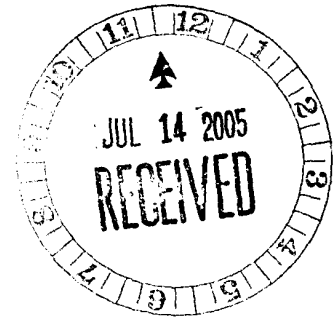


214327



FOUNDED 1844



July 8, 2005

VIA FAX (202-565-9002) AND REGULAR MAIL

Mr. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
Mercury Building
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423

RE: **STB Docket No. AB-254 (Sub-No. 8X)**
Providence and Worcester Railroad Company ("P&W")
East Providence, Rhode Island
Petition for Exemption for Abandonment

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

JUL 14 2005

Part of
Public Record

Dear Secretary Williams:

This letter is in response to the June 29, 2005 filing by the Rhode Island Department of Transportation ("RIDOT") regarding the abandonment of portions of the East Providence and East Junction branch lines in East Providence, Rhode Island (collectively, the "Property") and RIDOT's request for a Public Use Condition and an Interim Trail Use Condition. I have enclosed ten (10) copies for your convenience.

P&W and RIDOT have been working together over the last year on the East Providence waterfront development project and anticipate that the Property will be used for highway purposes, trail and bike path use and utility easements. P&W fully supports RIDOT's requests and looks forward to entering into an agreement with RIDOT in the near future.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need any further information.

Very truly yours,

Amy Silverstein
Assistant General Counsel

PROVIDENCE AND WORCESTER RAILROAD COMPANY

75 HAMMOND STREET, WORCESTER, MA 01610

P.O. BOX 16551, WORCESTER, MA 01601

TELEPHONE (508) 755-4000

FAX (508) 795-0748