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December 18, 2018

Ms. Victoria Rutson
Director, Office of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
December 18, 2018
Part of
Public Record

Re: **Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 787X), CSX Transportation, Inc.—Abandonment
Exemption—in Bronx County, NY**

Dear Ms. Rutson:

On or about December 18, 2018, we expect to be filing with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB"), a Verified Notice of Exemption for CSX Transportation, Inc. ("CSXT") to abandon an approximately 1.8-mile rail line on its Port Morris Branch, Albany Division between milepost QVP 0.0 and milepost QVP 1.8 all in Bronx County, NY.

Enclosed for electronic filing is the Combined Environmental and Historic Report ("CEHT") which describes the proposed action and any expected environmental and/or historical effects, as well as maps of the affected area. A draft CEHR was mailed via first class mail to the parties required under 49 C.F.R. 1105.7 and under 49 C.F.R. 1105.8(c) on November 27, 2018.

Thank you for your assistance. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely yours,



Melanie B. Yasbin
Attorney for CSX Transportation, Inc.

Enclosure

COMBINED ENVIRONMENTAL AND HISTORIC REPORT (“CEHR”)
(49 C.F.R. 1105.7 and 1105.8)

Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 787X)

CSX TRANSPORTATION, INC.–ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION–
IN BRONX COUNTY, NY

Dated: December 18, 2018

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

(1) Proposed Action and Alternatives. Describe the proposed action, including commodities transported, the planned disposition (if any) of any rail line and other structures that may be involved, and any possible changes in current operations or maintenance practices. Also describe any reasonable alternatives to the proposed action. Include a readable, detailed map and drawings clearly delineating the project.

CSX Transportation, Inc., (“CSXT”) proposes to abandon the approximately 1.8-mile rail line on its Port Morris Branch, Albany Division between mileposts QVP 0.0 and milepost QVP 1.8 in Bronx County, NY (the “Line”). The Line runs through the U.S. Postal Zip Codes 10456, 10455 and 10454.

Abandonment of the Line will result in the removal of the remaining rail and crossties, if any, and possibly the upper layer of ballast. The operations and maintenance of the Line will cease. In a decision served by the Surface Transportation Board (the “Board”) on March 18, 2003 in STB Docket Nos. AB-565 (Sub-No. 13X) and AB-55 (Sub-No. 628X), New York Central Lines, LLC (“NYC”) was granted authority to abandon and CSXT was granted authority to discontinue service over the Line. In a decision served on April 17, 2003, a Finding of No Significant Impact under 49 CFR 1105.10(g) was made pursuant to 49 CFR 1011.7(b)(9) and no environmental conditions were imposed. NYC and CSXT did not consummate the authority granted to them. In the ensuing years, NYC was merged, through a corporate family transaction, into CSXT. CSXT is seeking renewed authority to abandon the Line.

The only alternative to a full abandonment would be for CSXT not to abandon the Line.

A map of the proposed abandonment is attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

(2) Transportation System. Describe the effects of the proposed action on regional or local transportation systems and patterns. Estimate the amount of traffic (passenger or freight) that will be diverted to other transportation systems or modes as a result of the proposed action.

There is no passenger traffic on the Line to be diverted to other modes as a result of the proposed abandonment. There is no freight traffic on the Line to be diverted to motor carrier. The proposed abandonment should have no adverse effects on regional or local highway systems and traffic patterns.

(3) Land Use. (i) Based on consultation with local and/or regional planning agencies and/or a review of the official planning documents prepared by such agencies, state whether the proposed action is consistent with existing land use plans. Describe any inconsistencies. (ii) Based on consultation with the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, state the effect of the proposed action on any prime agricultural land. (iii) If the action affects land or water uses within a designated coastal zone, include the coastal zone information required by 1105.9. (iv) If the proposed action is an abandonment, state whether or not the right-of-way is suitable for alternative public use under 49 U.S.C. § 10905 and explain why.

(i) CSXT considers the proposed abandonment of the Line to be consistent with existing land use plans. CSXT notified Bronx County by letter dated November 27, 2018 (See Exhibit 2) requesting comments and included a copy of the preliminary CEHR. A copy of the Preliminary CEHR was also mailed to the appropriate local and state agencies for their information and further comment. No comments have been received to date.

(ii) CSXT does not believe that there is any prime agricultural land that will be affected. CSXT notified the United States Department of Agriculture ("USDA") Natural Resources Conservation Service (the agency succeeding to the responsibilities of the Soil Conservation Service) of the proposed abandonment by letter dated November 27, 2018 (See Exhibit 2) requesting comments and included a copy of the preliminary CEHR. No comments have been received to date.

(iii) CSXT notified the Coastal Management Program by letter dated November 27, 2018

(See Exhibit 2) requesting comments and including a copy of this preliminary CEHR.

(iv) CSXT believes the Line would not be suitable for interim trail use/rail banking.

(4) Energy. (i) Describe the effect of the proposed action on transportation of energy resources. (ii) Describe the effect of the proposed action on recyclable commodities. (iii) State whether the proposed action will result in an increase or decrease in overall energy efficiency and explain why. (iv) If the proposed action will cause diversions from rail to motor carriage of more than: (A) 1,000 rail carloads a year; or (B) an average of 50 rail carloads per mile per year for any part of the affected line, quantify the resulting net change in energy consumption and show the data and methodology used to arrive at the figure given.

(i) The proposed abandonment will have no affect the ability to transport energy resources.

(ii) The proposed abandonment will have no effect on the transportation of recyclable commodities.

(iii) The proposed abandonment will not change the use of railroad transportation over the line as CSX doesn't currently ship over the line.

(iv) The proposed abandonment will not cause the diversion of more than 1,000 rail carloads a year; or an average of 50 rail carloads per mile per year for any part of the line segments of rail traffic to motor carriage.

