

EO 1327
Troy

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
SECTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

POST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN STB DOCKET NO. AB-6 (Sub No. 468X)

November 12, 2009

ABANDONMENT TYPE

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

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

(X) NO NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED

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SEA served an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proceeding on October 9, 2009, for public review and comment. In the EA, SEA recommended four 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, SEA recommends that the following four environmental conditions be imposed upon any decision granting abandonment authority. The condition is:

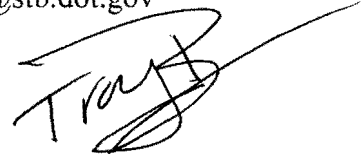
1. **BNSF Railway Company shall retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the historic integrity of all historic properties including sites, buildings, structures, and objects within the project right-of-way (the Area of Potential Effect) that are eligible for listing or listed in the National Register of Historic Places until the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 470f, has been completed. BNSF Railway Company shall report back to the Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) regarding any consultations with the Idaho State Historical Society, Historic Preservation Office and the public. BNSF Railway Company 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.**
2. **Prior to commencement of any salvage activities, BNSF Railway Company shall consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Idaho Field Office (USFWS) to assess potential impacts to the Bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*), a Federally listed threatened species, and identify any appropriate mitigation measures that may be**

warranted. BNSF Railway Company shall report the results of the USFWS consultations to the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis in writing prior to the onset of salvage operations.

3. Prior to commencement of any salvage activities, BNSF Railway Company shall consult with the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, Remediation Section to ensure that any concerns regarding potential contamination of the right-of-way are addressed. BNSF Railway Company shall report the results of these consultations in writing to the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis prior to the onset of salvage operations.
4. BNSF Railway Company shall consult with the National Geodetic Survey at least 90 days prior to the beginning of salvage activities that will disturb or destroy any geodetic station markers.

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

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Troy Brady", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.