 8, 2021
Page 2

We would appreciate an expression from you by September 29, 2021 that, within the area of your authority, you do not perceive that the abandonment will have a significant effect upon the environment (or expressing any concerns that you have). If you have any questions about the railroad's proposal or if you need assistance in this matter, please call me at (202) 772-0916.

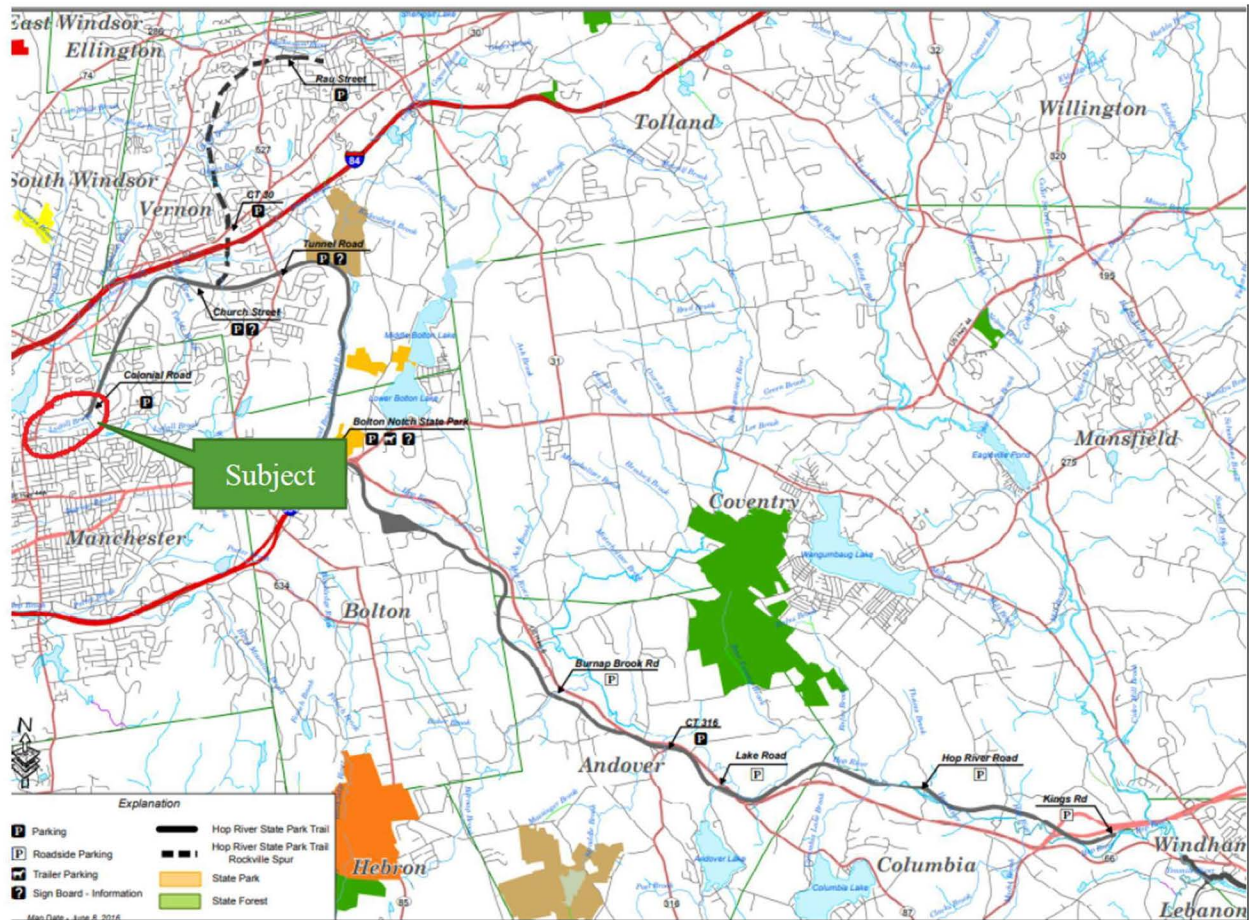
Thank you for your cooperation.

