

310806

January 28, 2026

ENTERED
Office of Chief Counsel
January 28, 2026
Part of
Public Record

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Ms. Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001


Re: *Metro-North Commuter Railroad Company – Abandonment Exemption – In Dutchess and Putnam Counties, New York*, STB AB 1311 (Sub-No. 1X)

Dear Ms. Brown:


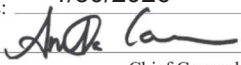
I am attaching for e-filing Metro-North Commuter Railroad Company's Request for Extension of Interim Trail Use Negotiation Period in the above-captioned proceeding.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



Charles A. Spitulnik

 GRANTED Office of Chief Counsel <input type="checkbox"/>	DECISION ID NO.: 52907
	DECIDED DATE: 1/30/2026
	SERVED DATE: 1/30/2026
	APPROVED:  Chief Counsel

Attachment

FILING FEE WAIVED

**BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

STB Docket No. AB 1311 (Sub-No. 1X)

**METRO-NORTH COMMUTER RAILROAD COMPANY – ABANDONMENT
EXEMPTION – IN DUTCHESS AND PUTNAM COUNTIES, NEW YORK**

**REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF
INTERIM TRAIL USE NEGOTIATION PERIOD**

Communications with respect to this document should be addressed to:

Charles A. Spitulnik
Kaplan Kirsch LLP
1634 I (Eye) Street NW
Suite 300
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 955-5600
cspitulnik@kaplankirsch.com

*Counsel for Metro-North Commuter
Railroad Company*

January 28, 2026

**BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
STB Docket No. AB 1311 (Sub-No. 1X)**

**METRO-NORTH COMMUTER RAILROAD COMPANY – ABANDONMENT
EXEMPTION – IN DUTCHESS AND PUTNAM COUNTIES, NEW YORK**

**REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF
INTERIM TRAIL USE NEGOTIATION PERIOD**

Metro-North Commuter Railroad Company (“MNR”), pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 1152.29(d)(1)(ii), hereby requests that the Surface Transportation Board order a second one-year extension of the trail use negotiation period applicable to the subject rail line in this proceeding.

On February 8, 2024, the Board issued a NITU for a 41.1-mile line known as the “Beacon Line” that runs between Milepost 0.0 and Milepost 71.2 in Dutchess and Putnam Counties, New York (the “Line”). MNR both owned the Line and proposed to be the trail sponsor, so the Board noted that “the negotiations that normally take place to reach a trail use agreement as contemplated under 49 C.F.R. § 1152.29 may not be needed.” *Metro North Commuter R.R. Co.—Abandonment Exemption—In Dutchess and Putnam Cntys., N.Y.*, AB 1311 (Sub-No. 1X), slip op. at 2 (STB served Feb. 8, 2024) (corrected decision). Nonetheless, the Board applied the standard one-year negotiation period to the NITU and directed MNR to, by February 8, 2025, file a notice with the Board in order to implement interim trail use on the Line or a portion thereof. *Id.* at 3. On January 27, 2025, MNR requested a one-year extension of the trail use negotiation period, and the Board granted the extension on January 28, 2025.

MNR is in active discussions with a potential trail sponsor, and the parties are working towards an agreement under which the trail sponsor will assume full responsibility for the trail use.

Simultaneously, MNR is taking steps to ensure that, in the event that negotiations fail, MNR will be equipped to serve as trail sponsor. Because MNR would still prefer to have the third party serve as the trail sponsor, MNR is continuing to pursue negotiations with the third party rather than immediately determining to serve as the trail sponsor itself. MNR requires additional time to complete negotiations. MNR therefore requests that the Board grant an extension of the trail use negotiation period until February 8, 2027.

Pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 1002.2(e)(1), MNR is requesting a waiver of the \$650 filing fee. *See* 49 C.F.R. § 1002.2(f)(27)(ii).

WHEREFORE, and in light of all the foregoing, MNR respectfully requests the Board to grant this Request for Extension of Trail Use Negotiating Period and grant a one-year extension until February 8, 2027.

Respectfully submitted,



Charles A. Spitulnik
Kaplan Kirsch LLP
1634 I (Eye) Street NW
Suite 300
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 955-5600
cspitulnik@kaplankirsch.com

Dated: January 28, 2026

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the 28th day of January 2026, I caused the foregoing Request for Extension of Interim Trail Use Negotiation Period to be served on the following parties by email:

Edward J. Rodriguez
Vice President and General Counsel
Housatonic Railroad Company
4 Huntley Road
P.O. Box 687
Old Lyme, Connecticut 06371-1448
e.rodriquez@hrrc.com



Charles A. Spitulnik