

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

#EO-2189

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN
DOCKET NO. AB 314 (SUB-NO. 6X)

November 12, 2013

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

() NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED

In this proceeding, the Chicago Central & Pacific Railroad Company (CCP) filed a notice under 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50 seeking approval authority to abandon 0.49 mile rail line in Cedar Rapids, Linn County, Iowa. The Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) served an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proceeding on October 23, 2013 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.

Conclusion

The EA comment period has ended. Accordingly, OEA recommends that the three conditions recommended in the EA should be imposed upon any decision granting abandonment authority. The conditions are:

1. Prior to commencement of any salvage activities, the Chicago Central & Pacific Railroad Company (CCP) shall consult with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources' (IDNR) Conservation and Recreation Division to ensure that any concerns in the right-of-way are addressed regarding disturbance to any rare species or significant natural communities. CCP shall also consult with IDNR's Environmental Services Division to determine the permit requirements, if any, for watershed disturbances, erosion and sedimentation, or wastewater discharges.

2. CCP 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 eligible for listing or listed in the National Register of Historic Places until the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. § 470f, has been completed. CCP shall report back to the Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) regarding any consultations with the State Historical Society of Iowa (State Historic Preservation Office or SHPO) and the public. CP 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.
3. In the event that any unanticipated archaeological sites, human remains, funerary items or associated artifacts are discovered during the railroad's salvage activities, the railroad shall immediately cease all work and notify OEA and the State Historical Society of Iowa (State Historic Preservation Office or SHPO), pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 800.13(b). OEA shall then consult with the SHPO, the railroad, and other consulting parties, if any, to determine whether appropriate mitigation measures are necessary.

OEA concludes that if the above conditions are imposed, the proposed action would not significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

OEA CONTACT:

Diana Wood 

202-245-0302

woodd@stb.dot.gov

Distribution:

Office of Proceedings

OEA Chron

ECT