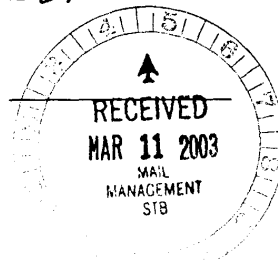


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March 11, 2003

The Honorable Secretary Vernon A. Williams
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20423

RE: *Paducah & Louisville Railway, Inc. - Abandonment Exemption - In
McCracken County, KY, Docket No. AB-468 (Sub-No. 5X)*

Dear Secretary Williams:

Please find enclosed a letter from the Department for Environmental Protection for the Commonwealth of Kentucky ("KYDEP") responding to Paducah & Louisville's proposed abandonment. The KYDEP states that there are no water quality concerns associated with the proposed action and that Section 402 permits are not required.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you.

Sincerely,

D. Michael Hurst, Jr.

Enclosures

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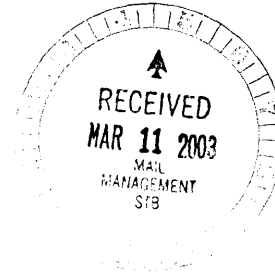


PAUL E. PATTON
GOVERNOR

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION CABINET
DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

FRANKFORT OFFICE PARK
14 REILLY RD
FRANKFORT KY 40601

February 19, 2003



Mr. D. Michael Hurst, Jr.
Troutman Sanders LLP
401 9th Street, NW - Suite 1000
Washington, D.C. 20004-2134

Re: Paducah & Louisville Railway, Incorporated
Abandonment Exemption
McCracken County, Kentucky

Dear Mr. Hurst:

This is in response to your letter of February 7, 2003 regarding the above project. The letter described the rail abandonment process and asked if there were any water quality problems or permits needed.

Based on our review of the referenced project, there are no water quality concerns and no Section 402 permits are necessary.

If further information is needed, please contact Doug Allgeier at (502) 564-2225, extension 448.

Sincerely,

R. Bruce Scott, P.E.
Environmental Engineer Branch Manager
KPDES Branch
Division of Water

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c: Division of Water files

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