

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN
DOCKET NO. AB 303 (SUB-NO. 46X)

June 8, 2015

ABANDONMENT TYPE

The time for comments on the Environmental Assessment (EA) has expired in this:

() Notice of Exemption (X) Petition for Exemption () Regulated
Abandonment

(X) NO NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED

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In this proceeding, the Wisconsin Central Ltd. filed a notice under 49 C.F.R. § 10502 seeking approval authority to abandon a 3.6-mile portion of rail line in Lake County, Illinois. The Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) served an Environmental Assessment (EA) in this proceeding on May 8, 2015 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 and no comments were received. Accordingly, OEA recommends that the three conditions recommended in the EA be imposed upon any decision granting abandonment authority. The conditions are:

1. Prior to commencement of any salvage activities, Wisconsin Central Ltd. shall consult with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) regarding potential impacts to waters of the United States and shall comply with the reasonable requirements of the Corps.
2. Pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act (16 U.S.C. § 1451 et seq.) and the Board's environmental regulations at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.9, Wisconsin Central Ltd. (WCL) shall consult with the Illinois State Coastal Management Office regarding the need to obtain state coastal management consistency certification. WCL may not file its consummation notice or initiate any salvage activities related to abandonment (including removal of tracks and ties) until it reports the results of these consultations in writing to the Board's Office of Environmental Analysis and the Board has removed this condition.
3. Wisconsin Central Ltd. (WCL) shall contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) prior to beginning salvage activities to discuss potential impacts to any federally listed endangered or threatened species. WCL shall report the results of this consultation to the Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) in writing. Should any potential impacts be identified, the railroad shall consult with OEA and USFWS to develop appropriate mitigation measures.

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

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