


**EMPLOYER STATUS DETERMINATION**  
**Aroostook Valley Railroad Company**

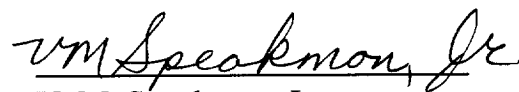
OCT 30 1997

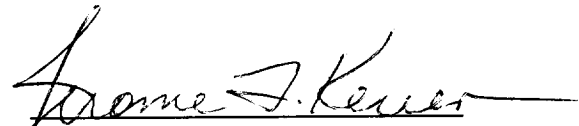
This is the decision of the Railroad Retirement Board concerning the continuing status of Aroostook Valley Railroad Company (Aroostook) (BA No. 2108) as an employer under the Railroad Retirement Act (45 U.S.C. §231 et seq.) (RRA) and the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act (45 U.S.C. §351 et seq.) (RUIA). Aroostook has been an employer under the Acts, with service creditable from July 2, 1902.

Information provided by Mr. Thomas B. Bamford, President and Treasurer of Aroostook, indicates that Aroostook ceased operations on April 26, 1996, and last compensated employees in July 1996. Mr. Bamford stated that Aroostook is in the final stages of liquidation. The railroad operating equipment has been sold to a private collector. In STB Docket No. AB-42 (Sub-No. 3X), the Surface Transportation Board (STB) granted Aroostook an exemption from prior approval requirements for the abandonment of its entire line of railroad. That exemption took effect June 5, 1997. Mr. Bamford indicated that Aroostook ceased to have a relationship with the railroad industry effective June 17, 1997, the date that the STB was notified that the abandonment was completed. After giving that notice, Aroostook sold its remaining tracks and right-of-way to the City of Presque Isle, Maine. Mr. Bamford stated that there were no protection agreements for former employees.

Based upon the information summarized above, the Board finds that Aroostook ceased to be an employer under the RRA and the RUIA on June 17, 1997, the date on which the STB was notified that Aroostook's abandonment of its entire line of railroad was completed.

  
Glen L. Bower

  
V. M. Speakman, Jr.

  
Jerome F. Kever