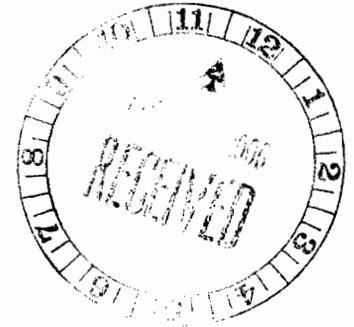




WISCONSIN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Headquarters Building
816 State Street
Madison, WI 53706-1482
608-264-6400

EI-2041



March 28, 2006

Mr. Vernon Williams
Surface Transportation Board
1925 Cape Street, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20423

SHSW#: 00-1955/AS/PR

RE: Wisconsin Central Ltd.-Notice of Exemption for Abandonment in Ashland County:
Docket No. AB-303 (Sub-No. 28X)

Dear Mr. Williams:

This letter is in response to your Abandonment Exemption published on March 22, 2006 regarding the above referenced project. We have previously stated, in a letter to the Surface Transportation Board dated September 7, 2005 and Mr. Ron Adams of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (copies enclosed) that the abandonment would result in an adverse effect on the Ashland Ore Dock, which has been determined eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places on September 27, 2001. Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.5(a)(2)(vii), the adverse effect would result due to the transfer of the property without adequate and legally enforceable restrictions or conditions to ensure the long-term preservation of the Ashland Ore Dock.

None of the abandonment exemption publications have made any reference to letters we have sent to your agency or the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. Again, we are objecting to the notice of exemption as the proposed action would affect the quality of the human environment without the appropriate compliance with 36 CFR 800. We look forward to working with you and the Surface Transportation Board to complete the Section 106 review process. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please call me at (608) 264-6507.

Sincerely,

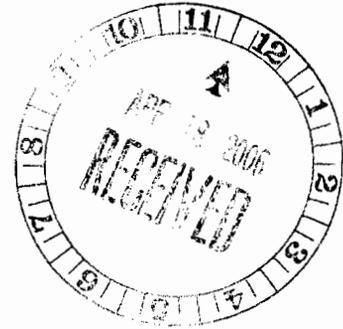
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sherman Banker".

Sherman Banker
Office of Preservation Planning



WISCONSIN
HISTORICAL
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Headquarters Building
816 State Street
Madison, WI 53706-1482
608-264-6400



September 7, 2005

Mr. Michael Barron
Counsel for Wisconsin Central Ltd.
17641 South Ashland Avenue
Homewood IL 60430

SHSW#: 00-1955/AS/PR

RE: Wisconsin Central Ltd.-Notice of Exemption for Abandonment in Ashland County:
Docket No. AB-303 (Sub-No. 28X)

Dear Mr. Barron:

We have received your submittal of August 25, 2005 regarding the above referenced project. Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.5(a)(2)(vii), we believe that the proposed exemption for the abandonment would result in an adverse effect on the Ashland Ore Dock in Ashland, Wisconsin, which was determined eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places on September 27, 2001. The adverse effect would result due to the transfer of the property without adequate and legally enforceable restrictions or conditions to ensure the long-term preservation of the Ashland Ore Dock.

We look forward to consulting with you and the Surface Transportation Board to complete the Section 106 review process in a timely manner. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please call me at (608) 264-6507.

Sincerely,

Sherman Banker
Office of Preservation Planning

Cc: Mr. Vernon Williams, Surface Transportation Board



WISCONSIN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Headquarters Building
816 State Street
Madison, WI 53706-1482
608-264-6400



February 13, 2006

Mr. Ron Adams
Director, Bureau of Railroads and Highways
Wisconsin Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 7910
Madison WI 53707-7910

SHSW#: 00-1955/AS/PR
RE: Docket No. AB-303 (Sub-No. 28X), Wisconsin Central Ltd. Notice of Exemption in
Ashland County, Wisconsin

Dear Mr. Adams:

This letter is in response to a letter sent to you by Michael Barron (copy enclosed), dated January 3, 2006 regarding the above referenced project. Mr. Barron was notifying you of a Wisconsin Central Ltd request to file a Notice of Exemption with the Surface Transportation Board for approval to abandon the rail in Ashland, Wisconsin. We have previously stated, in a letter to the Surface Transportation Board dated September 7, 2005 (copy enclosed) that the abandonment would result in an adverse effect on the Ashland Ore Dock, which has been determined eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places on September 27, 2001. Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.5(a)(2)(vii), the adverse effect would result due to the transfer of the property without adequate and legally enforceable restrictions or conditions to ensure the long-term preservation of the Ashland Ore Dock.

Therefore, we are objecting to the notice of exemption without the appropriate compliance with 36 CFR 800. We look forward to working with you and the Surface Transportation Board to complete the Section 106 review process. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please call me at (608) 264-6507.

Sincerely,

Sherman Banker
Office of Preservation Planning