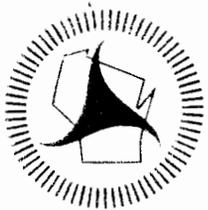


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Wisconsin Department of Transportation

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August 27, 2004

Surface Transportation Board
Case Control Unit
Attn: Christa Dean
Washington, DC 20423



Re: STB Docket No. AB-303 (Sub. No. 27) Wisconsin Central Ltd. - Abandonment - in Ozaukee, Sheboygan and Manitowoc Counties, Wisconsin

Dear Gentlepersons:

I am enclosing an original and 3 copies of these comments. Please date stamp and return it in the enclosed stamped self-addressed envelope. We have reviewed the environmental assessment with the service date of August 2, 2004 for the proposed abandonment of the rail line in Ozaukee, Sheboygan and Manitowoc Counties from Milepost 114.8 to near Saukville to Milepost 151.8 near Kiel.

Wisconsin Department of Transportation is the state agency and normally it opines early on the environmental effects of the proposed abandonment. It appears that for unknown reasons, we did not receive our normal early notice of the proposed abandonment. Nevertheless, as a multimodal agency, WisDOT would encourage the preservation of this transportation corridor consistent with existing land use plans and essential for efficient use of natural resources for future transportation needs if the line is abandoned. If the corridor is abandoned, we have already filed for the certificate of interim trail use.

If the line is abandoned, the greatest potential for environmental damage is because of the failure to properly clean up debris which is often left on former rail lines after items of value are removed. Because of this, Wisconsin Central Ltd., must comply with the WisDOT Abandoned Railroad Line Salvage and Clean-up Policy/Standards/Procedures when they do the abandonment and related activities.

If the line is abandoned, the railroad needs to protect surveying benchmarks, monumentation and mapping information for the segment.

Upon abandonment, the railroad must remove the rail, ties and ballast at the crossings of the state highways. The railroad is required to obtain a permit from the District Maintenance section to work

on highway right-of-way. The railroad will need to handle traffic while the crossing is being removed. The roadway should be restored in like kind.

Before crossings are removed across other streets and roadways, the railroad must contact the maintaining authority to coordinate work with them.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Allyn Lepeska". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Allyn Lepeska
Attorney

pc: Michael Barron, Jr.
Vicki Schaefer