

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

SUPPLEMENTAL FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN
DOCKET NO. AB 55 (Sub-No. 772X)

March 23, 2018

RECOMMENDATION: Remove Section 106 Condition

In this proceeding, CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT) filed a notice of exemption to abandon a 14.4-mile line of railroad in Greenbrier and Nicholas Counties, West Virginia. Because the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act, 54 U.S.C. 300101 *et seq.*, had not been completed at the time of the Board's October 13, 2017, decision, the Board imposed a condition requiring CSXT to: (a) 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 that are eligible for listing or are listed in the National Register of Historic Places until the Section 106 process of the NHPA has been completed; (b) report back to the Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) regarding any consultations with the Georgia State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the public; and (c) not file a 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 the condition.

New Comments on the Environmental Assessment (EA)

West Virginia SHPO initially commented in its November 30, 2017, letter that the proposed abandonment would not adversely affect historic properties within the area of potential effect if the railroad filled out Historic Property Inventory (HPI) forms for the elements identified as CAJ 0.20, CAJ 5.7, CAJ 9.18, CAJ 10.10, CAJ 12.20, and CAJ 13.27 and submitted them to the SHPO. In its March 2, 2018 letter, West Virginia SHPO confirmed that the HPI forms were submitted and that no further consultation is required. Accordingly, OEA has determined that CSXT's proposed abandonment would have no effect on historic properties listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.¹ The Board has satisfied its responsibilities under Section 106 of the

¹ The documentation for this finding, as specified at 36 C.F.R. § 800.11(e), consists of the railroad's Historic Report, all relevant correspondence, and the September 22, 2017 EA, which have been provided to the SHPO and made available to the public through posting on the Board's website at www.stb.gov.

NHPA in this proceeding, and OEA is recommending that the Board remove the Section 106 condition.

Conclusions

For the reasons stated above, OEA recommends that the Board remove the Section 106 condition that was imposed in the October 13, 2017 decision.

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