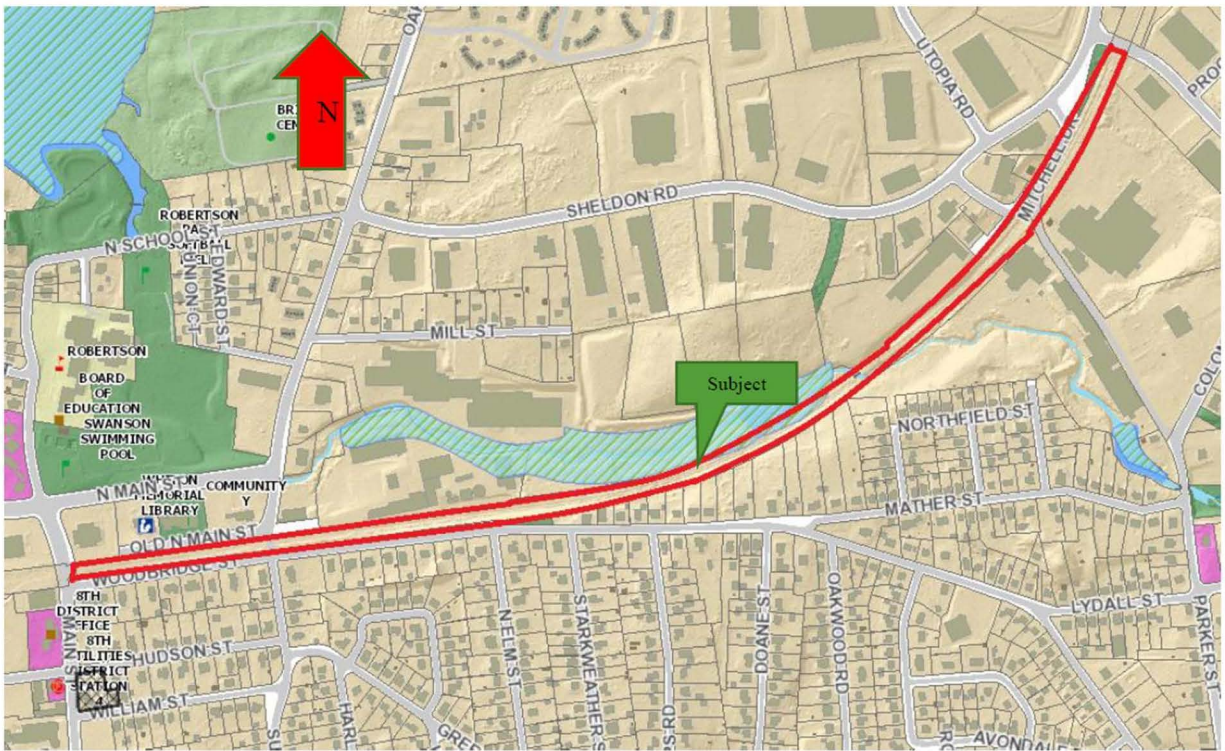
Sincerely,

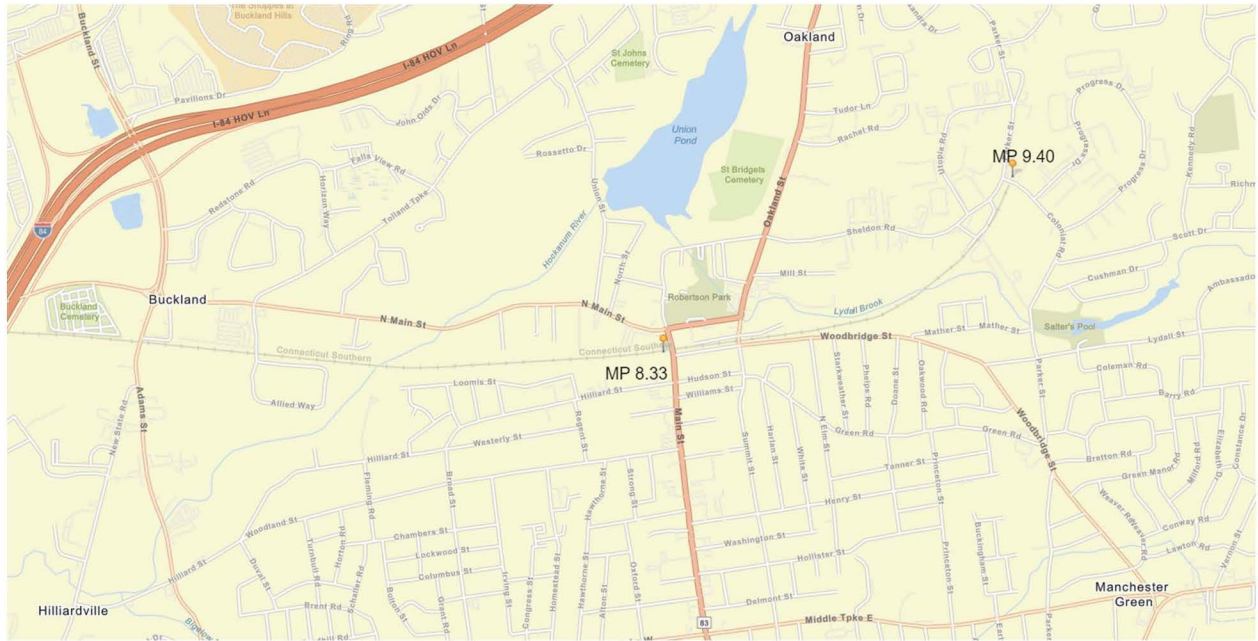


Justin J. Marks
Counsel to Connecticut Southern Railroad, Inc.

Enclosure







Marks, Justin J.

From: Marks, Justin J.
Sent: Thursday, September 16, 2021 1:53 PM
To: julie.thomas@ct.gov
Subject: RE: Connecticut Southern Railroad, Inc. Abandonment Consultation Letter

Ms. Thomas:

In my letter to you on September 8, 2021 regarding the Connecticut Southern Railroad abandonment, I stated that the zip code that the rail line to be abandoned traverses through is 06402. That was wrong. The correct zip code is 06042.

Thank you,

Justin J. Marks

Attorney at Law

Clark Hill

1001 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Suite 1300 South, Washington, DC 20004
+1 202.772.0916 (office) | +1 703.215.6938 (cell) | +1 202.772.0930 (fax)
jmarks@clarkhill.com | www.clarkhill.com

From: Marks, Justin J.
Sent: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 2:07 PM
To: julie.thomas@ct.gov
Subject: Connecticut Southern Railroad, Inc. Abandonment Consultation Letter

Ms. Thomas:

I represent Connecticut Southern Railroad, Inc. (CSO) before the U.S. Surface Transportation Board (STB) on its proposal to abandon a segment of rail line in Hartford County, Connecticut. My client at CSO suggested that you were the best person to provide the attached letter.

As part of the abandonment process, applicants are required by STB regulations to consult with state agencies as to any potential impacts (transportation, in your case) of the proposed abandonment. The attached letter explains that process and invites your comment – if any.

Thank you and please let me know if you have any questions,

Justin

Justin J. Marks

Attorney at Law

Clark Hill

1001 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Suite 1300 South, Washington, DC 20004
+1 202.772.0916 (office) | +1 703.215.6938 (cell) | +1 202.772.0930 (fax)
jmarks@clarkhill.com | www.clarkhill.com

ENVIRONMENTAL/HISTORIC REPORT

EXHIBIT C

AGENCY RESPONSES

Marks, Justin J.

