

Demolition of Hojack span still uncertain

BY STAFF WRITER
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No benefactor has stepped forward to save the Hojack swing bridge, CSX Transportation officials said Monday.

However, the former railroad bridge won't be dismantled in April, as the company earlier suggested, because the demolition must meet with state approval.

The US. Coast Guard has told CSX that the 98-year-old steel, bridge near the mouth of the Genesee River in Charlotte must be removed because it is not being used. The turntable-type bridge, which used to rotate to let boats pass, also has fallen into disrepair and is permanently in the open position.

CSX imposed a March 5 deadline for an individual or group to step forward with a plan to save the span. But the only group to come forward was The Bridge Project, a grassroots effort without financial resources, said John Casellini, CSX's resident, vice president for state relations.

Linda Vera, a spokeswoman with the state Department of Environmen-

tal Conservation's regional office in Avon, Livingston County, said the state agency has not yet received an application to take down the bridge. The DEC will make sure that environmental and preservation reviews take place, she said.

Public hearings also may be held, she added.

CSX spokesman Bob Sullivan said the company hopes to remove the bridge this year.

The bridge has a loyal following of people who want to see it preserved.

"It is a historic bridge and it does have some potential uses," said Richard Margolis, a local photographer who helped launch The Bridge Project. CSX has not helped find a buyer for the bridge, he added.

The Coast Guard, the US. Army Corps of Engineers, the city of Rochester and ESSROC Materials Inc., the owner of the Stephen B. Roman, the last freighter to cruise the river, have said they favor removing the bridge. O

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For information on
Margolis' group, visit:

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