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OEA
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SERVICE DATE – AUGUST 26, 2024

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
WASHINGTON, DC 20423**

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Docket No. AB 55 (Sub-No. 816X)

**CSX Transportation, Inc.– Abandonment Exemption –
In Pike County, Ky.**

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

In this proceeding, CSX Transportation, Inc. filed a notice of exemption under 49 C.F.R. § 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 Pike County, Kentucky. The rail line proposed for abandonment extends approximately 5.1 miles from milepost CML 9.0 to milepost CML 14.1 (the Line). The Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) served a Draft EA for this proceeding on August 5, 2024 for public review and comment. In the Draft EA, OEA recommended five 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. 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

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

- 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 Kentucky Heritage Council (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.
2. Prior to commencement of any abandonment-related salvage activities, CSX Transportation, Inc. shall consult with the Kentucky Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) regarding the concerns listed in DEP's letter dated July 10, 2024.
 3. If CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT) encounters any underground storage tanks (USTs) during any abandonment-related salvage activities, CSXT shall notify the Kentucky Division of Waste Management (KDWM), UST Branch.
 4. Prior to commencement of any abandonment-related salvage activities, CSX Transportation, Inc. shall consult with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) regarding its requirements and, if applicable, shall comply with its reasonable requirements.
 5. To address the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's concerns regarding the northern long-eared bat, CSX Transportation, Inc. shall conduct abandonment-related salvage activities during the northern long-eared bat's inactive season between November 15 and March 30.

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.