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OEA

SERVICE DATE – MARCH 18, 2022

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
WASHINGTON, DC 20423**

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Docket No. AB 55 (Sub-No. 806X)

**CSX Transportation, Limited Partnership - Abandonment Exemption –
In Erie County, Pa.**

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

() NO NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED

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In this proceeding, CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT), filed a notice of exemption under 49 U.S.C. § 1152.50 seeking exemption from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. § 10903 in connection with the abandonment of a line of railroad in Erie County, Pennsylvania. The rail line proposed for abandonment is a 0.5-mile rail line that runs between Val Sta. 1576+25 and Val Sta. 170+35 on its Great Lakes Division, Erie West Subdivision, in Erie County, PA (the Line). Two road crossings at State Street and Holland Street would likely be closed. The Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) served a Draft EA for this proceeding on February 25, 2022 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.

The Draft EA comment period has ended. OEA received two comments after issuance of the Draft EA. Several agencies provided a review of potential impacts to threatened and endangered or special concern species through the Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) (PNDI-753193) online system on February 23, 2022. Through PDNI, the following agencies indicated that no further review would be required: PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the PA Fish and Boat Commission, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. On March 3, 2022 the PA Game Commission completed its review and determined No Impact Anticipated. Therefore, no additional mitigation is required.

Accordingly, OEA recommends that the following conditions previously recommended in the Draft EA 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 is reached for the Line (or a portion thereof), compliance with this condition is not required with

- To ensure appropriate consideration of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements, the railroad shall consult with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection prior to commencement of any abandonment-related salvage activities and shall comply with the reasonable NPDES requirements.
- 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, CSXT shall consult with the Pennsylvania Coastal Resources Management Program and obtain state coastal management consistency certification. CSXT 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 conditions are imposed, OEA believes that the proposed action will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

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

respect to any portion of the Line covered by the interim trail use agreement for the duration of the agreement.