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January 16, 2004

Ms. Rini Ghosh
Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20423

Dear Ms. Ghosh:

This refers to STB Docket No. AB 863X, City of Venice—Abandonment Exemption—Between Branch Street Yard, MO, and McKinley Junction, IL, and to the January 13, 2004, letter to you from counsel for the City of Venice replying to the comments of the Terminal Railroad Association of St. Louis, dated January 9, 2004.

The environmental rules of the Board, 49 C.F.R. 1105.10(b), do not permit the filing of a reply to the comments received by you in response to an Environmental Assessment prepared by you, and, on behalf of Terminal Railroad Association of St. Louis, I ask that you please disregard the reply letter.

While replies are permitted as a matter of course to pleadings filed with the Board, pursuant to 48 U.S.C. 1104.13(a), the comments of the Terminal Railroad Association of St. Louis on the Environmental Assessment drafted by you was not a pleading filed with the Board.

Sincerely yours,


Fritz R. Kahn

cc: Charles H. Montange, Esq
Mr. Jerry Kane