(5) Air. (i) If the proposed action will result in either: (A) An increase in rail traffic of at least 100 percent (measured in gross ton miles annually) or an increase of at least eight trains a day on any segment of rail line affected by the proposal, or (B) an increase in rail yard activity of at least 100 percent (measured by carload activity), or (C) an average increase in truck traffic of more than 10 percent of the average daily traffic or 50 vehicles a day on any affected road segment, quantify the anticipated effect on air emissions. For a proposal under 49 U.S.C. § 10901 (or § 10505) to construct a new line or reinstitute service over a previously abandoned line, only the eight train a day provision in sub-section (5)(i)(A) will apply. (ii) If the proposed action affects a class I or nonattainment area under the Clean Air Act, and will result in either: (A) an increase in rail traffic of at least 50 percent (measured in gross ton miles annually) or an increase of at least three trains a day on any segment of rail line; (B) an increase in rail yard activity of at least 20 percent (measured by carload activity); or (C) an average increase in truck traffic of more than 10 percent of the average daily traffic or 50 vehicles a day on a given road segment, then state whether any expected increased emissions are within the parameters

established by the State Implementation Plan. However, for a rail construction under 49 U.S.C. § 10901 (or 49 U.S.C. § 10505), or a case involving the reinstitution of service over a previously abandoned line, only the three train a day threshold in this item shall apply. (iii) If transportation of ozone depleting materials (such as nitrogen oxide and freon) is contemplated, identify: the materials and quantity; the frequency of service; safety practices (including any speed restrictions); the applicant's safety record (to the extent available) on derailments, accidents and spills; contingency plans to deal with accidental spills; and the likelihood of an accidental release of ozone depleting materials in the event of a collision or derailment.

(i) The proposed abandonment will not result in meeting or exceeding the specified thresholds.

(ii) The proposed abandonment will not result in meeting or exceeding the specified thresholds.

(iii) The proposed abandonment will not affect the transportation of ozone depleting materials.

(6) Noise. If any of the thresholds identified in item (5)(i) of this section are surpassed, state whether the proposed action will cause: (i) an incremental increase in noise levels of three decibels Ldn or more; or (ii) an increase to a noise level of 65 decibels Ldn or greater. If so, identify sensitive receptors (e.g., schools, libraries, hospitals, residences, retirement communities, and nursing homes) in the project area, and quantify the noise increase for these receptors if the thresholds are surpassed.

Not applicable.

(7) Safety. (i) Describe any effects of the proposed action on public health and safety (including vehicle delay time at railroad grade crossings). (ii) If hazardous materials are expected to be transported, identify: the materials and quantity; the frequency of service; whether chemicals are being transported that, if mixed, could react to form more hazardous compounds; safety practices (including any speed restrictions); the applicant's safety record (to the extent available) on derailments, accidents and hazardous spills; the contingency plans to deal with accidental spills; and the likelihood of an accidental release of hazardous materials. (iii) If there are any known hazardous waste sites or sites where there have been known hazardous materials spills on the right-of-way, identify the location of those sites and the types of hazardous materials involved.

(i) The proposed abandonment will have no detrimental effects on public health and safety. There are no public or private crossings on the Line.

(ii) The proposed abandonment will not affect the transportation of hazardous materials.

(iii) CSXT is not aware of any known hazardous waste sites or sites where there have been known hazardous materials spills on the Line.

(8) Biological Resources. (i) Based on consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, state whether the proposed action is likely to adversely affect endangered or threatened species or areas designated as a critical habitat, and if so, describe the effects. (ii) State whether wildlife sanctuaries or refuges, National or State parks or forests will be affected, and describe any effects.

(i) CSXT does not believe that the proposed action is likely to adversely affect endangered or threatened species or areas designated as a critical habitat. CSXT has notified the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (“USF&W”) of the proposed abandonment by letter dated November 27, 2018 (See Exhibit 2) requesting assistance in determining whether the proposed abandonment will adversely affect endangered or threatened species or areas designated as a critical habitat and included a copy of the preliminary CEHR. No comments have been received to date.

(ii) CSXT does not believe any wildlife sanctuaries or refuges, National or State parks or forests would be adversely affected by the proposed abandonment.

CSXT has notified the National Parks Service of the proposed abandonment by letter dated November 27, 2018 (See Exhibit 2) requesting assistance in identifying any potential effects on wildlife sanctuaries or refuges, National or State parks or forests and included a copy of the preliminary CEHR. No comments have been received to date.

(9) Water. (i) Based on consultation with State water quality officials, state whether the proposed action is consistent with applicable Federal, State or local water quality standards. Describe any inconsistencies. (ii) Based on consultation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, state whether permits under section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1344) are required for the proposed action and whether any designated wetlands or 100-year flood plains will be affected. Describe the effects. (iii) State whether permits under section 402 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1342) are required for the proposed action.

(i) CSXT is confident that the proposed abandonment will be consistent with applicable water quality standards. CSXT notified the State Environmental Protection Agency (“SEPA”), and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (“USEPA”) by letters dated November 27, 2018 (*See Exhibit 2*) requesting assistance in identifying any potential effects on water quality standards and included a copy of the preliminary CEHR. By email dated December 12, 2018, USEPA noted that the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has a federally approved State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System program for permitting the control of surface wastewater and storm water discharges under Section 402 of the Clean Water Act. No other comments have been received to date.

(ii) CSXT believes that no permits under section 404 of the Clean Water Act are required for the proposed abandonment and that no designated wetlands or 100-year flood plains will be affected by the proposed abandonment. Upon receiving abandonment authority, removal of material will be accomplished by use of the right-of-way for access. No new access roads are contemplated. CSXT does not intend to disturb any of the underlying roadbed or perform any activities that would cause sedimentation or erosion of the soil, and does not anticipate any dredging or use of fill in the removal of the track material. CSXT will transport crossties and/or other debris away from the Line and will not discard them along the right-of-way or place or leave them in streams or wetlands, or along the banks of such waterways. Also, during track removal, appropriate measures will be implemented to prevent or control spills from fuels, lubricants or any other pollutant materials from entering any waterways. Based upon this course of action, CSXT does not believe a permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act will be required.

CSXT notified the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers by letter dated November 27, 2018 (See Exhibit 2) requesting assistance in identifying whether permits under section 404 of the Clean Water Act are required for the proposed abandonment and that no designated wetlands or 100-year flood plains will be affected by the proposed abandonment and included a copy of the preliminary CEHR. No comments have been received to date.

(iii) CSXT believes that no permit under section 402 of the Clean Water Act would be required for the abandonment. CSXT notified the SEPA and the USEPA by letter dated November 27, 2018 (See Exhibit 2) requesting assistance in identifying whether permit under section 402 of the Clean Water Act would be required for the abandonment and included a copy of the preliminary CEHR. No comments have been received to date.

