

H E0-2825

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN
DOCKET NO. AB 290 (SUB-NO. 386X)

August 30, 2016

ABANDONMENT TYPE

The time for comments on the Environmental Assessment (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, Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSR) filed a notice under 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50 seeking exemption from the requirements of 49 U.S.C. § 10903 in connection with the abandonment of 1.97 miles of rail line located between milepost SC 0.33 and milepost SC 2.3 in Charleston, South Carolina. The Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) served an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proceeding on August 12, 2016 for public review and comment. In the EA, OEA recommended three environmental conditions and concluded that the proposed action would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment.

Conclusions

The EA comment period has ended. Accordingly, OEA recommends that the following three conditions should be imposed upon any decision granting abandonment authority. The conditions are:

1. Prior to beginning any salvage activities, Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSR) shall consult with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, Bureau of Water Pollution Control, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management to determine whether state coastal management consistency certification is required, pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act (16 U.S.C. § 1451 *et seq.*). NSR may not file its consummation notice or initiate any salvage activities related to abandonment (including removal of tracks and ties) until it reports the results of these consultations in writing to the Surface Transportation Board's (Board) Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) and the Board has removed this condition.
2. NSR shall consult with the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) and notify NGS at least 90 days prior to beginning salvage activities that will disturb or destroy any geodetic station markers.

3. NSR shall retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the historic integrity of all historic properties including sites, buildings, structures, and objects within the project right-of-way (the Area of Potential Effect) that are eligible for listing or listed in the National Register of Historic Places until the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act, 54 U.S.C. § 306108, has been completed. NSR shall report back to OEA regarding any consultations with the South Carolina Department of Archives and History (State Historic Preservation Office or SHPO) and the public. NSR may not file its consummation notice or initiate any salvage activities related to abandonment (including removal of tracks and ties) until the Section 106 process has been completed and the Board has removed this condition.

OEA concludes that if the above conditions are imposed, the proposed action would not significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

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