

ED-1074

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
SECTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

POST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN STB DOCKET NO. AB-6 (Sub-No. 464X)

21 October 2008

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**

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SEA served an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proceeding on October 3, 2008 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 following environmental conditions previously recommended in the EA should be imposed upon any decision granting abandonment authority.

1. BNSF Railway Company shall consult with the Washington Department of Ecology prior to conducting any salvage activities along the line regarding possible impacts of abandonment activities on wetlands located along the line and to ensure compliance with National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permitting requirements.
2. BNSF Railway Company shall consult with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) prior to conducting any salvage activities along the line regarding possible impacts of abandonment activities to water bodies and wetlands and to ensure compliance with Corps permitting requirements.
3. 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 regarding any consultations with the Washington State Historic Preservation Officer 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.

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

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