From: deborah.brooks <ngs.infocenter@noaa.gov>
Sent: Monday, September 13, 2021 6:50 PM
To: Marks, Justin J.
Subject: [JIRA] (IMOV-8370) Connecticut Southern Railroad Abandonment in Manchester, CT

[External Message]

A comment is added on your issue:

Re: Connecticut Southern Railroad Abandonment in Manchester, CT

Good Evening Atty. Marks,

A search of NGS' database did not find any NGS geodetic survey markers in the area of your proposed abandonment.

Regards,
Deborah Brooks
NGS Infocenter
301-713-3242

National Geodetic Survey

Marks, Justin J.

From: dan.martin <ngs.infocenter@noaa.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 17, 2021 7:21 AM
To: Marks, Justin J.
Subject: [JIRA] (IMOV-8460) Connecticut Southern Railroad Abandonment in Manchester, CT - Zip Code Correction

[External Message]

A comment is added on your issue:

Re: Connecticut Southern Railroad Abandonment in Manchester, CT - Zip Code Correction

Deborah,

There is no change. I followed the rail line along the intended abandonment section and paid no attention to the Zip.

Dan

Daniel J. Martin

Northeast Regional Geodetic Advisor

(ME, NH, VT, MA, CT, RI, NY, NJ)

NOAA/NOS/National Geodetic Survey

Email: dan.martin@noaa.gov

Cell: 240-676-4762

On Thu, Sep 16, 2021 at 5:00 PM deborah.brooks (Jira) <

National Geodetic Survey

Marks, Justin J.

From: deborah.brooks <ngs.infocenter@noaa.gov>
Sent: Monday, September 27, 2021 6:54 PM
To: Marks, Justin J.
Subject: [JIRA] (IMOV-8460) Connecticut Southern Railroad Abandonment in Manchester, CT - Zip Code Correction

[External Message]

A comment is added on your issue:

Re: Connecticut Southern Railroad Abandonment in Manchester, CT - Zip Code Correction

Good Evening Atty. Marks,

Thank you for the updated information.

As a result of the recent information you provided referencing the change in Zip Code, there is no change in the status of the findings reported to you on Sep 13, 2021 6:49pm: **A search of NGS' database did not find any NGS geodetic survey markers in the area of your proposed abandonment.**

Regards,

Deborah Brooks
NGS Infocenter
301-713-3242

National Geodetic Survey

Marks, Justin J.

From: Steve Stephanou <sstephanou@manchesterct.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 3, 2021 11:17 AM
To: Marks, Justin J.; 'thomas.morgart@ct.usda.gov'; 'r1web.mail@epa.gov'; 'gregory.r.penta@usace.army.mil'; 'Northeast@fws.gov'; 'ngs.infocenter@noaa.gov'; 'deep.webmaster@ct.gov'
Cc: Tim O'neil
Subject: RE: <EXTERNAL>Connecticut Southern Railroad Abandonment in Manchester, CT

[External Message]

Mr. Marks,

Thank you for reaching out. Our Town Attorney's Office will look into this matter and provide you with an update.

Steve

From: Marks, Justin J. [mailto:jmarks@ClarkHill.com]
Sent: Monday, August 30, 2021 1:30 PM
To: thomas.morgart@ct.usda.gov; r1web.mail@epa.gov; gregory.r.penta@usace.army.mil; Northeast@fws.gov; ngs.infocenter@noaa.gov; deep.webmaster@ct.gov; Steve Stephanou
Subject: <EXTERNAL>Connecticut Southern Railroad Abandonment in Manchester, CT

Good afternoon:

The Connecticut Southern Railroad, Inc., is seeking comment on its proposed abandonment of a line of railroad in Manchester, CT.

Please see attached and a copy of this letter will be sent via hard copy as well.

Thank you,

Justin J. Marks

Attorney at Law

Clark Hill

1001 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Suite 1300 South, Washington, DC 20004
+1 202.772.0916 (office) | +1 703.215.6938 (cell) | +1 202.772.0930 (fax)
jmarks@clarkhill.com | www.clarkhill.com

Marks, Justin J.

From: Kotelly, Kevin R CIV USARMY CENAE (USA) <Kevin.R.Kotelly@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 9:20 AM
To: Marks, Justin J.
Subject: RE: Connecticut Southern Railroad Abandonment in Manchester, CT - Zip Code Correction

[External Message]

Thanks Justin. If you're going to abandon this rail line, No Permit is required from the Corps of Engineers.
Kevin

From: Marks, Justin J. <jmarks@ClarkHill.com>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 2:25 PM
To: Kotelly, Kevin R CIV USARMY CENAE (USA) <Kevin.R.Kotelly@usace.army.mil>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: Connecticut Southern Railroad Abandonment in Manchester, CT - Zip Code Correction

Hi Kevin:

I do not have an address. I do have maps (attached) and this description - Mile-Post 8.33 (Station 5730+04) to Mile-Post 9.40 (Station 5673+42). 50 feet west of westerly boundary of Main Street to northerly side of Colonial Road.

Please let me know if you need anything else.

Justin

Justin J. Marks

Attorney at Law

Clark Hill

1001 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Suite 1300 South, Washington, DC 20004
+1 202.772.0916 (office) | +1 703.215.6938 (cell) | +1 202.772.0930 (fax)
jmarks@clarkhill.com | www.clarkhill.com

From: Kotelly, Kevin R CIV USARMY CENAE (USA) <Kevin.R.Kotelly@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 1:02 PM
To: Marks, Justin J. <jmarks@ClarkHill.com>
Subject: FW: Connecticut Southern Railroad Abandonment in Manchester, CT - Zip Code Correction

[External Message]

Hi Justin, do you have a location plan for this rail line? Or an address I can look up on aerial photos? Thank You

Kevin R. Kotelly, P.E.
US Army Corps of Engineers
696 Virginia Road
Concord, Massachusetts 01742-2751
Tel 978-318-8703
Cell 978-578-6406
kevin.r.kotelly@usace.army.mil

-----Original Message-----

From: Marks, Justin J. <jmarks@ClarkHill.com>

Sent: Thursday, September 16, 2021 1:47 PM

To: thomas.morgart@ct.usda.gov; r1web.mail@epa.gov; Northeast@fws.gov; ngs.infocenter@noaa.gov; deep.webmaster@ct.gov; sstephanou@manchesterct.gov; cenae-r-ct <cenae-r-ct@usace.army.mil>

Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Connecticut Southern Railroad Abandonment in Manchester, CT - Zip Code Correction

Good afternoon:

On August 30, 2021 I provided you with a letter informing you that Connecticut Southern Railroad intends to abandon a letter in Manchester, CT. That letter contained the wrong zip code. The attached letter clarifies that the rail line traverses through zip code 06042 and not 06402.

