

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

**ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS
IN DOCKET NO. AB 303 (Sub-No 36X)**

December 2, 2010

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

OEA served an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proceeding on for public review and comment on November 15, 2010. In the EA, OEA recommended 4 environmental conditions and concluded that the proposed action would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment.

The EA comment period has ended. No comments were received in response to the EA. Accordingly, OEA recommends that the following conditions previously recommended in the EA should be imposed upon any decision granting abandonment authority:

1. Wisconsin Central Ltd. shall consult with the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) and notify NGS at least 90 days prior to beginning salvage activities that could disturb or destroy any geodetic station markers.
2. Prior to commencement of any salvage activities, Wisconsin Central Ltd. shall consult with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation regarding the use of appropriate procedures when performing abandonment activities including the removal of any highway rights-of-way under its jurisdiction.
3. Prior to the commencement of any salvage activities, Wisconsin Central Ltd. shall consult with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources regarding potential impacts on water quality, wetlands, 100-year floodplains, endangered or threatened species and critical habitats, wildlife sanctuaries or refuges, national or state parks, soil and water conservation, land use, and environmental cleanup/waste management.

4. Wisconsin Central Ltd. 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. Wisconsin Central Ltd. shall report back to the Office of Environmental Analysis regarding any consultations with the State Historic Preservation Office and the public. Wisconsin Central Ltd. 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.

If the above conditions are imposed, OEA believes that the proposed action will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

OEA CONTACT: Catherine Glidden, 245-0293