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April 22, 2002



Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Re: Railroad Ventures, Inc. - Abandonment Exemption - Between Youngstown, OH and Darlington, PA in Mahoning and Columbiana Counties, OH and Beaver County, PA; STB Docket No: AB-556 (Sub No. 2X)

Dear Mr. Williams:

On November 9, 2001 the Board directed the transfer of \$375,000.00 from the custody and control of escrow agent Davis to an escrow account to be established by Columbiana County Port Authority ("CCPA"). In paragraph six of its order, the Board directed:

CCPA shall establish a separate escrow account with the proceeds transferred to it pursuant to paragraph five. CCPA may withdraw from the escrow account such funds as are necessary to pay for repairs of this rail line at road crossings and the restoration of signaling equipment that occurred as a result of RVI's failure to keep the line of railroad operational, and shall keep account of all funds spent.

In paragraph seven of its order, the Board directed:

If any funds remain in the escrow account after the 270th day from the effective date of this decision, they shall be transferred to RVI at that time.

Based on documentation obtained by RVI from the Ohio Rail Development Commission and the Ohio Department of Transportation, it is evident that substantially all of the crossing

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improvement and restoration work as well as the installation of new signals have been completed with significant use of federal funds. Moreover, the line is now operational.

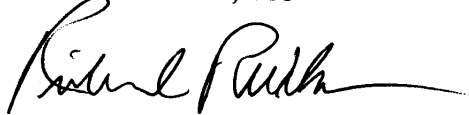
RVI has requested that CCPA provide it with an accounting of all road crossing repairs, crossing improvements or crossing reconstruction costs as well as all costs associated with signal reconnections and installations at the crossings. CCPA has declined to provide that information. RVI requested such an accounting because it is evident that the crossing improvements undertaken by CCPA and CCPR far exceed the crossing repairs and signal restoration costs for which the escrow fund was created. CCPA's use of federal funding for improvements and reconstruction of these crossings and signals also invokes the provisions of 23 C.F.R. §646.210 which prohibit state agencies from using rail carrier funds to pay for crossing costs.

Accordingly, RVI respectfully requests that the Board order CCPA and CCPR to provide RVI with a full itemized accounting of all crossing repairs, improvements and restoration costs as well as all signal reconnection and installation costs at each crossing on this line. This accounting should also provide a schedule of funding sources for each crossing to identify federal, state, local and carrier funds utilized therein. Since most of the crossing work has been completed and paid for, RVI is entitled to a full itemized accounting from CCPA and CCPR for those crossing expenditures and the extent to which reimbursement will be sought from RVI's escrowed funds.

This request is timely because under the Board's November 9, 2001 order all appropriate reimbursements, if any, from RVI's escrow funds must be made by August 5, 2002. The requested accounting from CCPA and CCPR all provide all parties and the Board an adequate time in which to review and assess crossing expenditures and determine the extent to which those expenditures are reimbursable from RVI's escrow account under the terms of the STB's order and/or are precluded by 23 C.F.R. §646.210.

Respectfully submitted,

VUONO & GRAY, LLC



Richard R. Wilson

RRW/klh

xc: All Parties of Record
STB Office of Proceedings