



Western Carolina Railway Service Corporation has filed a Motion to Reconsider with the U.S. Surface Transportation Board.

On March 15, the transportation board ordered Greenville County Economic Development Corporation to sell Western Carolina an 11.8 mile rail corridor between Greenville and Travelers Rest for \$738,000.

Western Carolina had offered \$46,268 for the rail line, while the county's corporation was asking \$1.2 million.

In a public statement, Western Carolina's President Steven Hawkins said the motion was filed because the corporation failed to provide certain evidence in its filing, as required by law.

Hawkins is asking the transportation board to reconsider the case, lowering the price if there is to be no guarantee of title or requiring the corporation to indemnify Western Carolina against title defect if the price remains the same.

He said his company needs clarification on the quality of title to property along the rail right-of-way before making a commitment to purchase the line at that price set by the transportation board.

Hawkins' offer was based on his research that showed most of the property in the corridor was held in easements rather than deeds. But the transportation board sided with the corporation, agreeing it owned most of the property in question.

"Certification of title is generally required in any real estate transaction and to secure financing when the real estate is to be collateral," said Hawkins.

The line has been out of service since 1998. Hawkins has secured an investor to make up to \$5 million in improvements and restore service.