



Surface Transportation Board
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Office of the General Counsel

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Meeting under Section 5, STB Reauthorization Act

July 11, 2017

Present: Members Begeman, Elliott, and Miller
Members' Staff: Onika Williams, Janie Sheng, Brian O'Boyle
Agency Staff: Craig Keats, Scott Zimmerman, Theodore Hunt, Jonathon Binet,
Chris Diamond, Chip Vance

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
January 31, 2018
Part of
Public Record

Topic: AB 1242, *Hartwell First United Methodist Church—Adverse Abandonment and Discontinuance—The Great Walton Railroad Company, Inc., in Hart County, GA*

Summary of the Matters Discussed, Prepared by General Counsel Craig Keats:

At this meeting staff briefed Board Members on certain issues in the pending *Hartwell First Adverse Abandonment* proceeding. In that proceeding, Hartwell First has asked the Board to authorize the third-party, or adverse, abandonment and discontinuance of approximately 0.25 miles of rail line and associated right-of-way (the Line) owned by The Great Walton Railroad Company (GWRC) in Hartwell, Ga. GWRC has argued that, although it has not used the Line in recent years, it needs to use a portion of the Line as “run-around track” to facilitate its operations serving a shipper at a nearby location. Staff briefed the Members on the following matters:

- The status of the various issues in pending court litigation.
- Whether GWRC demonstrated that the track at issue would indeed facilitate its operations serving the nearby shipper.
- The relevance of the fact that, approximately 2 years ago, GWRC leased the Line to a third party for 99 years for use as a park and recreational trail.
- Possible options to resolve the matter.