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**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
SECTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

POST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS

**STB DOCKET NO. AB-254 (SUB. NO. 9X), 254 (Sub-No. 9X), PROVIDENCE AND
WORCESTER RAILROAD COMPANY—ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION—
SLATERVILLE SECONDARY TRACK IN WOONSOCKET, RI AND BLACKSTONE,
MA**

April 20, 2007

ABANDONMENT TYPE

The time for comments on the Environmental Assessment (EA) has expired in this:

(x) Notice of Exemption () Petition for Exemption () Regulated Abandonment

(x) NO NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED

SEA served an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proceeding on March 30, 2007 for public review and comment. In the EA, SEA recommended one (1) environmental condition and concluded that the proposed action would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment. No comments were received during the EA comment period that ended on April 20, 2007.

Conclusion

The EA comment period has ended. Accordingly, SEA recommends that the following condition previously recommended in the EA should be imposed upon any decision granting abandonment authority:

- The Providence & Worcester Railroad Company (P&W) shall retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the historic integrity of all sites, buildings, and structures within the project right-of-way that are eligible for listing or listed in the National Register of Historic Places (generally, 50 years old or older) until the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 470f, has been completed. P&W shall report back to the Section of Environmental Analysis regarding any consultations with the Rhode Island State Historic Preservation Officer and Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Officer and any other Section 106 consulting parties. P&W may not file its consummation notice or initiate any salvage activities related to abandonment (including removal of tracks and ties) until the Section 106 process has been completed and the Board has removed this condition.

If the above conditions are imposed, SEA believes that the proposed action will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

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