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September 21, 2005

**via e-mail to:**

Diana Wood  
Surface Transportation Board  
Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis and Administration  
Washington, DC  
20423  
[woodd@stb.dot.gov](mailto:woodd@stb.dot.gov)

RE: Abandonment and discontinuance of rail service, Greenville County, South Carolina

Dear Ms. Wood:

In response to your fax sent to this office on September 16, 2005, I have reviewed available information on the three sites identified as potential sources of concern along the "Northern Segment" rail line in Greenville County, South Carolina. According to past investigations of two of these sites conducted by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC), areas in proximity to rail lines at the quarry site and Kerr Manufacturing have not been identified and evaluated for potential environmental contamination. However, I would like to make you aware of the current status of the Union Bleachery Site, also known as the Cone Mills (Old Union Bleachery) site.

The Cone Mills (Old Union Bleachery) site is located at the intersection of Old Buncombe Road and Highway 253 in Greenville, SC. The coordinates are 34° 53' 2.91" North Latitude, 82° 25' 31.31" West Longitude. The site is a former textile bleaching, dyeing, and finishing facility. The mill operated from the early 1900's until it was partially destroyed by fire in 2003. The "Northern Segment" rail line crosses Highway 253 near the Reedy River and bisects the southern portion of the site from southeast to northwest. Major features along this section of track include the site's aeration lagoon on the north side and the Reedy River floodplain on the southern side. A spur off of the main section of track runs north to the facility along the eastern side of the aeration lagoon. Environmental concerns at the site include but are not limited to: contaminated soils, surface water, sediments, and groundwater. In the immediate vicinity of the rail lines (i.e. near the tracks) shown in the map you provided, several areas of contamination have been identified in SCDHEC investigations. These areas include wetlands areas along the spur, the Reedy River floodplain on the south side of the main rail line, and upgradient areas north of the main line and west of the aeration lagoon. I have attached a map (Figure 1) outlining site features. The rail lines are

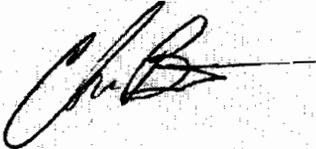
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highlighted in yellow, and areas of previously documented contamination identified by SCDHEC investigations are outlined in red. Reports that detail SCDHEC's activities at this site (as well as Kerr Manufacturing and the quarry) are available at the SCDHEC Bureau of Land & Waste Management offices in Columbia, SC.

Please feel free to call me at 803-896-4152 or e-mail at [bartlecb@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:bartlecb@dhec.sc.gov) if you have any further questions or concerns.

Best Regards,



Christopher Bartley  
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cc: John Cobb, DHEC EQC Region 2  
File



Figure 1: Aerial Photo, 1999, Cone Mills (Old Union Bleacher) Site. Rail lines are shown in yellow. Areas of concern are outlined in red.