



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5  
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD  
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

E1-2107  
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OCT 03 2005

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF

B-19J

John K. Enright  
Associate General Counsel  
Consolidated Rail Corporation  
1000 Howard Boulevard, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054

RE: Inquiry concerning a possible Conrail abandonment of two contiguous rail lines in Detroit and Highland Park, Michigan

Dear Mr. Enright:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) received your September 7, 2005 inquiry letter concerning the possible Conrail abandonment of 4.30 miles of two contiguous rail lines in Detroit, Michigan which enroute, bisect the community of Highland Park, Michigan. This letter of comment is provided pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA Implementing Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

In response to your specific question, a Section 402 permit covering stormwater runoff from construction activities may be necessary. Please consult the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality on this issue and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act related concerns.

Other environmental resource information for this site is available on two U.S. EPA websites: 1) the Envirofacts Data Warehouse, <http://www.epa.gov/enviro/> and 2) Surf Your Watershed, <http://www.epa.gov/surf>. Please consider these resources when assessing this project's impacts and preparing your Surface Transportation Board (STB) Application (Application).

We note the project's intent is to remove only rails and crossties. We request recycling or appropriate disposition of these materials be addressed in your Application, along with the disposition of any ancillary structures and materials such as train and crossing signals, and electrical and equipment housings. In that this rail line crosses Woodward Avenue, a designated National Byway, and interacts with an historic Ford Motor Plant, please contact the Federal Highway Administration and Michigan Department of Transportation for the former and the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office concerning the latter. Highland Park is an

economically depressed community qualifying for Environmental Justice consideration. There are many abandoned industrial sites that have identified hazardous waste issues along this right of way (ROW). We recommend discussing potential redevelopments or future uses of this ROW, in relationship to these industrial sites as connected and cumulative concerns, with the City Administrator, Darwin Parks.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment during the early stages of this project. We look forward to reviewing the environmental assessment for this Application and responses to the above items. Should you have further questions of us, please contact me or Norm West, of my staff, at (312)-353-5692 or by e-mail at [west.norman@epa.gov](mailto:west.norman@epa.gov). Please address all future correspondence regarding rail line abandonment to my attention.

Sincerely,



Kenneth A. Westlake, Chief  
NEPA Implementation Section  
Office of Science, Ecosystems and Communities

Cc: David Navecky  
Section of Environmental Analysis  
Surface Transportation Board  
1925 K Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20423

Standard bcc's:

Originator's File Copy  
OSEC Reading File Copy  
NIS Reading File Copy

Author: Norman R. West

Filename: F:/share/OSEADOCs/envrev/Norman/scoping replies/Conrail-Detroit-Highland Park MI

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**CONCURRENCES**

<i>Org/Unit:</i>	Author	Plain Lang.	Team Leader	Admin/Clr.	DD/OD	ORA (St. Coord)	ORA
<i>Initial/Date:</i>	<i>NRW</i> <i>10/3/05</i>	<i>NRW</i> <i>10/3/05</i>	<i>NRW</i> <i>10/3/05</i>				
<i>Other Concurrences:</i>							