(10) Proposed Mitigation. Describe any actions that are proposed to mitigate adverse environmental impacts, indicating why the proposed mitigation is appropriate.

CSXT does not expect any adverse environmental impact from the proposed abandonment and, therefore, sees no need for any mitigating actions. CSXT will, of course, adhere to any remedial actions required by the Board.

HISTORIC REPORT

1. A U.S.G.S. topographic map (or alternate map drawn to scale and sufficiently detailed to show buildings and other structures in the vicinity of the proposed action) showing the location of the proposed action, and the locations and approximate dimensions of railroad structures that are 50 years old or older and are part of the proposed action;

U.S. Geological Survey Maps have been supplied to the State Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation (*See Exhibit 3*) along with this preliminary CEHR.

2. A written description of the right of way (including approximate widths, to the extent known), and the topography and urban and/or rural characteristics of the surrounding area;

The operating easement right of way width along this line is approximately 25 feet from the center-line of track. The rail line is sub-highway grade and traverses many tunnels through a highly urbanized area.

3. Good quality photographs (actual photographic prints, not photocopies) of railroad structures on the property that are 50 years old or older and of the immediately surrounding area;

There are no CSXT owned structures that are 50 years old or older than are eligible for listing in the National Register that are part of the proposed action.

4. The date(s) of construction of the structure(s), and the date(s) and extent of any major alterations, to the extent such information is known;

Not applicable.

5. A brief narrative history of carrier operations in the area, and an explanation of what, if any, changes are contemplated as a result of the proposed action;

The Line was originally acquired by the New York & Harlem Railroad (NY&HR) between 1880 and 1913. The NY&HR was chartered in 1831. The Line was operated from inception by the New York Central Railroad (NYC).

The New York Central Railroad was formed in 1853 by the consolidation of many small New York state railroads. By 1930, having absorbed other large railroads, the New York Central was one of the leading railroads connecting the Eastern seaboard with Midwestern cities. In 1968, the Penn Central Company was formed by merger of the New York Central Railroad and

the Pennsylvania Railroad. By the early 1970s the Penn Central was bankrupt; and in 1976 the U.S. Government created Conrail from Penn Central and five other failed eastern railroads.

In 1999, CSX Corporation, CSX Transportation's parent company, and Norfolk Southern Corporation jointly acquired control of Conrail, Inc., and its wholly owned subsidiary, Consolidated Rail Corporation Inc., ("Conrail"). As a result of that acquisition, certain assets of Conrail had been assigned to New York Central Lines, LLC ("NYC"), a wholly owned subsidiary of Conrail, to be exclusively operated by CSXT pursuant to an operating agreement.

In a decision served by the Surface Transportation Board (the "Board") on March 18, 2003 in STB Docket Nos. AB-565 (Sub-No. 13X) and AB-55 (Sub-No. 628X), New York Central Lines, LLC ("NYC") was granted authority to abandon and CSXT was granted authority to discontinue service over the Line. In a decision served on April 17, 2003, a Finding of No Significant Impact under 49 CFR 1105.10(g) was made pursuant to 49 CFR 1011.7(b)(9) and no environmental conditions were imposed. NYC and CSXT did not consummate the authority granted to them. In the ensuing years, NYC was merged, through a corporate family transaction, into CSXT.

7. An opinion (based on readily available information in the railroad's possession) as to whether the site and/or structures meet the criteria for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (36 C.F.R. 60.4), and whether there is a likelihood of archeological resources or any other previously unknown historic properties in the project area, and the basis for these opinions (including any consultations with the State Historic Preservation Office, local historical societies or universities);

CSXT believes that the Line is not unusual or noteworthy for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. It is also CSXT's opinion that there are no archeological resources or other railroad related historic properties in the project area. Moreover, there are no bridges or structures on the Line that are 50 years old or older.

8. A description (based on readily available information in the railroad's possession) of any known prior subsurface ground disturbance or fill, environmental conditions (naturally

occurring or manmade) that might affect the archeological recovery of resources (such as swampy conditions or the presence of toxic waste), and the surrounding terrain.

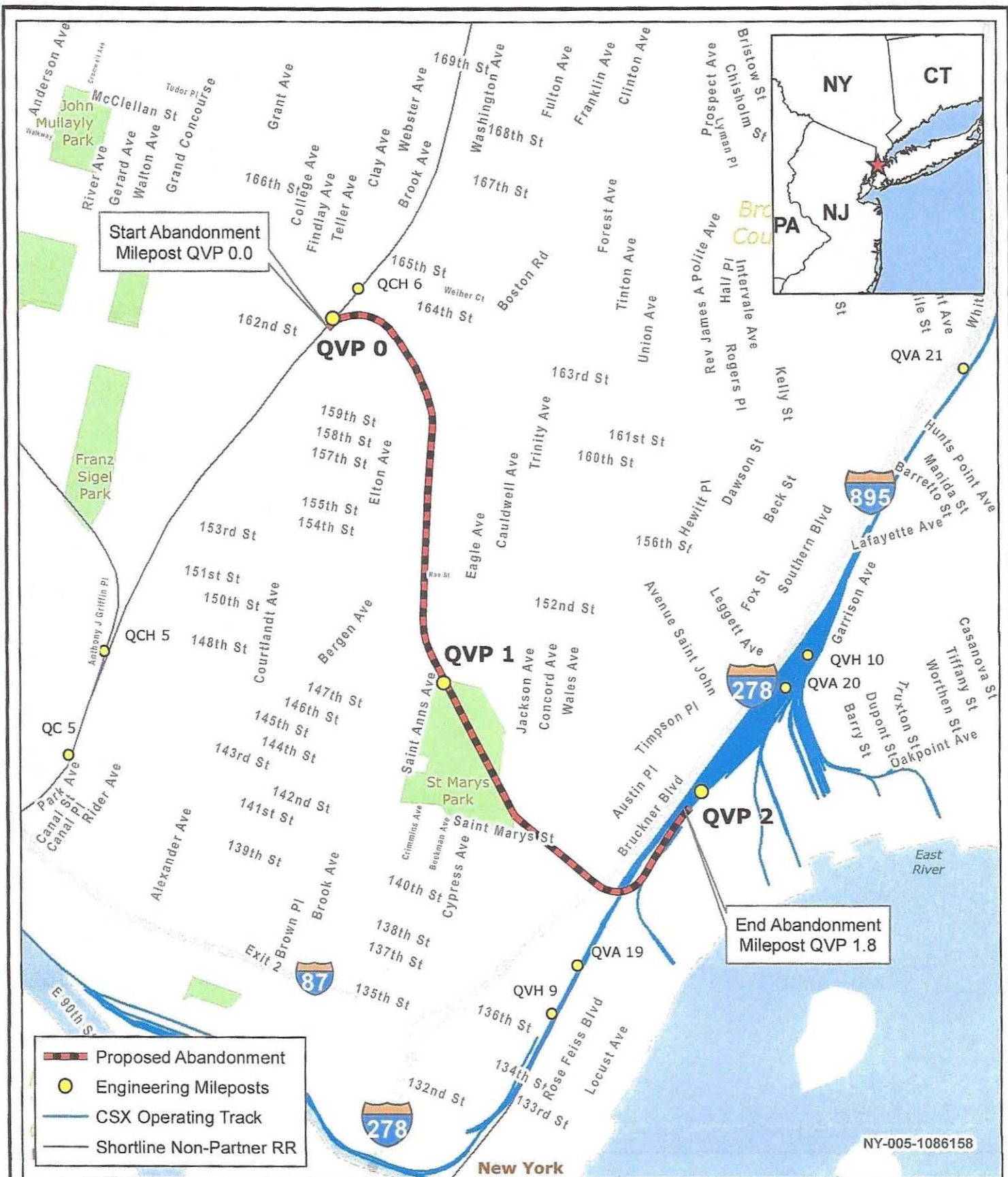
Based on a review of its records, CSXT believes that there are no known subsurface ground disturbances or fill, or environmental conditions that might affect the archeological recovery of any potential resources.

9. Within 30 days of receipt of the historic report, the State Historic Preservation Officer may request the following additional information regarding specific non railroad owned properties or groups of properties immediately adjacent to the railroad right-of-way: photographs of specified properties that can be readily seen from the railroad right-of-way (or other public rights-of-way adjacent to the property) and a written description of any previously discovered archeological sites, identifying the location and type of the site (*i.e.* prehistoric or native American).

CSXT does not foresee the likelihood that any additional information will need to be supplied in association with the proposed abandonment other than that information previously submitted. But, if any additional information is requested, CSXT will promptly supply the necessary information.

CSXT notified the New York Division for Historic Preservation by letter dated November 27, 2018 (*See Exhibit 2*) requesting assistance to determine whether there are any archeological resources or any other previously unknown historic properties and included a copy of the preliminary CEHR. At the request of the NYSHPO, CSXT also submitted documents and requested assistance electronically via New York States Cultural Resource Information System. No other comments have been received to date.

EXHIBIT 1 – MAP



**CSX Transportation, Inc.
Proposed Abandonment
Bronx County - New York, NY
Port Morris Branch**

Milepost QVP 0.0 to QVP 1.8
Total Distance of approx. 1.8 Miles
Albany Division - Hudson Subdivision
STB Docket No. AB 55 (Sub-No. 787X)

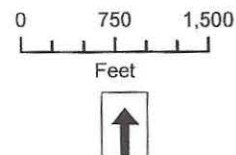


EXHIBIT 2 – LETTERS (WITHOUT MAPS)



Gene Payne
Manager Joint Facilities

500 Water Street – J-315
Jacksonville, FL 32202
Phone: (904) 359-3739
E-Mail: Floyd_payne@csx.com

November 27, 2018

Mr. Ruben Diaz Jr.
Bronx Borough President
Office of the Bronx Borough President
851 Grand Concourse, 3rd Floor
Bronx, NY 10451

Re: STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 787X), CSX Transportation, Inc.—Abandonment
Exemption—in Bronx County, NY

Dear Mr. Diaz, Jr:

CSX Transportation, Inc., (“CSXT”) proposes to abandon the approximately 1.8-mile rail line on its Port Morris Branch, Albany Division between mileposts QVP 0.0 and milepost QVP 1.8 in Bronx County, NY (the “Line”). The Line runs through the U.S. Postal Zip Codes 10456, 10455 and 10454.

Upon receipt of abandonment authority from the Surface Transportation Board (the “Board”), CSXT will consummate the abandonment and abandon the Line.

This action requires Board environmental and historic review under 49 C.F.R. 1105.6(b)(2). A portion of CSXT’s Combined Environmental and Historic Report (CEHR) must be:

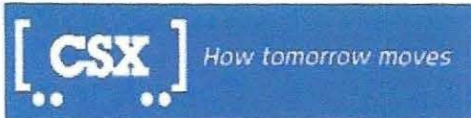
“Based on consultation with local and/or regional planning agencies and/or a review of the official planning documents prepared by such agencies, please state whether the proposed action is consistent with existing land use plans. Please describe any inconsistencies.”

CSXT would appreciate your comments regarding current and future land use in relationship to the Line. Enclosed is CSXT’s Preliminary CEHR with CSXT’s analysis of current and future land use. Please respond by email to Floyd_Payne@csx.com or by mail to the above address, within 20 days of the date of this letter so that CSXT can include and analyze your comments in its Final CEHR.

Also enclosed is the distribution list of all parties who have been requested to comment on the CEHR. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email me.

Sincerely,

Gene Payne
Enclosures (3)



500 Water Street – J-315
Jacksonville, FL 32202
Phone: (904) 359-3739
E-Mail: Floyd_payne@csx.com

Gene Payne
Manager Joint Facilities

November 27, 2018

New York City Planning
1775 Grand Concourse
Suite 503
Bronx, NY 10453

Re: STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 787X), CSX Transportation, Inc.—Abandonment
Exemption—in Bronx County, NY

Dear Madam/Sir:

CSX Transportation, Inc., (“CSXT”) proposes to abandon the approximately 1.8-mile rail line on its Port Morris Branch, Albany Division between mileposts QVP 0.0 and milepost QVP 1.8 in Bronx County, NY (the “Line”). The Line runs through the U.S. Postal Zip Codes 10456, 10455 and 10454.

