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OEA

SERVICE DATE – DECEMBER 29, 2025

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
WASHINGTON, DC 20423**

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

**Docket No. AB 312 (Sub-No. 6X)
South Carolina Central Railroad Company, LLC – Abandonment Exemption –
In Muscogee County, Ga.**

And

**Docket No. AB 1000 (Sub-No. 5X)
Georgia Southwestern Railroad, Inc. – Discontinuance Exemption –
In Muscogee County, Ga.**

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, South Carolina Central Railroad Company, LLC (SCRF) and Georgia Southwestern Railroad, Inc. (GSRW) jointly filed a notice of exemption with the Surface Transportation Board under 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50 seeking exemption from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. § 10903 for SCRF to abandon a freight rail easement and GSRW to discontinue service in connection with a line of railroad in Muscogee County, Georgia. The rail line proposed for abandonment extends approximately 2.17 miles and consists of two connected rail segments. The first segment, known as the Dummy Line, extends from MP 0.60/Value Station 91+21 northeast of the 6th Street and 6th Avenue intersection to Value Station 41+60 southwest of the West 8th Street and Front Street intersection; the second segment, known as the Georgia Power Lead Track, extends from Value Station 0+00/59+79 northwest of the 6th Street and Front Street intersection to Value Station 41+61 south of the Columbus Civic Center in Columbus, GA (the Line). The Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) served a Draft EA for this proceeding on December 8, 2025, for public review and comment. In the Draft EA, OEA recommended two environmental condition(s) and concluded that the proposed abandonment would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment.

Conclusions

The Draft EA comment period has ended. Accordingly, OEA recommends that the following conditions previously recommended in the Draft EA should be imposed upon any

decision granting abandonment authority:¹

1. Prior to commencement of any abandonment-related salvage activities, South Carolina Central Railroad Company, LLC shall consult with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GA EPD) to ensure appropriate consideration of National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits and comply with any reasonable requirements.
2. South Carolina Central Railroad Company, LLC (SCRF) 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, or APE) 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. SCRF shall report back to the Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) regarding any consultation with the Georgia State Historic Preservation Office and any other Section 106 consulting parties that have been identified and the public. SCRF 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 the condition.

If the above conditions are 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.

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 these conditions is not required with respect to any portion of the Line covered by the interim trail use agreement for the duration of the agreement.