

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
SECTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

POST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN STB DOCKET NO. AB-33 (Sub-No. 248X)

March 12, 2010

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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SEA served an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proceeding on February 23, 2010 for public review and comment. In the EA, SEA 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. Accordingly, SEA recommends that the following conditions previously recommended in the EA should be imposed upon any decision granting abandonment authority:

1. Prior to commencement of any salvage activities, the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) shall consult with the State of Iowa, Department of Natural Resources and obtain the necessary Sovereign Lands Construction Permit. UP shall also consult with the Polk County Conservation Board and solicit its comments on the proposed abandonment.
2. Prior to commencement of any salvage activities, the Union Pacific Railroad Company shall consult with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding possible Section 404 requirements.
3. The Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) shall retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the historic integrity of all sites, buildings, and structures within the project right-of-way that are eligible for listing or listed in the National Register of Historic Places (generally, 50 years old or older) until the Section 106 process of

the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 470f, has been completed. UP shall report back to the Section of Environmental Analysis regarding any consultations with the SHPO and any other Section 106 consulting parties. UP 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.

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

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