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OEA

SERVICE DATE – JULY 17, 2020

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
WASHINGTON, DC 20423

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Docket No. AB 55 (Sub-No. 801X)

**CSX Transportation, Inc. – Abandonment Exemption – in Greenbrier and Fayette
Counties, W. Va.**

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, CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT) filed a notice under 49 U.S.C § 1152.50 seeking exemption from the requirements of 49 U.S.C. § 10903 to abandon approximately 6.39 miles of rail line in Greenbrier and Fayette Counties near Rainelle, West Virginia. The 6.39 miles of rail line proposed for abandonment extends from milepost CAF 20.61 to milepost CAF 27.0 (the Line). OEA served a Draft Environmental Assessment (Draft EA) on June 26, 2020 for public review and comment. In the Draft EA, OEA recommended two environmental conditions and concluded that the proposed action would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment.

Modifications to the Draft EA

Upon further independent review, OEA recommends revising the two conditions in the Draft EA by adding “abandonment-related” before “salvage activities” to clarify that the conditions only apply to salvage related to the abandonment. These modifications are reflected in the conditions set forth the below.

Conclusions

The EA comment period has ended. Accordingly, OEA recommends that the following conditions, as modified by the recommendations in this document, should be imposed upon any decision granting abandonment authority:¹

¹ If an interim trail use agreement under 16 U.S.C. § 1247(d) and 49 C.F.R. § 1152.29 were to be reached for the Line (or a portion thereof), compliance with these conditions would

1. Prior to commencement of any abandonment-related salvage activities, CSX Transportation, Inc. shall consult with the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Water and Waste Management to address any required permits.
2. CSXT Transportation, Inc. shall notify the National Geodetic Survey at NGS.Infocenter@noaa.gov at least 90 days prior to beginning abandonment-related salvage activities.

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, Victoria Rutson, Director, Office of Environmental Analysis.

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