

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
WASHINGTON, DC 20423
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Docket No. AB 290 (Sub-No. 407X)

**Norfolk Southern Railway Company – Abandonment Exemption –
in Bergen County, N.J.**

ABANDONMENT TYPE

The time for comments on the Draft Environmental Assessment (Draft EA) has expired in this:
() Notice of Exemption (X) Petition for Exemption () Regulated Abandonment

(X) NO NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED

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In this proceeding, Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSR) filed a petition under 49 U.S.C. § 10502 seeking exemption from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. § 10903 in connection with the abandonment of a line of railroad in Bergen County, New Jersey. The rail line proposed for abandonment extends approximately 1.2 miles from Milepost UQ 9.0 to Milepost UQ 10.2 (the Line). OEA served a Draft EA for this proceeding on December 11, 2020 for public review and comment. In the Draft EA, OEA recommended one environmental condition and concluded that the proposed action would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment.

Conclusions

The Draft EA comment period has ended. Accordingly, OEA recommends that the following condition previously recommended in the Draft EA should be imposed upon any decision granting abandonment authority:¹

Pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act (16 U.S.C. § 1451 *et seq.*) and the Board's environmental regulations at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.9, Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSR) shall consult with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Coastal Management Program and obtain state coastal management consistency

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

certification, if necessary. NSR may not file its consummation notice or initiate any salvage activities related to abandonment (including removal of tracks and ties) until it reports the results of these consultations in writing to the Board's Office of Environmental Analysis and the Board has removed this condition.

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

By the Board, Danielle Gosselin, Acting Director, Office of Environmental Analysis.