

GENERAL PERMIT 1



DRCC #: 23-6035

DATE: July 26, 2023

PROJECT NAME: NJDOT Conrail Bordentown Secondary Line at Enterprise Avenue
-- Crossing Improvements

Latest Submission Received: July 6, 2023

Applicant:

New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT)
attn. Brendan K. Brock
Thiokol Trailer
951 Parkway Avenue
Ewing Township, NJ 08625-0600
brendan.brock@dot.nj.gov

Project Location:

Road	Municipality	County	Block(s)	Lot(s)
Enterprise Avenue at M.P. 34.85	Trenton City	Mercer	23004	5

Jurisdictional Determination:

Zone A	Minor	Governmental
--------	-------	--------------

Documents Received: Application received July 6, 2023; Project Plan (1 sheet) dated June 14, 2016, prepared by NJDOT.

The Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission has reviewed the referenced application for a General Permit authorization pursuant to the requirements of the Regulations for the Review of the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park at N.J.A.C. 7:45-6.2. The proposed project is authorized by General Permit No. 1, which authorizes projects in Zone A that are necessary to carry out the repair, rehabilitation, maintenance or reconstruction of a structure, road, utility line, or stormwater management measure or

PO BOX 539 STOCKTON, NJ 08559 609-397-2000
www.nj.gov/dep/drcc/

DATE: July 26, 2023

PROJECT NAME: NJDOT Conrail Bordentown Secondary at Enterprise (cont.)

basin lawfully existing prior to January 1980 or approved under this Chapter by the Commission.

The project authorized under this general permit shall not be put to any use other than as specified in any approval authorizing its original construction. Projects authorized under the general permit shall not visibly change, expand, widen or deepen the feature, and shall not deviate from any plans of any prior project approvals, except for minor deviations due to changes in materials or construction techniques. Any such deviations must be shown as necessary to fulfill the purpose of the proposed project and must be consistent with the Master Plan.

Description of the authorized project: The NJDOT proposes several in-kind repairs and improvements to the at-grade crossing surface and upgrades to the railroad warning devices at the point where Enterprise Avenue crosses the Consolidated Rail Corporation (Conrail) Bordentown Secondary freight rail line in the City of Trenton, Mercer County, approximately 230 feet southeast of the Delaware and Raritan Canal and within Commission Review Zone A. In the existing condition, the rail line crossing consists of two tracks: the northernmost track being a siding, while the southernmost track connects to the Northeast Corridor Line.



A small portion of the northwestern corner of the project area lot is located within the boundaries of the Delaware and Raritan Canal Historic District. However, the project activities are not located within the boundaries of that district. The project area is, however, located within the boundaries of the Camden and Amboy Branch Line Historic District.

DATE: July 26, 2023

PROJECT NAME: NJDOT Conrail Bordentown Secondary at Enterprise (cont.)

Specifically, the applicant proposes the in-kind replacement of the existing railroad at-grade crossing surface; in-kind replacement of the crossbuck signs and flashing lights; installation of new at-grade crossing signs; upgrades to the railroad signal cabinet; refreshment of the existing pavement markings and advance warning signs; and replacement and relocation of an existing power drop pole.

The project would not result in the creation of any new impervious surface coverage and would disturb not more than 1.0 acre of land.

The trackage of the Bordentown Secondary Line was laid by the Camden and Amboy Railroad (C&ARR) from 1831-1833 and formed part of the original alignment of the rail route between Philadelphia and New York City. The C&ARR was ultimately acquired by the Pennsylvania Railroad (PRR) where this section of trackage is depicted on maps as the part of the PRR Millham Branch. The Millham Branch and associated junction served as a connection between the original alignment and later 1865 alignment of the main line of the C&ARR, which was relocated eastward of the original alignment to create a straighter route that could accommodate newer, faster, larger, and more powerful engines. This 1865 alignment is better known today as the Northeast Corridor Line.

The railroad tracks located near the project site also connected to the 16-track Trenton Coalport yard, where anthracite coal was transferred from rail cars from the Belvidere-Delaware Railroad into canal boats for the journey to mid-Atlantic and New England states. Warren F. Lee noted in his book Down Along the Old Bel-Del: The History of the Belvidere Delaware Railroad Company, A Pennsylvania Railroad Company, that the other nearby groups of tracks were in reality extensions of this Coalport Yard. Following the demise of the Penn-Central Railroad, the line was transferred to Conrail in 1976. Much of the Bordentown Secondary was subsequently purchased by the New Jersey Transit Corporation in 1999 for the River LINE light rail service between Camden and Trenton and which now terminates at the Trenton Transit Center. The line was largely removed north of Trenton, with the exception of areas such as the project site. Conrail retains trackage rights over the line.

Permit Conditions: The project allowed by this authorization shall comply with the following conditions. Failure to comply with these conditions shall constitute a violation of the “Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park Law of 1974” (N.J.S.A. 13:13A-1 et seq.).

1. This authorization is valid for five years from the date of this letter unless more stringent standards are adopted by rules prior to this date.
2. The project as described shall be constructed and/or executed in conformity with the application.
3. No change in plans or specifications shall be made except with prior written permission from the Commission.
4. The permittee shall allow the Commission the right to inspect the construction site and shall provide the Commission with written notification seven days prior to the start of the authorized work.

DRCC#: 23-6035

4

DATE: July 26, 2023

PROJECT NAME: NJDOT Conrail Bordentown Secondary at Enterprise (cont.)

5. A complete, legible copy of this permit shall be kept at the work site and shall be exhibited upon request of any person.
6. The issuance of this permit shall not be deemed to affect in any way other actions by the Commission on any future application.
7. The issuance of this permit shall be conditioned upon State Register review by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) under the "New Jersey Register of Historic Places Act," N.J.S.A. 13:1B-15.128 et seq. for the portion of the project located within the boundaries of the Camden and Amboy Branch Line Historic District.

Expiration Date: July 26, 2028.

Appeal of Decision: In accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:45- 7.1, any person who is aggrieved by this decision may request a hearing within 30 days of the date of decision.

If you have any questions regarding this authorization, please contact the Commission at (609) 397-2000 and reference the above file number.

Sincerely,



John Hutchison
Executive Director

- c. Mercer County Planning Board
Trenton City Planning Board
Jesse West-Rosenthal, Ph.D., Historic Preservation Analyst 2, DEP/SHPO