

Bob Holden
Governor



1. 863x

#E1-478
RS

Jacquelyn D. White
Commissioner

State of Missouri
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATION
Intergovernmental Relations
Post Office Box 809
Jefferson City, 65102
573/751-4834

January 20, 2004

Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20423

AB - 863 X

Subject: 0411016 - City of Venice, IL and St. Louis City
EA Assistance
Environmental Clearance

The Missouri Federal Assistance Clearinghouse, in cooperation with state and local agencies interested or possibly affected, has completed the review on the above project application.

None of the agencies involved in the review had comments or recommendations to offer at this time. This concludes the Clearinghouse's review.

A copy of this letter is to be attached to the application as evidence of compliance with the State Clearinghouse requirements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ewell Lawson".

Ewell Lawson, Director
Intergovernmental Relations

EL:ab

cc: East-West Gateway Coordinating Council

CHARLES H. MONTANGE
ATTORNEY AT LAW
426 NW 162ND STREET
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98177
(206) 546-1936
FAX (206) 546-3739

28 October 2003
(for City of Venice, IL)

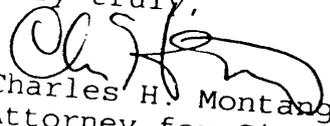
To: Recipients of Environmental Report
and Historic Report in STB dkt. No. AB-863
(see List Attached)

Re: Surface Transportation Board
Docket No. AB 863, City of Venice --
Abandonment Exemption -- Branch St. Yard, MO
and McKinley Junction, IL -- Notice of Exemption

On November 21, 2003, we expect to file with the Surface Transportation Board a Notice of Exemption pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50 seeking authority to abandon an approximately two mile long line of railroad in St. Louis (MO) and the City of Venice in Madison County (IL), lying between Milepost 0.55 near the Branch Street Yard in St. Louis, MO extending through Milepost 0.0 (state line) to Milepost 1.45 on the eastern city limits of City of Venice in Madison County, IL. Attached is an Environmental Report (and, in the case of the relevant addressees, Historic Report) describing the proposed action and any expected environmental (and/or historic) effects, as well as a map of the effected area. Also attached are similar reports previously prepared and circulated by Norfolk & Western Railway when it sought authority to abandon common carrier obligations on a larger line of which this portion of line is a part.

We are providing this report so that you may review the information that will form the basis for the STB's independent environmental analysis of this proceeding. If any of the information is misleading or incorrect, if you believe that pertinent information is missing, or if you have any questions about the Board's environmental review process, please contact the Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA), Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20423, telephone 202-565-1535, and refer to the above Docket No. AB 863. Because the applicable statutes and regulations impose stringent deadlines for processing this action, your written comments to SEA (with a copy to City of Venice's attorney for this proceeding) would be appreciated within three (3) weeks. Your comments will be considered by the Board in evaluating the environmental and/or historic preservation impacts of the contemplated action. If there are any questions concerning this proposal, please contact our representative (attorney) directly. Our representative (attorney) in this matter is Charles H.

Montange who may be contacted at 206-546-1936 or by mail at 426
NW 162d St., Seattle, WA 98177.

Very truly,

Charles H. Montange
Attorney for City of Venice