

LAW OFFICES OF
LOUIS E. GITOMER, LLC

LOUIS E. GITOMER
Lou@lgraillaw.com

MELANIE B. YASBIN
Melanie@lgraillaw.com

600 BALTIMORE AVENUE, SUITE 301
TOWSON, MARYLAND 21204-4022
(410)296-2250
FAX (410) 332-0885

November 7, 2024

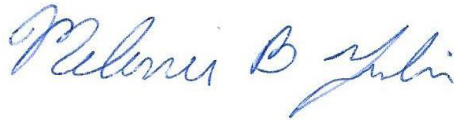
Ms. Danielle Gosselin
Director, Office of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423

Re: **Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 81X), CSX Transportation, Inc.—Abandonment
Exemption—in Marion County, IN**

Dear Ms. Gosselin:

Enclosed for electronic filing is a letter dated November 7, 2024, from the State of Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Fish and Wildlife with recommendations to address potential impacts of the proposed abandonment.

Sincerely yours,



Melanie B. Yasbin
Attorney for CSX Transportation, Inc.

Enclosure

THIS IS NOT A PERMIT

State of Indiana
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of Fish and Wildlife
Early Coordination/Environmental Assessment

DNR#: ER-26899

Request Received: October 8, 2024

Requestor:

Kevin Hardee
CSX Transportation
500 Water Street, J801
Jacksonville, FL 32202

Project:

CSX Transportation 1.8-mile rail line abandonment, Indianapolis; AB-55 (Sub-No. 818X)

County/Site Info: Marion County

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources has reviewed the above referenced project per your request. Our agency offers the following comments for your information and in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

If our agency has regulatory jurisdiction over the project, the recommendations contained in this letter may become requirements of any permit issued. If we do not have permitting authority, all recommendations are voluntary.

Regulatory Assessment:

Formal approval by the Department of Natural Resources under the regulatory programs administered by the Division of Water is not required for this project.

Natural Heritage Database:

The Natural Heritage Program's data have been checked. The State special concern Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) has been documented within .5 mile of the project area. The Division of Fish and Wildlife does not anticipate any significant impacts to the Peregrine Falcon due to this project.

Fish and Wildlife Comments:

Avoid and minimize impacts to fish, wildlife, and botanical resources to the greatest extent possible, and compensate for impacts. The following are recommendations that address potential impacts identified in the proposed project area:

1. Revegetate all bare and disturbed areas that are not currently mowed and maintained with a mixture of grasses, sedges, and wildflowers native to Central Indiana as soon as possible upon completion; turf-type grasses (including low-endophyte, friendly endophyte, and endophyte free tall fescue but excluding all other varieties of tall fescue) may be used in currently mowed areas only. A native herbaceous seed mixture must include at least 5 species of grasses and sedges and 5 species of wildflowers.
2. Do not excavate in the waterway and minimize disturbance to bank vegetation and contain disturbance to within the project limits.
3. Do not cut any trees suitable for Indiana Bat or Northern Long-eared Bat roosting (3 inches or greater diameter-at-breast height, living or dead, with loose hanging bark, or with cracks, crevices, or cavities) from April 1 through September 30.
4. Do not construct any temporary runarounds, access bridges, causeways, cofferdams, diversions, or pumparounds.

5. Do not deposit or allow construction/demolition materials or debris to fall or otherwise enter the waterway. