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OEA

SERVICE DATE – JUNE 11, 2020

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
WASHINGTON, DC 20423**

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Docket No. AB 55 (Sub-No. 799X)

**CSX Transportation, Inc. – Abandonment Exemption –
In Dickenson County, Va.**

ABANDONMENT TYPE

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

(X) NO NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED

() NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED

OEA served a Draft EA for this proceeding on May 22, 2020 for public review and comment. In the Draft EA, OEA recommended three environmental conditions 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 conditions previously recommended in the Draft EA should be imposed upon any decision granting abandonment authority:¹

- 1. Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. § 1535), CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT) shall consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Board's Office of Environmental Analysis to address concerns about potential impacts to the big sandy crayfish (*Cambarus callainus*) and to develop appropriate mitigation measures, if necessary. CSXT may not file its consummation notice or initiate any salvage activities related to abandonment (including removal of tracks and ties) until the Section 7 consultation process is complete and the Board has removed this condition.**

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

- 2. CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT) 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, 54 U.S.C. § 306108, has been completed. CSXT shall report back to the Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) regarding any consultations with the SHPO and the public. CSXT 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. CSX Transportation, Inc. shall notify the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) at NGS.Infocenter@noaa.gov at least 90 days prior to beginning 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.