Thank you,

Justin J. Marks

Attorney at Law

Clark Hill

1001 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Suite 1300 South, Washington, DC 20004

+1 202.772.0916 (office) | +1 703.215.6938 (cell) | +1 202.772.0930 (fax)

jmarks@clarkhill.com <<mailto:jmarks@clarkhill.com>> | www.clarkhill.com <[Blockedhttp://www.clarkhill.com/](http://www.clarkhill.com)>

From: Marks, Justin J.

Sent: Monday, August 30, 2021 1:30 PM

To: thomas.morgart@ct.usda.gov; r1web.mail@epa.gov; gregory.r.penta@usace.army.mil; Northeast@fws.gov; ngs.infocenter@noaa.gov; deep.webmaster@ct.gov; sstephanou@manchesterct.gov

Subject: Connecticut Southern Railroad Abandonment in Manchester, CT

Good afternoon:

The Connecticut Southern Railroad, Inc., is seeking comment on its proposed abandonment of a line of railroad in Manchester, CT.

Please see attached and a copy of this letter will be sent via hard copy as well.

Thank you,

Justin J. Marks

Attorney at Law

Clark Hill

1001 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Suite 1300 South, Washington, DC 20004

+1 202.772.0916 (office) | +1 703.215.6938 (cell) | +1 202.772.0930 (fax)

jmarks@clarkhill.com <<mailto:jmarks@clarkhill.com>> | www.clarkhill.com <[Blockedhttp://www.clarkhill.com/](http://www.clarkhill.com)>

Marks, Justin J.

From: Blatt, David <David.Blatt@ct.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 31, 2021 1:44 PM
To: Marks, Justin J.
Cc: Riese, Frederick
Subject: RE: Connecticut Southern Railroad Abandonment in Manchester, CT

Importance: Low

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[External Message]

Mr. Marks:

This is to confirm that the railroad abandonment project that you inquired about is outside Connecticut's coastal area and will not have any foreseeable effects on coastal resources or uses. Accordingly, the project needs no further review or approval from us. Good luck with the project.

David J. L. Blatt
Supervising Environmental Analyst
Land and Water Resources Division
Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford CT 06106-5129
Phone (860) 424-3610
Fax (860) 424-4054
david.blatt@ct.gov

From: Marks, Justin J. <jmarks@ClarkHill.com>
Sent: Monday, August 30, 2021 1:18 PM
To: Blatt, David <David.Blatt@ct.gov>
Subject: Connecticut Southern Railroad Abandonment in Manchester, CT

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Blatt:

Please see the attached letter regarding the abandonment of a line of railroad by the Connecticut Southern Railroad, Inc.

Thank you,

Justin J. Marks

Attorney at Law

Clark Hill

1001 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Suite 1300 South, Washington, DC 20004
+1 202.772.0916 (office) | +1 703.215.6938 (cell) | +1 202.772.0930 (fax)
jmarks@clarkhill.com | www.clarkhill.com

ENVIRONMENTAL/HISTORIC REPORT

EXHIBIT D

NEWSPAPER NOTICE

Certificate of Newspaper Publication

49 C.F.R. § 1105.7(c) – Newspaper Notice

I certify that a “Notice of Intent to Abandon Rail Service” was published in the form prescribed by the Board for abandonment notices of exemption at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.12. The notice was published on September 21, 2021, in the Journal Inquirer, a newspaper of general circulation in the Town of Manchester, in Hartford County, Connecticut.

October 1, 2021



Justin J. Marks
*Attorney for Connecticut Southern Railroad,
Inc.*

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF INTENT TO ABANDON RAIL SERVICE

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF INTENT TO ABANDON RAIL SERVICE Connecticut Southern Railroad, Inc. gives notice that on or about October 20, 2021, it intends to file with the Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC, a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F-Exempt Abandonments to permit the abandonment of a 1.07-mile segment of railroad line between approximately milepost 8.33 (Station 5730+04) and milepost 9.40 (Station 5673+42) in Hartford County, CT, traversing through United States Postal Service ZIP Code 06042. The proceeding will be docketed as No. AB 979 (Sub-No. 3X). The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) will generally prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA), which will normally be available 25 days after the filing of the notice of exemption. Comments on environmental and energy matters should be filed no later than 15 days after the EA becomes available to the public and will be addressed in a Board decision. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA or make inquiries regarding environmental matters by writing to the Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA), Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC or by calling that office at (202) 245-0245. Appropriate offers of financial assistance to continue rail service can be filed with the Board. Requests for environmental conditions, public use conditions, or rail banking/trails use also can be filed with the Board. An original and 10 copies of any pleading that raises matters other than environmental issues (such as trails use, public use, and offers of financial assistance) must be filed directly with the Board's Office of Proceedings either via e-filing or addressed to 395 E. Street S.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001 [See 49 CFR 1104.1(a) and 1104.3(a)], and one copy must be served on applicants' representative [See 49 CFR 1104.12(a)]. Questions regarding offers of financial assistance, public use or trails use may be directed to the Board's Office of Public Assistance, Governmental Affairs, and Compliance at (202) 245-0238. Copies of any comments or requests for conditions should be served on the applicant's representative: Justin J. Marks, Clark Hill PLC, 1001 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W. Suite 1300 South, Washington, DC 20004; (202) 772-0916; jmarks@clarkhill.com. Journal Inquirer September 21, 2021