This action requires Board environmental and historic review under 49 C.F.R. 1105.6(b)(2). A portion of CSXT’s Combined Environmental and Historic Report (CEHR) must be:

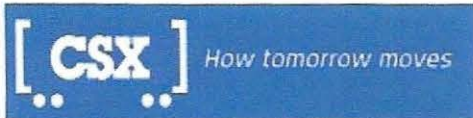
“Based on consultation with local and/or regional planning agencies and/or a review of the official planning documents prepared by such agencies, please state whether the proposed action is consistent with existing land use plans. Please describe any inconsistencies.”

CSXT would appreciate your comments regarding current and future land use in relationship to the Line. Enclosed is CSXT’s Preliminary CEHR with CSXT’s analysis of current and future land use. Please respond by email to Floyd_Payne@csx.com or by mail to the above address, within 20 days of the date of this letter so that CSXT can include and analyze your comments in its Final CEHR.

Also enclosed is the distribution list of all parties who have been requested to comment on the CEHR. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email me.

Sincerely,

Gene Payne
Enclosures (3)



Gene Payne
Manager Joint Facilities

500 Water Street – J-315
Jacksonville, FL 32202
Phone: (904) 359-3739
E-Mail: Floyd_payne@csx.com

November 27, 2018

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 2
Ted Weiss Federal Building
290 Broadway
New York, NY 10007

Re: STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 787X), CSX Transportation, Inc.—Abandonment
Exemption—in Bronx County, NY

Dear Madam/Sir:

CSX Transportation, Inc., (“CSXT”) proposes to abandon the approximately 1.8-mile rail line on its Port Morris Branch, Albany Division between mileposts QVP 0.0 and milepost QVP 1.8 in Bronx County, NY (the “Line”). The Line runs through the U.S. Postal Zip Codes 10456, 10455 and 10454.

Upon receipt of abandonment authority from the Surface Transportation Board (the “Board”), CSXT will consummate the abandonment and abandon the Line.

This action requires Board approval and Federal Regulations 49 C.F.R. 1105.7 (e)(9) (i) and (iii) require that CSXT develop a response to the following statements:

(i) *“Based on consultation with State Water quality officials, state whether the proposed action is consistent with applicable Federal, State or local water quality standards. Describe any inconsistencies.”*

(iii) *“State whether permits under Section 402 of the Clean Water Act 33 U.S.C. 1342 are required for the proposed action.”*

There are no refueling or maintenance areas within the project area. The removal of CSXT’s rail material will be accomplished by use of the right of way for access, along with existing public and private crossings, and no new access roads are contemplated. CSXT does not intend to disturb any of the underlying roadbeds and do not anticipate any dredging or use of fill in the removal of the track material. The crossties and/or other debris will be transported away from the rail line and will not be discarded along the right of way, nor be placed or left in streams or wetlands, or along the banks of such waterways. During track removal, appropriate measures will be implemented to prevent or control spills from fuels, lubricants or any other pollutant materials from entering any watercourses.

Melanie Yasbin

From: Payne, Gene <Gene_Payne@csx.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 3:07 PM
To: Melanie Yasbin
Subject: FW: STB Docket No. AB-55 Abandonment of 1.8 mile rail line on Port Morris Branch

Hi Melanie, FYI

Gene Payne | CSX Transportation

Manager Strategic Planning || Office (904) 359-3739 || E-mail Gene_Payne@csx.com

From: Knutson, Lingard <Knutson.Lingard@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 3:06 PM
To: Payne, Gene <Gene_Payne@csx.com>
Subject: STB Docket No. AB-55 Abandonment of 1.8 mile rail line on Port Morris Branch

Dear Mr. Payne,

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has received your November 27, 2018 letter concerning CSX Transportation, Inc.'s abandonment of approximately 1.8-mile rail line on its Port Morris Branch, Albany Division between mileposts QVP 0.0 and milepost QVP 1.8 in Bronx County, NY. Please note that the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has a federally approved State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System program for permitting the control of surface wastewater and storm water discharges under Section 402 the Clean Water Act.

If I can be of any other assistance, please don't hesitate to call or email.

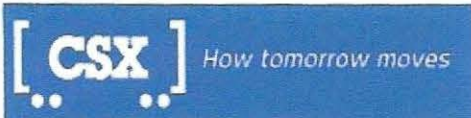
Lingard Knutson
Environmental Scientist
US EPA, Region 2
290 Broadway, 25th floor
New York, NY 10007
212 – 637-3747

- EXTERNAL SENDER

Use discretion when clicking links, opening attachments, or replying.

This email transmission and any accompanying attachments may contain CSX privileged and confidential information intended only for the use of the intended addressee. Any dissemination, distribution, copying or action taken in reliance on the contents of this email by anyone other than the intended recipient is strictly prohibited. If you have received this email in error please immediately delete it and notify sender at the above

CSX email address. Sender and CSX accept no liability for any damage caused directly or indirectly by receipt of this email.



500 Water Street – J-315
Jacksonville, FL 32202
Phone: (904) 359-3739
E-Mail: Floyd_payne@csx.com

Gene Payne
Manager Joint Facilities

Based upon the above described actions, CSXT would appreciate receiving your concurrence with its position that the proposed project is consistent with applicable Federal, State and local water quality standards, and that no permits under Section 402 are required at this time. As further information, CSXT would appreciate your comments regarding current and future land use in relationship to the Line. Any questions can be sent electronically to Floyd_Payne@CSX.com by email or through the United States Postal Service (USPS).

Enclosed are a distribution list of all parties that have been copied on the proposed action, a map of the proposed location and the preliminary Combined Environmental and Historical Report for the line. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email me.

Sincerely,

Gene Payne
Enclosures (3)



Gene Payne
Manager Joint Facilities

500 Water Street – J-315
Jacksonville, FL 32202
Phone: (904) 359-3739
E-Mail: Floyd_payne@csx.com

November 27, 2018

New York Department of State
Coastal Zone Management Program
Suite 1010
One Commerce Place, 99 Washington Ave
Albany, NY 12231-0001

Re: STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 787X), CSX Transportation, Inc.—Abandonment
Exemption—in Bronx County, NY

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Upon receipt of abandonment authority from the Surface Transportation Board (the “Board”), CSXT will consummate the abandonment and abandon the Line.

This action requires Board approval and Federal Regulations 49 C.F.R. 1105.7 (e)(9) (i) and (iii) require that CSXT develop a response to the following statements:

(i) *“Based on consultation with State Water quality officials, state whether the proposed action is consistent with applicable Federal, State or local water quality standards. Describe any inconsistencies.”*

(iii) *“State whether permits under Section 402 of the Clean Water Act 33 U.S.C. 1342 are required for the proposed action.”*

There are no refueling or maintenance areas within the project area. The removal of CSXT’s rail material will be accomplished by use of the right of way for access, along with existing public and private crossings, and no new access roads are contemplated. CSXT does not intend to disturb any of the underlying roadbeds and do not anticipate any dredging or use of fill in the removal of the track material. The crossties and/or other debris will be transported away from the rail line and will not be discarded along the right of way, nor be placed or left in streams or wetlands, or along the banks of such waterways. During track removal, appropriate measures will be implemented to prevent or control spills from fuels, lubricants or any other pollutant materials from entering any watercourses.

Based upon the above described actions, CSXT would appreciate receiving your concurrence with its position that the proposed project is consistent with applicable Federal, State



500 Water Street – J-315
Jacksonville, FL 32202
Phone: (904) 359-3739
E-Mail: Floyd_payne@csx.com

Gene Payne
Manager Joint Facilities

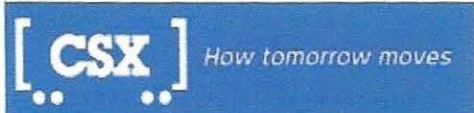
and local water quality standards, and that no permits under Section 402 are required at this time. As further information, CSXT would appreciate your comments regarding current and future land use in relationship to the Line. Any questions can be sent electronically to Floyd_Payne@CSX.com by email or through the United States Postal Service (USPS).

Enclosed are a distribution list of all parties that have been copied on the proposed action, a map of the proposed location and the preliminary Combined Environmental and Historical Report for the line. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email me.

Sincerely,

Gene Payne (mly)

Gene Payne
Enclosures (3)



Gene Payne
Manager Joint Facilities

500 Water Street – J-315
Jacksonville, FL 32202
Phone: (904) 359-3739
E-Mail: Floyd_payne@csx.com

November 27, 2018

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-0001

Re: STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 787X), CSX Transportation, Inc.—Abandonment
Exemption—in Bronx County, NY

Dear Madam/Sir:

CSX Transportation, Inc., (“CSXT”) proposes to abandon the approximately 1.8-mile rail line on its Port Morris Branch, Albany Division between mileposts QVP 0.0 and milepost QVP 1.8 in Bronx County, NY (the “Line”). The Line runs through the U.S. Postal Zip Codes 10456, 10455 and 10454.

Upon receipt of abandonment authority from the Surface Transportation Board (the “Board”), CSXT will consummate the abandonment and abandon the Line.

This action requires Board approval and Federal Regulations 49 C.F.R. 1105.7 (e)(9) (i) and (iii) require that CSXT develop a response to the following statements:

(i) *“Based on consultation with State Water quality officials, state whether the proposed action is consistent with applicable Federal, State or local water quality standards. Describe any inconsistencies.”*

(iii) *“State whether permits under Section 402 of the Clean Water Act 33 U.S.C. 1342 are required for the proposed action.”*

There are no refueling or maintenance areas within the project area. The removal of CSXT’s rail material will be accomplished by use of the right of way for access, along with existing public and private crossings, and no new access roads are contemplated. CSXT does not intend to disturb any of the underlying roadbeds and do not anticipate any dredging or use of fill in the removal of the track material. The crossties and/or other debris will be transported away from the rail line and will not be discarded along the right of way, nor be placed or left in streams or wetlands, or along the banks of such waterways. During track removal, appropriate measures will be implemented to prevent or control spills from fuels, lubricants or any other pollutant materials from entering any watercourses.

Based upon the above described actions, CSXT would appreciate your concurrence in its position that there would be no adverse impact to any federally-listed endangered or threatened species, critical habitats, wildlife sanctuaries or refuges, National or State parks, or forests.



Gene Payne
Manager Joint Facilities

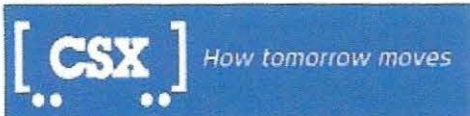
500 Water Street – J-315
Jacksonville, FL 32202
Phone: (904) 359-3739
E-Mail: Floyd_payne@csx.com

CSXT would appreciate your comments regarding current and future land use in relationship to the Line. Any questions can be sent electronically to Floyd_Payne@CSX.com by email or through the United States Postal Service (USPS).

Enclosed are a distribution list of all parties that have been copied on the proposed action, a map of the proposed location and the preliminary Combined Environmental and Historical Report for the line. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email me.

Sincerely,

Gene Payne
Enclosures (3)



Gene Payne
Manager Joint Facilities

500 Water Street – J-315
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Phone: (904) 359-3739
E-Mail: Floyd_payne@csx.com

November 27, 2018

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services
New York Field Office
3817 Luker Road
Cortland, NY 13045

Re: STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 787X), CSX Transportation, Inc.—Abandonment
Exemption—in Bronx County, NY

Dear Madam/Sir:

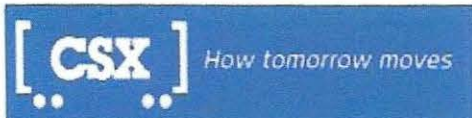
CSX Transportation, Inc., (“CSXT”) proposes to abandon the approximately 1.8-mile rail line on its Port Morris Branch, Albany Division between mileposts QVP 0.0 and milepost QVP 1.8 in Bronx County, NY (the “Line”). The Line runs through the U.S. Postal Zip Codes 10456, 10455 and 10454.

The action requires Surface Transportation Board approval and Federal Regulations 49 C.F.R. 1105.7 (8) (i) and (ii) requires that CSXT develop responses to the following statements:

- (i) *Based on consultation with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service state whether the proposed action is likely to adversely affect endangered or threatened species or areas designated as a critical habitat, and if so, describe the effects.*
- (ii) *State whether wildlife sanctuaries or refuges, National or State parks or forests will be affected, and describe any effects.*

Based upon the above described actions, CSXT would appreciate your concurrence in its position that there would be no adverse impact to any federally-listed endangered or threatened species, critical habitats, wildlife sanctuaries or refuges, National or State parks, or forests.

