



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD , B-19J
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

AB 33-243X
HEI-2965
Dtw

AUG 31 2006

Mr. Chuck Saylor
Union Pacific Railroad
1400 Douglas Street, Mail Stop 1580
Omaha, NE 68179

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

Re: **STB Docket No. AB-33(Sub. No. 243X) Union Pacific Rail Line Abandonment and Discontinuance of the Barber-Green Spur in De Kalb County, Illinois**

Dear Mr. Saylor:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) has received the letter dated August 17, 2006 concerning a proposed abandonment and discontinuance of 2.3 miles of rail line segment located in De Kalb County, Illinois. Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality regulations, and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, U.S. EPA reviews and comments on major federal actions. Typically, these reviews focus on Environmental Impact Statements, but we also have the discretion to review and comment on other environmental documents prepared under NEPA if resources and interest permit.

We did not undertake a detailed study of the project, however, a cursory review determined that there were no significant concerns meriting comment at this time.

Additional environmental resources can be found at U.S. EPA websites: 1) the Envirofacts Data Warehouse, <http://www.epa.gov/enviro> and 2) Surf your watershed, <http://www.epa.gov/surf>

Thank you for providing information on this project and allowing our input at this early stage. We reserve the right to reconsider undertaking further review if significant new data on the project is made available by the sponsoring agency or other interested parties. Feel free to contact me or my staff member Norm West, at 312-353-5692 or at west.norman@epa.gov, should any further questions regarding this project arise. Please address all future correspondence regarding rail line abandonment to my attention.

Sincerely,

Kenneth A. Westlake
Chief, NEPA Implementation Section
Office of Science, Ecosystems, and Communities

Cc: Vicki Rutson, Chief
Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20423