

EI-976
9/3/04

August 26, 2004

**BY FAX TRANSMISSION (802-828-2928)
AND REGULAR MAIL**

Mr. Eric Gilbertson
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
National Life Office Building
Drawer 20
Montpelier, VT 05620

Re: Twin State Railroad Company -- Abandonment and Discontinuance of
Service in Caledonia and Essex Counties, Vermont -- Surface
Transportation Board Docket No. AB-862X

Dear Mr. Gilbertson:

I am writing concerning the above referenced proceeding before the United States Surface Transportation Board. By letter dated October 3, 2003, and pursuant to the Board's regulations 49 CFR 1105.7(b), Twin State Railroad (TSRR) provided your office with notice of this proceeding. Your office was also invited to comment upon or raise questions concerning the proceeding. Your office replied by letter dated October 9, 2003, in which you requested the following information: (1) identification of the federal agency involved in the proceeding; (2) a map of the subject railroad line; and (3) identification of any historic structures or buildings on the railroad line. No information concerning the railroad line was provided by you in your reply.

Under cover dated November 7, 2003, TSRR also provided your office with a second notice, along with a copy of the Environmental and Historic Report for the proceeding. That notice and that Report again identified the federal agency involved in the proceeding (Surface Transportation Board). The Environmental and Historic Report also included detailed maps of the subject railroad line. That Environmental and Historic Report also included the statements that "No significant bridges or other significant structures are located on the Line." Again, your office was invited to comment upon the

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proposed abandonment, and provide information concerning the railroad line, to the Board. The point of contact for any such replies was set forth in the notice. In this matter, TSRR allowed for a far longer reply period (approximately nine months) in this matter. During that period, neither TSRR nor the Board have received any further communication from your office in this matter.

I have spoken again today with my client about structures and bridges on the line. My client has assured me again that no bridges or similar structures would be impacted by the contemplated salvage operations on the line; any such structures will be left intact and undisturbed. We would be pleased to coordinate the salvage operations with your office, to address any concerns you might have.

Please feel free to contact me to discuss this matter further. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Very truly yours,

David H. Anderson
Counsel for Twin State
Railroad Company

cc: Mr. David Navecky
Section of Energy and Environment
Surface Transportation Board