

WEINER BRODSKY SIDMAN KIDER PC

BRUCE E. ALEXANDER\*  
RICHARD J. ANDREANO, JR.  
SANDRA L. BRICKEL  
JAMES A. BRODSKY  
DONALD C. BROWN, JR.  
JO A. DeROCHE  
TROY W. GARRIS  
CYNTHIA L. GILMAN  
DON J. HALPERN  
MITCHEL H. KIDER  
THOMAS LAWRENCE III  
ALDYS A. LONDON  
JAMES M. MILANO

SUZANNE DE ARMOND MUCCHETTI  
HAYDN J. RICHARDS, JR.\*  
LEAH SCHMULEWITZ GETLAN  
R. COLGATE SELDEN  
MARK H. SIDMAN  
JOHN D. SOCKNAT  
DAVID M. SOUDERS  
CYNTHIA G. SWANN  
MICHAEL S. WALDRON  
HARVEY E. WEINER  
ROSE-MICHELE WEINRYB  
JUSTIN P. ZIMMER\*  
\*NOT ADMITTED IN D.C.

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1300 NINETEENTH STREET NW  
FIFTH FLOOR  
WASHINGTON DC 20036 1609  
TEL 202 628 2000  
FAX 202 628 2011

July 22, 2004



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**BY HAND**

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

Re: STB Ex Parte No. 647; Allegheny & Eastern Railroad, Inc., et al. -  
Class Exemption for Expedited Abandonment Procedure for Class II and Class III  
Railroads

Dear Secretary Williams:

Pursuant to the Board's Notice of Public Hearing served on July 22, 2004 in the above-referenced docket, the Petitioning Class II and Class III Railroads ("Petitioners") hereby notify the Board of their intent to participate in the public hearing scheduled for August 11, 2004.

The Petitioners respectfully request 45 minutes to present their oral testimony at the hearing reserving any unused time for rebuttal. Mark H. Sidman will present testimony on behalf of the Petitioners.

Enclosed are an original and 10 copies of this letter. Please acknowledge receipt by date-stamping the enclosed acknowledgment copy and returning it to our messenger.

Very truly yours,

Thomas Lawrence, III