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Subject: Draft MOA for Conrail's proposed abandonment of the Harsimus Branch in Jersey City, N.J. Docket No. AB-167 (Sub. No. 1189X)
Date: Friday, November 13, 2020 4:46:57 PM

Given what America has been subjected to in the last four years, this “draft” is hardly surprising.

But what does shock is the utter absence of any attempt at reasoned explanation or defense of such a radical suggestion, rendering the draft woefully inadequate and incomplete. Of course, sometimes the indefensible...is simply indefensible.

An America littered with “here once stood” plaques, supplemented with written reports filed in obscure offices, would be an America more depressing and sanctimonious than one which openly proclaims its ignorance and vulgarity.

The delusional Trumpean universe is evaporating as I write. The assault on the natural and built environment, not to mention people, has brought forth an electoral judgement. This consultative process should recognize this democratic reality. This draft should be re-thought and radically amended, to reflect the traditions of public/civic/private, multi-partisan cooperation that has characterized American preservation practice for the last half-century. Anything less merits investigation in the years to come.

In short: an unmitigated disaster

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