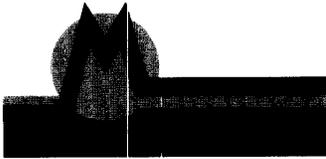


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City of Marion

1100 8th Avenue • Marion, IA 52302
(319) 377-1581 • Fax (319) 377-7892 • www.cityofmarion.org

October 4, 2004

Mr. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street NW – Room 711
Washington, DC 20423



RE: STB Docket No. AB-314 (Sub-No 2X)
Chicago Central & Pacific Railroad – Abandonment – Linn County, Iowa

Dear Mr. Williams:

On October 25, 2002, the Surface Transportation Board (STB) entered into a decision and served notice with respect to interim trail use/rail banking of the captioned abandonment, subject to public use trail, environmental and standard employee protective conditions. On April 20, 2004, the STB concurred with the City of Marion's request to extend the interim trail use/park banking of the subject abandonment until October 16, 2004.

Since negotiations have commenced, the city has been awarded a Brownfields Environmental Assessment Grant by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The project area for this grant includes a substantial part of the railroad abandonment property. After consulting with the railroad, it has been mutually agreed that meaningful negotiations cannot be undertaken until the environmental assessment has been completed. Both parties have agreed to suspend negotiations until the environmental assessments are complete. The contracts for conducting the environmental assessments have been awarded. The railroad has recently approved the access agreement to allow for Phase II testing.

Accordingly, the City of Marion, Iowa, respectfully requests an additional six (6) month time extension regarding interim trail use/rail banking of the subject abandonment within the corporate limits of the City of Marion, Iowa.

Please feel free to contact City Manager Jeff Schott or me at 319-377-1581 if you have any questions or need additional information regarding this request.

Sincerely,


John B. Ireland, Mayor

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JBN:st

cc: Michael J. Barron, Jr., Counsel, Canadian National Railroad
Art Spiros, Canadian National Railroad
Nancy J. Burns, Iowa Department of Transportation
John Hey, Iowa Department of Transportation
Troy Siefert, Iowa Department of Transportation

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