



Connecticut Department of
**ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

E1-18773
AB 979 2X
D7W
JAN 4 2012

December 29, 2011

Melanie B. Yasbin
Law Offices of Louis E. Gitomer
600 Baltimore Avenue, Suite 301
Towson, Maryland 21204

RE: Docket No. AB-979 (Sub-No. 2X) Connecticut Southern Railroad, Inc.

Dear Attorney Yasbin:

Thank you contacting the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) regarding the proposed abandonment of 2.4 miles of Connecticut Southern Railroad's Suffield Subdivision from milepost 2.0 to milepost 4.4 in Suffield, Connecticut.

DEEP's comments concern two sections of the Combined Environmental and Historical Report. Section 3(iii) of the Report says that Suffield Subdivision segment proposed for abandonment passes through a designated coastal zone and therefore a copy of the Report was supplied to the Connecticut Office of Long Island Sound Programs. In fact, the Line does not pass through any designated coastal zone and is not subject to the Connecticut Coastal Management Act.

Section 3(iv) of the Report says that the Connecticut Southern Railroad believes that the line "would be suitable for interim trail use/ rail banking". While the rail banking aspect would fall under the jurisdiction of the Connecticut Department of Transportation, DEEP can say that the segment proposed for abandonment is not a corridor with any statewide significance as regards conversion to trail use. However, we are aware of plans at the town level to utilize the rail bed for a trail. Bill Hawkins, Suffield town planner, should be contacted concerning this potential reuse and town interest in acquiring the right-of-way. Mr. Hawkins can be reached at (860) 668-3848 or at bhawkins@suffieldtownhall.com.

Again, thank you for contacting DEEP regarding this request for abandonment approval.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frederick L. Riese".

Frederick L. Riese
Senior Environmental Analyst

cc: Office of Environmental Analysis,
Surface Transportation Board
Laurie Giannotti, DEEP Trails Coordinator
Edward McAnaney, First Selectman, Suffield
Bill Hawkins, Suffield Town Planner