

52871  
OEA

SERVICE DATE – APRIL 3, 2026

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**  
WASHINGTON, DC 20423

**FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**Docket No. AB 511 (Sub-No. 8X)**

**Central Railroad Company of Indianapolis – Abandonment  
Exemption – In Howard County, Ind.**

**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

( ) **NO NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED**

(X) **NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED**

In this proceeding, Central Railroad Company of Indianapolis (CERA) filed a notice of exemption with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) 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 two lines of railroad extending over 1.77-miles in the City of Kokomo (the City), Howard County, Indiana (the Line). The Line includes the Tipton Industrial Lead extending from milepost 54.28 to milepost 55.66; and a segment of the Marion Subdivision extending from milepost 180.87 to milepost 181.26 (the Line). The Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) served a Draft EA for this proceeding on January 30, 2026 for public review and comment. In the Draft EA, OEA recommended a historic preservation condition pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and concluded that the proposed action would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment.

The Section 106 historic preservation condition imposed by the Board in its January 30, 2026 decision requires Central Railroad Company of Indianapolis (CERA) to: 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 Effects) that are eligible for listing or listed in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) until the Section 106 process of the NHPA has been completed; report back to the Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) regarding any consultations with the Indiana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), appropriate federally recognized tribes, and the public; and 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 this condition.

## **Comments on the Draft EA**

On February 24, 2026, the Indiana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) submitted a letter concurring with OEA's determination of no adverse effect for the proposed abandonment because salvage activities would not be conducted within the Lake Erie and Western Depot Historic District. In its letter, SHPO also requested that any prehistoric or historic archaeological artifacts or human remains uncovered during salvage be reported to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources in accordance with Indiana Code 14-21-1-27 and 29.

Therefore, pursuant to the Section 106 regulations of NHPA at 36 C.F.R. § 800.4(d)(1), and following consultation with the SHPO and the public, OEA has determined that the proposed abandonment would not adversely affect historic properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register.<sup>1</sup> Accordingly, OEA is no longer recommending the Section 106 condition but instead is recommending that an unanticipated discoveries condition be imposed on any decision granting abandonment authority.

## **Conclusions**

The Draft EA comment period has ended. Accordingly, OEA recommends that the following condition be imposed upon any decision granting abandonment authority:<sup>2</sup>

In the event that any unanticipated archaeological sites, human remains, funerary items or associated artifacts are discovered during abandonment-related salvage activities, Central Railroad Company of Indianapolis (CERA) will immediately cease all work and notify the Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA), interested Federally recognized tribes, and the Indiana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 800.13(b) and Indiana Code 14-21-1-27 and 29. OEA will then consult with the SHPO (or THPO), interested Federally recognized tribes, CERA, and other consulting parties, if any, to determine whether appropriate mitigation measures are necessary.

If the above condition is 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.

---

<sup>1</sup> The documentation for this finding, as specified at 36 C.F.R. § 800.11(d), consists of CERA's historic report, all relevant correspondence, the Draft EA, and this Final 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](http://www.stb.gov).

<sup>2</sup> 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 this condition is not required with respect to any portion of the Line covered by the interim trail use agreement for the duration of the agreement.