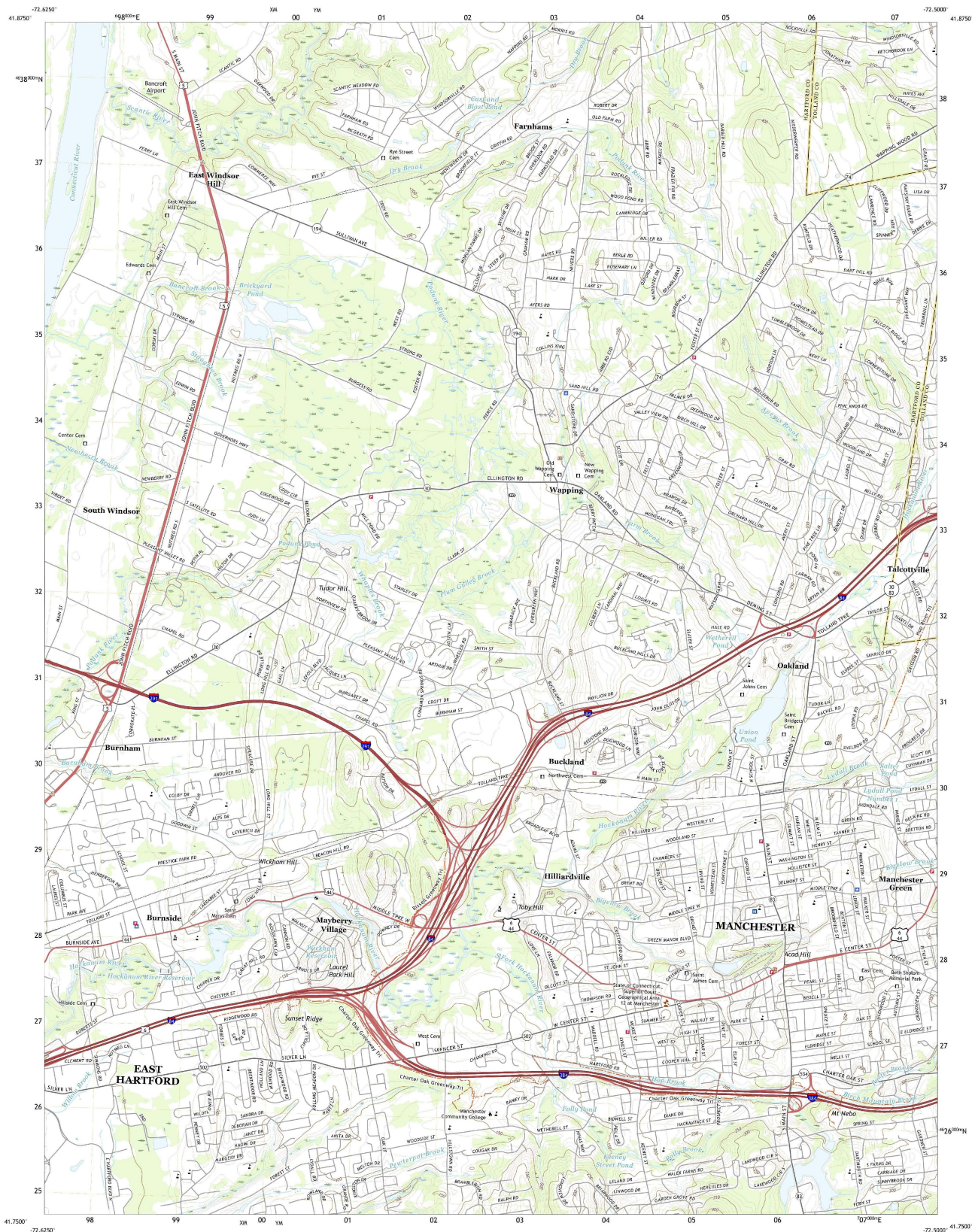
Appeared in: ***Journal Inquirer*** on 09/21/2021 and 09/22/2021

[Back](#)

ENVIRONMENTAL/HISTORIC REPORT

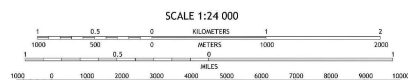
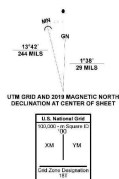
EXHIBIT E

TOPOGRAPHICAL MAPS



Produced by the United States Geological Survey
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83)
World Geodetic System of 1984 (WGS84) Projection and
1:000,000 metric grid Universal Transverse Mercator, Zone 18T
This map is not a legal document. Boundaries may be
generalized for the map scale. Private lands within government
recreation areas may not be shown. Obtain permission before
entering private lands.

Imagery:.....U.S. NAD, July 2016, September 2016
Roads:.....U.S. Census Bureau, 2016
Names:.....National Hydrography Dataset, 2004
Cartoon:.....National Elevation Dataset, 2012
Boundaries:.....Multiple sources, available 1916 - 2017
Wetlands:.....FWS National Wetlands Inventory 2010

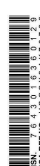


CONTOUR INTERVAL: 10 FEET
NORTH AMERICAN VERTICAL DATUM OF 1988
This map was produced to conform with the
National Geographic Program US Topo Product Standard.



