

FINANCE DOCKET No. 11340
SUSQUEHANNA CONNECTING RAILROAD COMPANY ET
AL. ABANDONMENT

Submitted November 13, 1936. Decided December 1, 1936

Certificate issued permitting abandonment by the Susquehanna Connecting Railroad Company of a branch line of railroad in Lackawanna County, Pa., and abandonment of operation thereof by the Wilkes-Barre & Eastern Railroad Company.

H. A. Taylor for applicants.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION

DIVISION 4, COMMISSIONERS MEYER, PORTER, AND MAHAFFIE

BY DIVISION 4:

The Susquehanna Connecting Railroad Company and the Wilkes-Barre and Eastern Railroad Company, on September 12, 1936, jointly applied for permission to abandon the so-called Minooka branch of the former extending from a connection with that company's line at a point known as Jermyn Junction to a connection with the track of the Delaware & Hudson Railroad Corporation at station 343+25, 5,398.5 feet, and sidetracks appurtenant thereto, all in Lackawanna County, Pa. No representations have been made by any State authority and no objection to the application has been offered.

The railroad of the Susquehanna Connecting is operated by the Wilkes-Barre & Eastern under a 999-year lease dated April 1, 1897.

The Minooka branch was constructed many years ago to serve anthracite industries in its locality. It served only two breakers, one of which has not been operated during the last 10 years, because of the exhaustion of anthracite deposits. The other has not been operated since some time in 1927. If it should develop that there are future shipments therefrom they can be routed by way of the Delaware & Hudson Railroad, which also has track connection with that breaker. Any such traffic for destination to points on the Erie Railroad or to its connections may be interchanged at Avoca, Pa., and Carbondale, Pa., both being established interchange points with the Delaware & Hudson Railroad.

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There never has been any station on the branch. There is no resident population in the immediate vicinity. The nearest incorporated village is Taylor, on the opposite side of the Lackawanna River, 0.5 mile distant, and that community is served by the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad. The region tributary to the branch is a typical anthracite area, in which there are no industries.

The applicants state that ties in the track are almost valueless, and that the rail is merely scrap. The estimated net salvage of the recoverable material is \$566. The branch has not been operated since 1927.

The record clearly indicates that there is no public need for operation of the branch proposed to be abandoned, and that such operation would impose an unnecessary and undue burden upon interstate commerce.

We find that the present and future public convenience and necessity permit abandonment by the Susquehanna Connecting Railroad Company of the branch line of railroad in Lackawanna County, Pa., described in the application, and abandonment of operation thereof by the Wilkes-Barre and Eastern Railroad Company. An appropriate certificate will be issued, effective from and after 30 days from its date, in which suitable provision will be made for the cancelation of tariffs.

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