

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN DOCKET NO. AB 55 (Sub-No. 773X)

October 13, 2017

ABANDONMENT TYPE

The time for comments on the Environmental Assessment (EA) has expired in this:

() Notice of Exemption (X) Petition for Exemption () Regulated Abandonment

() **NO NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED**

(X) **NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED**

OEA served an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proceeding on September 15, 2017 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.

Comments on the EA

OEA received three comments after issuance of the EA. CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT) submitted a comment from the Kentucky State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) stating that no historic resources would be affected by the proposed abandonment and therefore no archeological or cultural survey is required. Accordingly, OEA is no longer recommending that the Section 106 condition in the EA be imposed upon any decision granting abandonment authority.

CSXT also submitted a comment from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) stating that because the proposed abandonment would not involve the discharge of dredge or fill material, a Department of Army permit is not required. Accordingly, OEA is no longer recommending that the condition in the EA requiring CSXT to consult with the Corps be imposed upon any decision granting abandonment authority.

Finally, CSXT submitted a list of JDL Coal permit numbers for the Creech, KY mine and the Mine Safety and Health Administration Identification numbers for JRL Coal. Accordingly, OEA is no longer recommending that the condition in the EA requiring CSXT to consult with federal and state agencies to ensure that the surface coal mining operation is in compliance be imposed upon any decision granting abandonment authority.

Conclusions

The EA comment period has ended and no conditions are recommended by OEA. Accordingly, OEA believes that the proposed action will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

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