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OEA

SERVICE DATE – OCTOBER 28, 2022

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
WASHINGTON, DC 20423**

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Docket No. AB 6 (Sub-No. 500X)

**BNSF Railway Company—
Abandonment Exemption—In Cook County, Ill.**

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, BNSF Railway Company (BNSF), filed a notice of exemption with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) seeking exemption under 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50 from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. § 10903 in connection with the abandonment of an approximately 0.43-mile segment of a rail line known as the “Sangamon Street Line” in Cook County, Illinois. The Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) served a Draft EA for this proceeding on October 7, 2022, for public review and comment. In the Draft EA, OEA recommended one environmental condition and concluded that the proposed action would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment.

Comments on the Draft EA

As discussed in the Draft EA, OEA found that the proposed abandonment would have No Adverse Effect on historic properties listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. On August 22, 2022, the State Historical Society of Illinois (the State Historic Preservation Officer or SHPO) provided concurrence with OEA’s findings.

Modifications to the Draft EA

Because the SHPO has concurred with OEA’s finding under Section 106 of No Adverse Effect on historic properties, OEA has determined that the Section 106 condition previously recommended in the Draft EA is unnecessary. Therefore, OEA is not recommending any mitigation conditions to be imposed in any Board decision granting abandonment authority in this proceeding.

Conclusions

The Draft EA comment period has ended, and no conditions are recommended by OEA. Accordingly, 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.