1	2	3	1 Windsor Locks
4	5	6	2 Bristol
7	8	9	3 Ellington
			4 Hartford North
			5 Rockville
			6 Hartford South
			7 Cantonbury
			8 Marlborough

ROAD CLASSIFICATION	
Expressway	Local Connector
Secondary Hwy	Local Road
Route	4WD
Interstate Route	US Route
	State Route



ENVIRONMENTAL/HISTORIC REPORT

EXHIBIT F

PHOTOGRAPHS





ENVIRONMENTAL/HISTORIC REPORT

EXHIBIT G

SHPO CORRESPONDENCE



Justin J. Marks
T (202) 772-0916
F +12027720919
Email:jjmarks@ClarkHill.com

Clark Hill
1001 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Suite 1300 South
Washington, DC 20004
T (202) 772-0909
F (202) 772-0919

August 30, 2021

State Historic Preservation Office
Attn: Environmental Review
450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 5
Hartford, CT 06103

Re: Connecticut Southern Railroad, Inc. – Abandonment Exemption –
in Hartford County, CT
Surface Transportation Board Docket No. AB 979 (Sub-No. 3X)

Dear Madam/Sir:

This letter is to advise you that Connecticut Southern Railroad, Inc. ("CSO") intends to file a notice for exemption for CSO to abandon the following segment of rail line (the "Subject Line"): Between approximately milepost 8.33 (Station 5730+04) and milepost 9.40 (Station 5673+42). The Subject Line traverses through United States Postal Service ZIP Code 06402.

Enclosed are maps of the Subject Line and the Connecticut Project Review Cover Form.

CSO plans to seek Surface Transportation Board ("STB") authorization for the abandonment of the Subject Line through a notice of exempt abandonment pursuant to the provisions of 49 CFR § 1152.50 on or after October 20, 2021 in STB Docket No. AB 979 (Sub-No. 3X).

Based upon information in CSO's possession, the Subject Line does not contain federally granted rights of way. CSO intends to remove the rail, ties, and other track materials and will reuse or sell depending on the condition and functional utility. CSO intends to transfer the property to the Connecticut Department of Transportation, an agency of the State of Connecticut for trail use. CSO believes that the abandonment will not have a significant effect upon the environment.

In advance of preparing a historical report as required by applicable STB regulations, we are consulting with you as to any concerns which you may have as to historical impacts of the proposed abandonment.

We would appreciate an expression from you by September 29, 2021 that, within the area of your authority, you do not perceive that the abandonment will have a significant effect upon historic resources (or expressing any concerns that you have). If you have any questions about the railroad's proposal or if you need assistance in this matter, please call me at (202) 772-0916.

August 30, 2021
Page 2

Thank you for your cooperation.

