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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Washington, DC 20423

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis, and Administration

February 25, 2005

Mr. Rick Nelson
United States Fish and Wildlife Service
4469 48th Avenue Court
Rock Island, IL 61201

Re: STB Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 225X)

Dear Mr. Nelson:

The Surface Transportation Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) is conducting an environmental review of Union Pacific Railroad Company's planned abandonment of a 15.14-mile rail line in Cerro Gordo County, Iowa, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and related environmental regulations.

Today, I contacted your office regarding this proposed rail line abandonment. As discussed, our office has already received a letter from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Realty;¹ however, we are also submitting the environmental and historic reports for your review. SEA is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA), which is expected to be served to the public on April 12, 2005. If you have comments or concerns that you would like to be included in the EA, please fax a letter to my attention at (202) 565-9000 on or before April 4, 2005. In addition, a copy of the EA will be mailed to you, and you will have another opportunity to submit comments at that time.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 565-1606.

Sincerely,



Christa Dean

Attorney Adviser

Section of Environmental Analysis

Attachment

¹ This letter is included with the enclosed materials.