

POST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN
STB DOCKET NO. AB-6 (Sub-No. 469X)

November 16, 2009

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

SEA served an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proceeding on October 27, 2009 for public review and comment. In the EA, SEA recommended two (2) environmental conditions and concluded that the proposed action would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment.

Comments on the EA

SEA has not received any new comments following the issuance of the EA.

Modifications to the EA

Not applicable.

Conclusions

Based on the information received in this proceeding, SEA recommends that the following two conditions previously recommended in the EA should be imposed upon any decision granting abandonment authority:

1. Prior to beginning any salvage activities, or consummation of the abandonment if salvage does not occur, the BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) shall consult with the City of Tacoma, Community and Economic Development Department, to determine if the proposed abandonment is consistent with the City's proposed multi-use trail/park in the Union Station Conservation District as envisioned in its comprehensive plan. BNSF shall report the results of the discussions with the City back to the Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) in writing.

2. Prior to beginning any salvage activities, or consummation of the abandonment if salvage does not occur, BNSF shall consult with the Washington State Department of Ecology, Shoreland and Coastal Zone Management Program to determine whether state coastal management consistency certification is required. If consistency certification is required, BNSF shall be prohibited from performing any salvage activities until it obtains consistency certification and shall then notify the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis, pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq. and the Board's environmental regulations at 49 CFR 1105.9.

SEA CONTACT:

Diana Wood 
202-245-0302
woodd@stb.dot.gov

Distribution:

Ann Newman, Office of Proceedings
SEA Chron
ECT