

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Washington, DC 20423

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis, and Administration

January 5, 2004

James R. Paschall, Esq.
Norfolk Southern Corporation
Three Commercial Place
Norfolk, VA 23510-2191

**Re: STB Docket No. AB - 167 (1095X), Consolidated Rail Corporation -
Abandonment Exemption - in Lancaster and Chester Counties,
Pennsylvania – Invitation to be Consulting Party under section 106 of
the National Historic Preservation Act**

Dear Mr. Paschall:

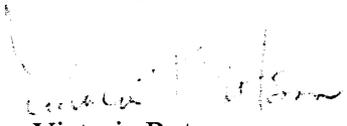
As you know, the Surface Transportation Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) is conducting a review of Consolidated Rail Corporation's proposed abandonment exemption in Lancaster and Chester Counties, PA, pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

On November 19th, 2003, SEA held a public meeting in Quarryville, Pennsylvania, in order to solicit comments from the public regarding the draft memorandum of agreement (MOA) that was prepared in consultation with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and Norfolk Southern Railway Company. We have received a number of comments, and this letter is being sent in response to a comment received by a citizen of Lancaster County.

The issue has been raised that there is the possibility of hazardous material contamination in the area of the proposed abandonment. Specifically, the citizen stated that past train derailments may have led to the release of hazardous materials. The citizen also expressed a concern that a previous owner of the rail line had hazardous material buried under or near the rail line.

We would appreciate any information that you have on this matter, either in the records of Norfolk Southern or Conrail. Your comments should be addressed to me at the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis. Please do not hesitate to call me or Ms. Christa Dean of my staff at (202) 565-1606 if you have any questions. Thank you for your assistance on this matter.

Sincerely,



Victoria Rutson
Chief
Section of Environmental Analysis