

AB-68(4X)

E1-1761



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March 18, 2004



Victoria Rutson
Chief, SEA
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Re: Lake Superior & Ishpeming Railroad Company-Abandonment-In Marquette County, MI: Docket No. AB-68 (Sub. No. 4X)

Dear Ms. Rutson:

On April 8, 2004, The Lake Superior and Ishpeming Railroad Company (the "LS&I") is filing or expects to file with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") a petition for exemption seeking authority to abandon approximately 25 miles of rail line known as the Republic Subdivision, extending from railroad milepost 69.52 (LS&I Jct.) near Negaunee, Michigan to milepost 94.5 (Republic Mine) near Republic, Michigan, in Marquette County, Michigan. An Environmental/Historic Report ("Report") describing the proposed action and any expected environmental effects, as well as a map of the affected area were sent to you in advance of this letter on March 16, 2004. The Report is hereby incorporated to this letter by reference.

We provided the 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 STB'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) 565-1560 and refer to the above Docket No. Because the applicable statutes and regulations impose stringent deadlines for processing this action, your written comments to SEA (with a copy to us) would be appreciated within three weeks.

Your comments will be considered by the STB in evaluating the environmental and/or historic preservation impacts of the contemplated action. If there are any questions concerning this proposal, please contact me directly. I may be contacted by telephone at (303) 573-1600 or by mail at Jones & Keller, P.C., 1625 Broadway, 16th Floor, Denver, CO, 80202.

Very truly yours,
Edward T. Lyons, Jr.
Edward T. Lyons

ETL (md)
CC: Peter Ray
Ken Simmons, Esq.
Bob Clark