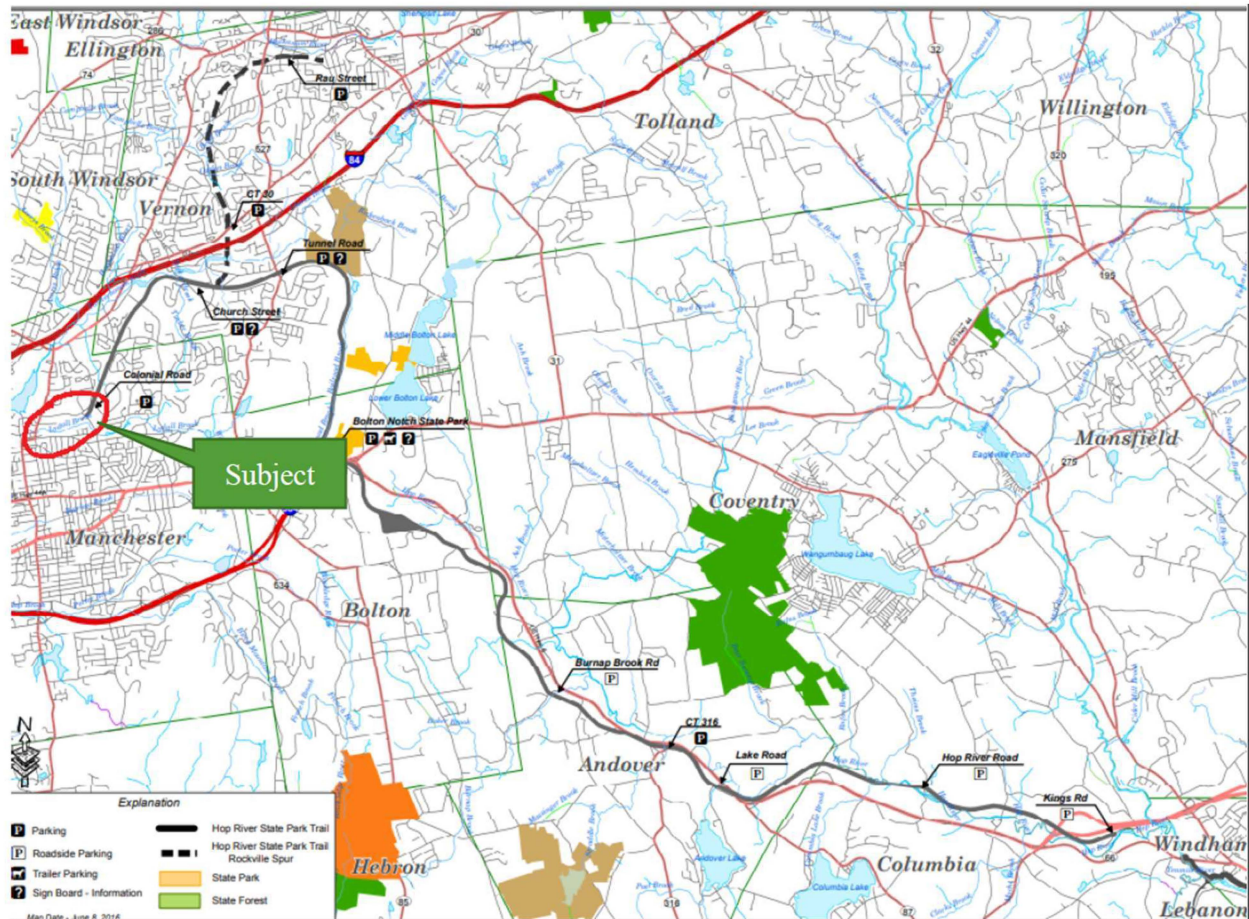
Sincerely,

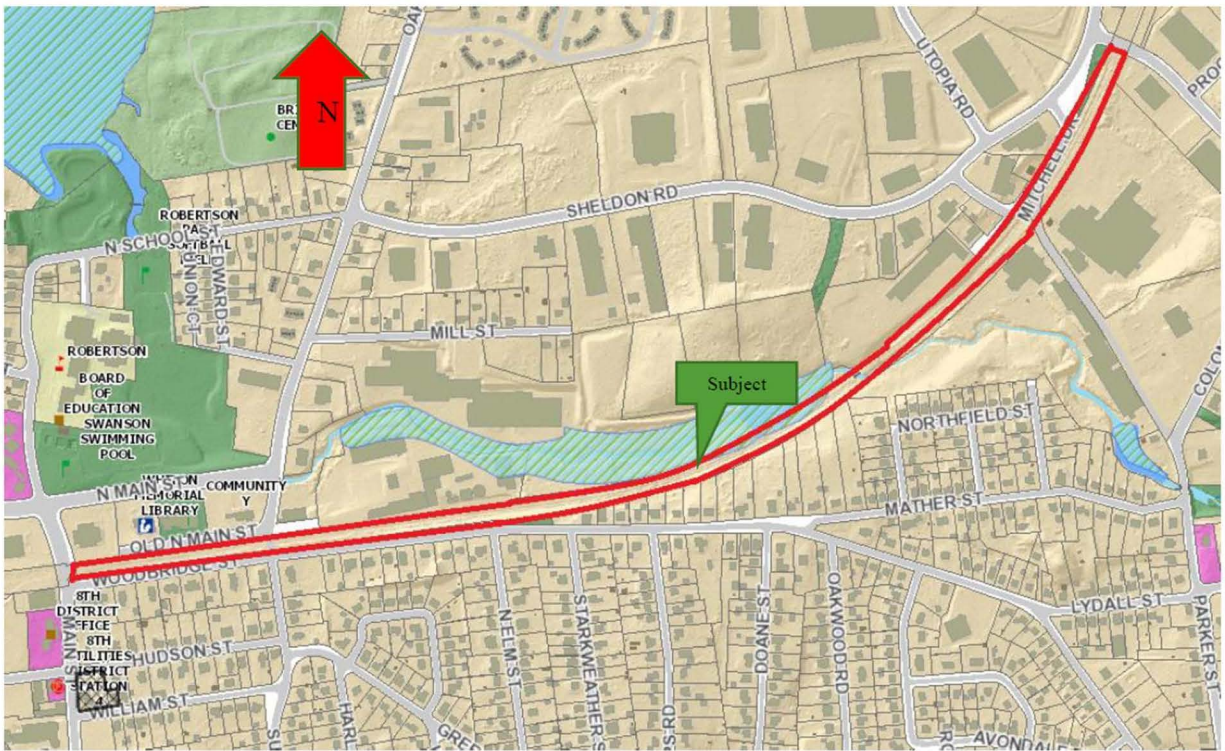
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Justin J. Marks". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

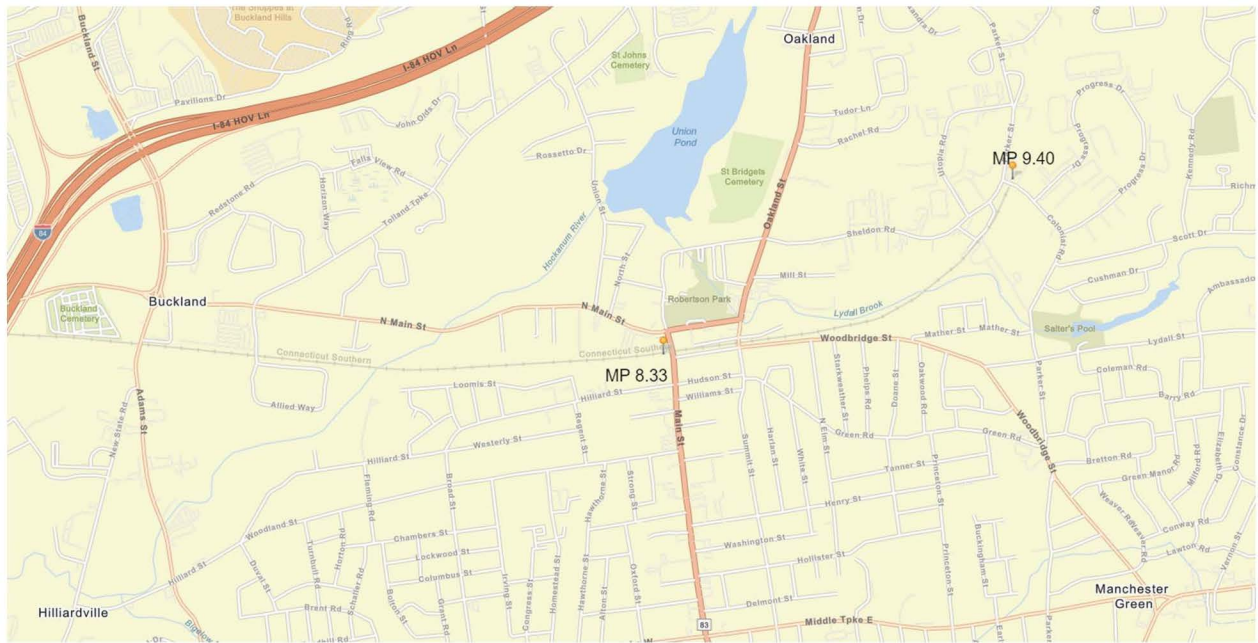
Justin J. Marks
Counsel to *Connecticut Southern Railroad, Inc.*

Enclosure

Information Requirements
Map of line to be abandoned









PROJECT REVIEW COVER FORM

This is: ☒ a new submittal ☐ supplemental information ☐ other Date Submitted: August 30, 2021

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name: CSO Manchester Lead Abandonment

Project Proponent: Connecticut Southern Railroad, Inc.
The individual or group sponsoring, organizing, or proposing the project.

