

E1-1625



FOUNDED 1844



August 4, 2005

Mr. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
Mercury Building
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423

**RE: STB Docket No. AB-254 (Sub-No. 8X)
Providence and Worcester Railroad Company
East Providence, Rhode Island
Petition for Exemption for Abandonment**

Dear Secretary Williams:

Enclosed please find a copy of a letter and attachment sent today to the Narragansett Indian Tribe in Rhode Island at the request of Troy Brady, SEA, in connection with the above referenced abandonment application.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need any further information.

Very truly yours,

Amy Silverstein
Assistant General Counsel

Enc.

PROVIDENCE AND WORCESTER RAILROAD COMPANY
75 HAMMOND STREET, WORCESTER, MA 01610 P.O. BOX 16551, WORCESTER, MA 01601
TELEPHONE (508) 755-4000 FAX (508) 795-0748



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Mr. Doug Harris
Narragansett Indian Tribal
Historic Preservation Office
P.O. Box 700
Wyoming, RI 02898

RE: Providence and Worcester Railroad Company ("P&W")
Petition for Exemption for Abandonment
East Providence, Rhode Island
Docket No. AB-254 (Sub No. 8X)

Dear Mr. Harris:

On June 16, 2005, P&W filed a Petition for Exemption with the Surface Transportation Board seeking authority to abandon a 4.3± mile portion of our branch line known as the East Providence Branch (EP Branch) and a 0.48± mile portion of our branch line known as the East Junction Branch (EJ Branch), both of which are located in East Providence, Rhode Island. Attached is a Combined Environmental Report and Historic Report describing the proposed action and any expected environmental and historical effects, as well as a map of the affected area.

We are providing this 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 Board's environmental review process, please contact the Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA), Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street NW, Washington, DC 20423, telephone (202) 565-1539 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 the undersigned) would be appreciated as soon as possible.

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Your comments will be considered by the Board in evaluating the environmental and/or historic preservation impacts of the contemplated action. If there are any questions concerning this proposal, please contact the undersigned directly by telephone at (508) 755-4000 or by mail at 75 Hammond Street, Worcester, MA 01610.

Sincerely yours,

Amy Silverstein
Assistant General Counsel

Enclosures

cc: Surface Transportation Board
Troy Brady, SEA