CSXT would appreciate your comments regarding current and future land use in relationship to the Line. Any questions can be sent electronically to Floyd_Payne@CSX.com by email or through the United States Postal Service (USPS).



Gene Payne
Manager Joint Facilities

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Enclosed are a distribution list of all parties that have been copied on the proposed action, a map of the proposed location and the preliminary Combined Environmental and Historical Report for the line. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email me.

Sincerely,

Gene Payne (mly)

Gene Payne
Enclosures (3)



Gene Payne
Manager Joint Facilities

500 Water Street – J-315
Jacksonville, FL 32202
Phone: (904) 359-3739
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November 27, 2018

National Park Service
Northeast Region
1234 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Re: STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 787X), CSX Transportation, Inc.—Abandonment
Exemption—in Bronx County, NY

Dear Madam/Sir:

CSX Transportation, Inc., (“CSXT”) proposes to abandon the approximately 1.8-mile rail line on its Port Morris Branch, Albany Division between mileposts QVP 0.0 and milepost QVP 1.8 in Bronx County, NY (the “Line”). The Line runs through the U.S. Postal Zip Codes 10456, 10455 and 10454.

Upon receipt of abandonment authority from the Surface Transportation Board (the “Board”), CSXT will consummate the abandonment and abandon the Line.

This action requires Board approval and Federal Regulations 49 C.F.R. 1105.7(c) require that advance notice be given to afford your agency a reasonable opportunity to provide meaningful input.

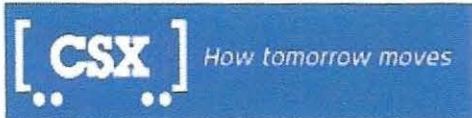
CSXT would appreciate your comments regarding current and future land use in relationship to the Line. Any questions can be sent electronically to Floyd_Payne@CSX.com by email or through the United States Postal Service (USPS).

Enclosed are a distribution list of all parties that have been copied on the proposed action, a map of the proposed location and the preliminary Combined Environmental and Historical Report for the line. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email me.

Sincerely,

Gene Payne

Enclosures (3)



500 Water Street – J-315
Jacksonville, FL 32202
Phone: (904) 359-3739
E-Mail: Floyd_payne@csx.com

Gene Payne
Manager Joint Facilities

November 27, 2018

New York State Department of Transportation
50 Wolf Road
Albany, NY 12232

Re: STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 787X), CSX Transportation, Inc.—Abandonment
Exemption—in Bronx County, NY

Dear Madam/Sir:

CSX Transportation, Inc., (“CSXT”) proposes to abandon the approximately 1.8-mile rail line on its Port Morris Branch, Albany Division between mileposts QVP 0.0 and milepost QVP 1.8 in Bronx County, NY (the “Line”). The Line runs through the U.S. Postal Zip Codes 10456, 10455 and 10454.

Upon receipt of abandonment authority from the Surface Transportation Board (the “Board”), CSXT will consummate the abandonment and abandon the Line.

This action requires Board approval and Federal Regulations 49 C.F.R. 1105.7(c) require that advance notice be given to afford your agency a reasonable opportunity to provide meaningful input.

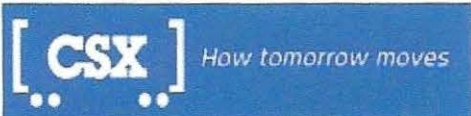
CSXT would appreciate your comments regarding current and future land use in relationship to the Line. Any questions can be sent electronically to Floyd_Payne@CSX.com by email or through the United States Postal Service (USPS).

Enclosed are a distribution list of all parties that have been copied on the proposed action, a map of the proposed location and the preliminary Combined Environmental and Historical Report for the line. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email me.

Sincerely,

Gene Payne

Enclosures (3)



Gene Payne
Manager Joint Facilities

500 Water Street – J-315
Jacksonville, FL 32202
Phone: (904) 359-3739
E-Mail: Floyd_payne@csx.com

November 27, 2018

Commissioner
Department of Transportation
55 Water Street
9th Floor
New York, NY 10041

Re: STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 787X), CSX Transportation, Inc.—Abandonment
Exemption—in Bronx County, NY

Dear Madam/Sir:

CSX Transportation, Inc., (“CSXT”) proposes to abandon the approximately 1.8-mile rail line on its Port Morris Branch, Albany Division between mileposts QVP 0.0 and milepost QVP 1.8 in Bronx County, NY (the “Line”). The Line runs through the U.S. Postal Zip Codes 10456, 10455 and 10454.

Upon receipt of abandonment authority from the Surface Transportation Board (the “Board”), CSXT will consummate the abandonment and abandon the Line.

This action requires Board approval and Federal Regulations 49 C.F.R. 1105.7(c) require that advance notice be given to afford your agency a reasonable opportunity to provide meaningful input.

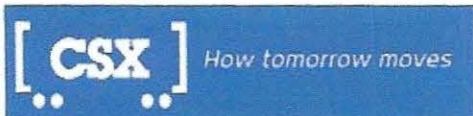
CSXT would appreciate your comments regarding current and future land use in relationship to the Line. Any questions can be sent electronically to Floyd_Payne@CSX.com by email or through the United States Postal Service (USPS).

Enclosed are a distribution list of all parties that have been copied on the proposed action, a map of the proposed location and the preliminary Combined Environmental and Historical Report for the line. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email me.

Sincerely,

Gene Payne

Enclosures (3)



500 Water Street – J-315
Jacksonville, FL 32202
Phone: (904) 359-3739
E-Mail: Floyd_payne@csx.com

Gene Payne
Manager Joint Facilities

November 27, 2018

U.S. Army Corp of Engineers
26 Federal Plaza
New York, NY 10278

Re: STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 787X), CSX Transportation, Inc.—Abandonment
Exemption—in Bronx County, NY

Dear Madam/Sir:

CSX Transportation, Inc., (“CSXT”) proposes to abandon the approximately 1.8-mile rail line on its Port Morris Branch, Albany Division between mileposts QVP 0.0 and milepost QVP 1.8 in Bronx County, NY (the “Line”). The Line runs through the U.S. Postal Zip Codes 10456, 10455 and 10454.

