



# pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
AND NATURAL RESOURCES

RECEIVED  
2011 MAY -2 AM 10:01

BUREAU OF RECREATION AND CONSERVATION - PA P.U.C.  
SECRETARY'S BUREAU

April 26, 2011

Rosemary Chiavetta  
Secretary  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
Commonwealth Keystone Building  
400 North Street - Filing Room  
P.O. Box 3265  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

Re: Docket Number: A-00111016 and C-00913256  
Petition by Providence Township, Lancaster County, to  
Modify Portions of the October 9, 1997  
Opinion and Order Entered by the PA PUC

Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

Providence Township, in Lancaster County, has filed a petition to modify the October 9, 1997 PUC order to remove Crossing No. 21 (Hollow Road) on the Enola Branch rail corridor and realign Hollow Road, as necessary. The structure at this Crossing is a stone arch culvert located beneath the railroad embankment.

The municipalities along the Enola Branch rail corridor have recently acquired their portions of the railroad right-of-way. Providence Township, in partnership with other neighboring municipalities, is now interested in developing the right-of-way into a rail-trail. Therefore, it is critical that Crossing No. 21 (Hollow Road) and others remain in place to facilitate its development. If the structures are removed, the Township will have the burden of replacing the structure at a much higher cost than if the structure could be rehabilitated to meet current safety standards for pedestrian use.

The Enola Branch rail corridor is an important part of the history and character of the southern Lancaster County landscape. The Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan, under the Cultural Heritage section, calls for the preservation of the county's historic resources. The structures, along with the entire rail corridor, are historically significant resources that have been Determined Eligible by the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places.

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) is a major advocate and funder of rail-trails and strongly supports saving railroad structures, such as Crossing 21, in order to further the development of rail-trails in communities. Rail-Trails are a major source of economic development, reconnect people to the outdoors and support a more active life style for Pennsylvanians. This makes our communities healthy places to live and work.

conserve      sustain      enjoy

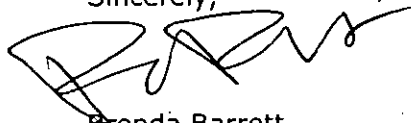
P.O. Box 8475, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8475 | Phone 717-783-2658 | Fax 717-787-9577

Letter to Secretary Chiavetta  
April 26, 2011  
Page Two

DCNR supports the petition filed by Providence Township to keep Crossing 21 (Hollow Road) in place. This Enola Branch trail is a priority trail for DCNR under the Decision Tree Process as set forth in the *Rail-Trail Bridges in Pennsylvania, A Guidebook for the Structure Disposition Process*, developed in conjunction with the Department of Transportation pursuant to Governor Tom Ridge's Rail-Trail Policy. DCNR is a party to this PUC action, and can provide testimony in support of this Rail-Trail when the hearing is scheduled.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of this matter. The Department looks forward to a favorable resolution of this issue. Should you have additional questions or need more information, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brenda Barrett', written over a faint, illegible stamp or background.

Brenda Barrett  
Bureau Director



# pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Rosemary Chiavetta  
Secretary  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
Commonwealth Keystone Building  
400 North Street – Filing Room  
P.O. Box 3265  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265