

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**  
**OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

ED-2806  
KB

**FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN DOCKET NO. AB 290 (Sub-No. 324X)

June 22, 2016

**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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OEA served an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proceeding on June 3, 2016 for public review and comment. In the EA, OEA 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 and no comments have been received. Accordingly, OEA recommends that the following conditions previously recommended in the EA should be imposed upon any decision granting abandonment authority:

- 1. Norfolk Southern Railway Company shall consult with the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) and shall notify NGS at least 90 days prior to beginning salvage activities that would disturb or destroy any geodetic station markers in order to allow for the relocation of the station markers by NGS.**
- 2. Before beginning salvage operations, Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSR) shall consult with the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) regarding potential impacts from the proposed abandonment related to water quality, solid waste, and hazardous materials and wastes. NSR shall comply with the reasonable recommendations of NCDEQ to mitigate any potential impacts identified during consultation.**
- 3. Before beginning salvage operations, Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSR) shall consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) regarding the potential impact of the proposed abandonment on any individual Smooth coneflower (*Echinacea laevigata*) or Michaux's sumac (*Rhu michauxii*) that may be present in the rail right-of-way. During salvage, NSR shall follow the reasonable recommendations of USFWS to prevent impact to members of those species.**

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

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