



STATE OF MICHIGAN

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNORDEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSINGREBECCA A. HUMPHRIES
DIRECTOR

July 31, 2008

223066

Ms. Anne K. Quinlan
Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

VIA FACSIMILE

FILING FEE WAIVED

Dear Mr. Williams:

SUBJECT: Sault Ste. Marie Bridge Company - Abandonment Exemption - in Dickinson County, Michigan, STB Docket No AB-506 (Sub-No. 1X)

This request is filed on behalf of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, which is a government agency interested in recreation and natural resources, hereinafter referred to as "proponent."

Proponent requests issuance of a Public Use Condition, as well as an Interim Trail Use Condition, rather than an outright abandonment authorization between milepost 29.60 and milepost 30.24 in Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan.

A. Request For Public Use Condition

Proponent asks the Surface Transportation Board (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 for public use on reasonable terms. Justification for this condition is: The corridor would make an excellent recreational trail and provides an extension of a rail corridor already developed for trail use by proponent. The time period sought is 180 days from the effective date of the abandonment authorization. Proponent needs this much time to conduct appraisal and title review and begin negotiations with the carrier.

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.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Keith J. Charters-Chair • Mary Brown • Bob Garner • Gerald Hall • John Madigan • Frank Wheatlake

STEVENS T. MASON BUILDING • P.O. BOX 30028 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-7528

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Ms. Anne K. Quinlan

Page 2

July 31, 2008

B. Request For Interim Trail Use

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

STATEMENT OF WILLINGNESS TO ASSUME FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

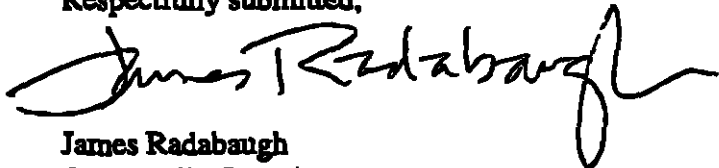
In order to establish interim trail use and railbanking under section 8(d) of the National Trails System Act, 16 U.S.C. §1247(d), and 49 CFR §1152.29, the proponent is willing to assume full responsibility for management of, for any legal liability arising out of the transfer or use of, and for the payment of any and all taxes that may be levied or assessed against the right-of-way owned by and operated by Sault Ste. Marie Bridge Company.

The property extends from railroad milepost 29.60 and 30 24 in Iron Mountain, a distance of 0.64 miles in Dickinson County, Michigan. The right-of-way is part of a line of railroad proposed for abandonment in STB Docket No AB-506 (Sub-No. 1X).

A map depicting the right-of-way is attached. Proponent 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 Sault Ste. Marie Bridge Company, c/o Thomas J. Healy, 17641 S. Ashland Ave., Homewood, IL 60430-1345, by U.S. Mail, postage pre-paid, first class, this 31st day of July, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,



James Radabaugh
State Trails Coordinator
Recreation and Trails Section
Forest, Mineral and Fire Management Division
517-373-1276

on behalf of the Michigan Department of
Natural Resources

JR/rt

cc: Mr. Thomas J. Healy, Sault Ste. Marie Bridge Company
Mr. Robert Fowler, Rail Property Management
Mr. Thomas Courchaine, DNR
Mr. David Freed, DNR

