

SERVICE DATE – MAY 17, 2023

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
WASHINGTON, DC 20423**

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Docket No. AB 1316X

GNP RLY, INC. - Abandonment Exemption – in King County, Wash.

ABANDONMENT TYPE

The time for comments on the Draft Environmental Assessment (Draft EA) has expired in this:
(X) Notice of Exemption () Petition for Exemption () Regulated Abandonment

(X) NO NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED

() NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED

In this proceeding, GNP RLY, Inc. (GNP) filed a notice of exemption with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) under 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50 seeking exemption from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. § 10903 to abandon a line of railroad in Woodinville, King County, Washington. The segment of rail line to be abandoned extends 2.38 miles between mileposts 23.8 and 26.38 in Woodinville, including a spur that extends approximately 3,100 feet into the City of Bothell, Washington (the Line). The Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) served a Draft EA for this proceeding on April 25, 2023 for public review and comment. In the Draft EA, OEA recommended one environmental condition and concluded that the proposed action would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment.

Conclusions

The Draft EA comment period has ended. Accordingly, OEA recommends that the following condition previously recommended in the Draft EA should be imposed upon any decision granting abandonment authority:¹

1. In the event that any unanticipated archaeological sites, human remains, funerary items or associated artifacts are discovered during the railroad's abandonment-related salvage activities, GNP RLY, Inc. (GNP) shall immediately cease all work and notify the Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA), interested federally recognized tribes, and the

¹ If an interim trail use agreement under 16 U.S.C. § 1247(d) and 49 C.F.R. § 1152.29 is reached for the Line (or a portion thereof), compliance with this condition is not required with respect to any portion of the Line covered by the interim trail use agreement for the duration of the agreement.

Washington Department of Archeology & Historic Preservation (SHPO) pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 800.13(b). OEA will then consult with the SHPO, interested federally recognized tribes, GNP, and other consulting parties, if any, to determine whether appropriate mitigation measures are necessary.

If the above condition is imposed, OEA believes that the proposed action will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

By the Board, Danielle Gosselin, Director, Office of Environmental Analysis.