Upon receipt of abandonment authority from the Surface Transportation Board (the “Board”), CSXT will consummate the abandonment and abandon the Line.

This action requires Board approval and Federal Regulations 49 C.F.R. 1105.7(e)(9) (ii) require that CSXT develop responses to the following statement:

“Based on consultation with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, state whether permits under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) are required for the proposed action and whether any designated wetlands or 100 year flood plains will be affected. Describe the effects.”

Based upon the above described actions, CSXT would appreciate your concurrence in its position that there would be no adverse impact on wetlands or 100-year flood plains, and that no permits under Section 404 will be required.

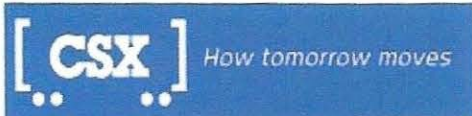
CSXT would appreciate your comments regarding current and future land use in relationship to the Line. Any questions can be sent electronically to Floyd_Payne@CSX.com by email or through the United States Postal Service (USPS).

Enclosed are a distribution list of all parties that have been copied on the proposed action, a map of the proposed location and the preliminary Combined Environmental and Historical Report for the line. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email me.

Sincerely,

Gene Payne (mly)

Gene Payne
Enclosures (3)



Gene Payne
Manager Joint Facilities

500 Water Street – J-315
Jacksonville, FL 32202
Phone: (904) 359-3739
E-Mail: Floyd_payne@csx.com

November 27, 2018

National Geodetic Surveyngs.infocenter@noaa.gov

Re: STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 787X), CSX Transportation, Inc.—Abandonment
Exemption—in Bronx County, NY

Dear Madam/Sir:

CSX Transportation, Inc., (“CSXT”) proposes to abandon the approximately 1.8-mile rail line on its Port Morris Branch, Albany Division between mileposts QVP 0.0 and milepost QVP 1.8 in Bronx County, NY (the “Line”). The Line runs through the U.S. Postal Zip Codes 10456, 10455 and 10454.

Upon receipt of abandonment authority from the Surface Transportation Board (the “Board”), CSXT will consummate the abandonment and abandon the Line.

Please advise if there are any geodetic markers which could be affected by the proposed transaction. Any questions can be sent electronically to Floyd_Payne@CSX.com by email or through the United States Postal Service (USPS).

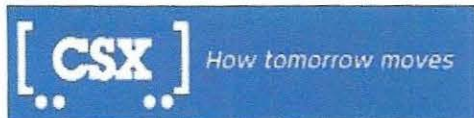
Enclosed are a distribution list of all parties that have been copied on the proposed action, a map of the proposed location and the preliminary Combined Environmental and Historical Report for the line. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email me.

Sincerely,

Gene Payne (mly)

Gene Payne

Enclosures (3)



Gene Payne
Manager Joint Facilities

500 Water Street – J-315
Jacksonville, FL 32202
Phone: (904) 359-3739
E-Mail: Floyd_payne@csx.com

November 27, 2018

Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Office
New York Division for Historic Preservation
Peebles Island State Park
P.O. Box 189
Waterford, NY 12188-0189

Re: STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 787X), CSX Transportation, Inc.—Abandonment
Exemption—in Bronx County, NY

Dear Madam/Sir:

CSX Transportation, Inc., (“CSXT”) proposes to abandon the approximately 1.8-mile rail line on its Port Morris Branch, Albany Division between mileposts QVP 0.0 and milepost QVP 1.8 in Bronx County, NY (the “Line”). The Line runs through the U.S. Postal Zip Codes 10456, 10455 and 10454.

Upon receipt of abandonment authority from the Surface Transportation Board (the “Board”), CSXT will consummate the abandonment and abandon the Line.

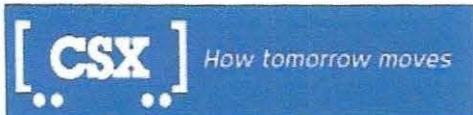
In connection with rail line that is the subject of an application for authority to abandon, Federal Regulations at 49 CFR 1105.8(d), require that a Historic Report be submitted to the State Historic Preservation Officer prior to filing with the Surface Transportation Board. In accordance with those Regulations, I am attaching a preliminary Combined Environmental and Historic Report (“CEHR”) covering the above-proposed abandonment.

We would appreciate receiving a letter from your office confirming that this project will have no impact upon cultural resources. Any questions can be sent electronically to Floyd_Payne@CSX.com by email or through the United States Postal Service (USPS).

Enclosed is a distribution list of all parties that have been copied on the proposed action, a map of the proposed location and the CEHR for the line. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email me.

Sincerely,

Gene Payne
Enclosures (3)



Gene Payne
Manager Joint Facilities

500 Water Street – J-315
Jacksonville, FL 32202
Phone: (904) 359-3739
E-Mail: Floyd_payne@csx.com

November 27, 2018

USDA – NRCS
409 E. Upland Road
Ithaca, NY 14850
\\

Re: STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 787X), CSX Transportation, Inc.—Abandonment
Exemption—in Bronx County, NY

Dear Madam/Sir:

CSX Transportation, Inc., (“CSXT”) proposes to abandon the approximately 1.8-mile rail line on its Port Morris Branch, Albany Division between mileposts QVP 0.0 and milepost QVP 1.8 in Bronx County, NY (the “Line”). The Line runs through the U.S. Postal Zip Codes 10456, 10455 and 10454.

Upon receipt of abandonment authority from the Surface Transportation Board (the “Board”), CSXT will consummate the abandonment and abandon the Line.

This action requires Board approval and Federal Regulations 49 C.F.R. 1105.7(3) (ii) require that CSXT develop a response to the following statement:

“Based on consultation with the U. S. Soil Conservation Service, state the effect of the proposed action on any prime agricultural land.”

Please advise if any of the land contiguous to CSXT’s line in the project area is classified as prime agriculture land.

CSXT would appreciate your comments regarding current and future land use in relationship to the Line. Any questions can be sent electronically to Floyd_Payne@CSX.com by email or through the United States Postal Service (USPS).

Enclosed are a distribution list of all parties that have been copied on the proposed action, a map of the proposed location and the preliminary Combined Environmental and Historical Report for the line. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email me.

Sincerely,

Gene Payne
Enclosures (3)

EXHIBIT 3 – USGS MAPS

