

80
1187

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
SECTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

POST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN STB DOCKET NO. AB-33 (Sub No. 272X)

April 16, 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

() NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED

SEA served an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proceeding on March 13, 2009, for public review and comment. In the EA, SEA 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, SEA recommends that the three environmental conditions recommended in the EA should be imposed upon any decision granting abandonment authority. The conditions are:

1. **The Union Pacific Railroad Company shall notify the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) at least 90 days prior to beginning salvage activities in order to plan for the possible relocation of the geodetic station marker by NGS.**
2. **The Union Pacific Railroad 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. The Union Pacific Railroad Company shall report back to the Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) regarding any consultations with the Idaho Historical Society and the public. The Union Pacific Railroad 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.**

3. **Prior to commencement of any salvage activities, the Union Pacific Railroad Company shall consult with the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality to ensure that any concerns regarding potential contamination of the right-of-way are addressed. The Union Pacific Railroad 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.**

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

SEA CONTACT: Troy Brady – (202) 245-0301 or Troy.Brady@stb.dot.gov