Project Street Address: Project is the abandonment of a railroad line between milepost 8.33 (Station 5730+04) and milepost 9.40 (Station 5673+42).
Include street number, street name, and or Route Number. If no street address exists give closest intersection.

City or Town: Town of Manchester County: Hartford
Please use the municipality name and **not** the village or hamlet.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION (REQUIRED)

Please summarize the project below. In a separate attachment, describe the project in detail. As applicable, provide any information regarding past land use, project area size, renovation plans, demolitions, and/or new construction.
See attached letter.

List all state and federal agencies involved in the project and indicate the funding, permit, license or approval program pertaining to the proposed project:

Agency Type	Agency Name	Program Name
☐ State ☒ Federal	Surface Transportation Board	STB Docket No. AB 979 (Sub-No. 3X)
☐ State ☐ Federal		
☐ State ☐ Federal		
☐ State ☐ Federal		

If there is no state or federal agency involvement, please state the reason for your review request:

FOR SHPO USE ONLY

Based on the information submitted to our office for the above named property and project, it is the opinion of the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office that no historic properties will be affected by the proposed activities.*

Jonathan Kinney
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Date

*All other determinations of effect will result in a formal letter from this office



PROJECT REVIEW COVER FORM

CULTURAL RESOURCES IDENTIFICATION

Background research for previously identified historic properties within a project area may be undertaken at the SHPO's office. To schedule an appointment, please contact Catherine Labadia, 860-500-2329 or Catherine.labadia@ct.gov. Some applicants may find it advantageous to hire a qualified historic preservation professional to complete the identification and evaluation of historic properties.

Are there any historic properties listed on the State or National Register of Historic Places within the project area? (Select one)

☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Do Not Know

If yes, please identify: _____

Architecture

Are there any buildings, structures, or objects within the Area of Potential Effects (houses, bridges, barns, walls, etc.)? The area of potential effects means the geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause alterations in the character or use of historic properties. If you're not sure, check "I don't know."

☐ Yes (attach clearly labeled photographs of each resource and applicable property cards from the municipality assessor)

☒ No (proceed to next section)

☐ I don't know (proceed to next section)

Date the existing building/structures/objects were constructed: _____

If the project involves rehabilitation, demolition, or alterations to existing buildings older than 50 years, provide a work plan

(If window replacements are proposed, provide representative photographs of existing windows).

Archeology

Does the proposed project involve ground disturbing activities?

☒ Yes (provide below or attach a description of current and prior land use and disturbances. Attach an excerpt of the soil survey map for the project area. These can be created for free at: <https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov>

Removing rail, ties, and other track materials.

☐ No

CHECKLIST (Did you attach the following information?)

Required for all Projects ☒ Completed Form ☒ Map clearly labelled depicting project area ☐ Photographs of current site conditions ☐ Site or project plans for new construction	Required for Projects with architectural resources ☐ Work plans for rehabilitation or renovation ☐ Assessor's Property Card Required for Projects with ground disturbing activities ☐ Soil survey map
Suggested Attachments, as needed ☒ Supporting documents needed to explain project ☐ Supporting documents identifying historic properties ☐ Historic maps or aerials (available at http://magic.lib.uconn.edu or https://www.historicaerials.com/)	

PROJECT CONTACT

Name: Justin Marks

Firm/Agency: Clark Hill PLC

Address: 1001 Pennsylvania Ave Suite 1300

City: Washington

State: DC

Zip: 20004

Phone: 202 772 0916

Email: jmarks@clarkhill.com

Federal and state laws exist to ensure that agencies, or their designated applicants, consider the impacts of their projects on historic resources. At a minimum, submission of this completed form with its attachments constitutes a request for review by the Connecticut SHPO. The responsibility for preparing documentation, including the identification of historic properties and the assessment of potential effects resulting from the project, rests with the federal or state agency, or its designated applicant. The role of SHPO is to review, comment, and consult. SHPO's ability to complete a timely project review largely depends on the quality of the materials submitted. Please mail the completed form with all attachments to the attention of: Environmental Review, State Historic Preservation Office, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 5, Hartford, CT. **Electronic submissions are not accepted at this time.**



Justin J. Marks
T (202) 772-0916
F +12027720919
Email:jjmarks@ClarkHill.com

Clark Hill
1001 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Suite 1300 South
Washington, DC 20004
T (202) 772-0909
F (202) 772-0919

September 16, 2021

State Historic Preservation Office
Attn: Environmental Review
450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 5
Hartford, CT 06103

Re: Connecticut Southern Railroad, Inc. – Abandonment Exemption –
in Hartford County, CT
Surface Transportation Board Docket No. AB 979 (Sub-No. 3X)

Dear Madam/Sir:

On August 31, 2021, the Connecticut Southern Railroad, Inc. ("CSO") sent you a letter advising you and inviting comment – if you have any – on its intention to file a notice for exemption for CSO to abandon a segment of rail line in Hartford County, Connecticut between approximately milepost 8.33 (Station 5730+04) and milepost 9.40 (Station 5673+42).

That letter contained a typo misidentifying the United States Postal Service ZIP Code that the rail line traverses. The correct zip code is 06042.

As previously mentioned, we would appreciate an expression from you by September 29, 2021 that, within the area of your authority, you do not perceive that the abandonment will have a significant effect upon the environment (or expressing any concerns that you have). If you have any questions about the railroad's proposal or if you need assistance in this matter, please call me at (202) 772-0916.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Justin J. Marks'.

Justin J. Marks
Counsel to Connecticut Southern Railroad, Inc.