

#EA-2263

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN
DOCKET NO. AB 55 (SUB-NO. 712X)

May 9, 2014

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 CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT) filed a petition under 49 U.S.C. § 10502 seeking exemption from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. § 10903 to abandon approximately 9.67 miles of rail line on its Monticello Industrial Track, Monon Subdivision, in White County, Indiana. The Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) served an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proceeding on April 4, 2014 for public review and comment. In the EA, OEA recommended four 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. Accordingly, OEA recommends that the four conditions recommended in the EA should be imposed upon any decision granting abandonment authority. The conditions are:

1. CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT) shall consult with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Division of Fish and Wildlife, and the Division of Water's Technical Service Section prior to initiating salvage operations to determine the need to protect streams and other flowing waterbodies, and provide best management practices.
2. CSXT shall consult with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) prior to initiating salvage activities for potential impacts to waters of the United States, including wetlands, and shall comply with the reasonable requirements of the Corps.
3. CSXT shall consult with the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) and notify NGS at least 90 days prior to beginning salvage activities that will disturb or destroy any geodetic station markers.

4. In the event that any unanticipated archaeological sites, human remains, funerary items or associated artifacts are discovered during salvage activities, CSXT shall immediately cease all work and notify OEA, appropriate federally recognized tribes, and the DNR Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology (State Historic Preservation Office or SHPO), pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 800.13(b). OEA will then consult with the SHPO, appropriate federally-recognized tribes, the railroad, and other consulting parties, if any, to determine whether appropriate mitigation measures are necessary.

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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