



HIGH GREEN



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The End of the Line in Altoona



Conrail inherited over 4,000 diesels when it was formed on April 1, 1976. Many of these diesels were built between the 1950s and the 1970s and were essentially worn out by the time Conrail received them. During the early days of Conrail newly appointed managers were directed to determine which diesels were the most reliable and best qualified to be included in the new fleet. Most of the older passenger diesels were eliminated early in the process and stored at several Conrail yards to be scrapped. Many of the passenger diesels ended up at the Altoona, PA, yard which included former Erie Lackawanna, Penn Central, New York Central and Amtrak EMD E8s. During a visit to the Altoona yard on May 21, 1977 there were over 20 E8s in the dead line, including these four ex-Erie Lackawanna units. It was rather sad to know they were going to be scrapped since they looked nice in their fresh grey, maroon and yellow paint scheme. *Alex Mayes photo*