

CONRAIL®

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Via UPS Overnight and Facsimile

204371

January 9, 2002

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

Re: Dockets: Nos. AB-167 (Sub-No. 1067N) and AB-167 (Sub-No. 766N), 204381
Application for Abandonment of River Line in Hudson County New Jersey
and Application for Abandonment of Weehawken Branch in Hudson County,
New Jersey

Dear Secretary Williams:

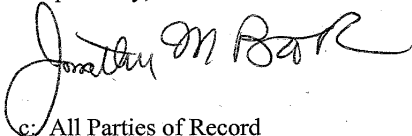
204383 This letter follows up two letters hand-delivered to your office as of January 8, 2002 concerning the above-captioned abandonment dockets. This letter also pertains to Docket Nos. AB-290 (Sub-No. 212X) 204382 and AB-55 (Sub-No. 584) which are companion dockets to the above and concern Petitions for Exemption for discontinuances by Norfolk Southern Railway Company and CSX Transportation, Inc. over the subject lines of railroad.

As undersigned counsel for Consolidated Rail Corporation, this will confirm the content of the letters authored by counsel for Cognis Corporation that Conrail and Cognis have indeed consummated a settlement as between them which resolves Cognis' opposition and request for terms and conditions regarding the abandonment and discontinuance of service over the subject lines.

Because of the pressing need by New Jersey Transit to commence construction of a light rail project on the subject lines, and insofar as the scope of that project could not be finally defined until this matter was resolved, we are requesting expedited handling by the Board in concluding this matter. In order to assure that New Jersey Transit's final engineering plans can be completed in order to meet its construction schedule and in order for Conrail and Cognis to efficiently plan the cessation of service on the subject lines, Conrail respectfully requests that the Board issue final orders in all relevant dockets on this matter within thirty (30) days if at all possible.

We thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,


c: All Parties of Record