

E1-403



**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

October 15, 2003.

Ms. Amy Silverstein  
Providence and Worcester Railroad Company  
75 Hammond Street  
Worcester, MA 01610

**RE: Proposed Abandonment - Southbridge, Webster and Dudley, MA and Thompson, CT;  
MHC#33762**

Dear Ms. Silverstein:

Staff at the Massachusetts Historical Commission have reviewed the information you submitted concerning the proposed project referenced about and have the following comments.

The MHC understands that the proposed project involves the abandonment of approximately 10.79 miles of rail line in Southbridge, Dudley and Webster, MA and Thompson, CT. Abandonment of the line will result in no activity. There is no intention to remove any rail or track material, crossties, ballast or bridges and the plan is to leave the right of way essentially untouched. Furthermore, the underlying roadbed will not be disturbed and no activities will take place that would cause sedimentation or erosion of the soil.

At this time the MHC is unable to determine what effect this project will have on historic properties without further information. The MHC requests current, original photographs of the four bridges mentioned in the submittal in order to determine National Register eligibility.

The MHC looks forward to receiving and reviewing the above requested information.

These comments are offered to assist in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (36 CFR 800). Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Debra E. Lavoie  
Preservation Planner  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

cc: Southbridge Historical Commission  
Webster Historical Commission  
Dudley Historical Commission

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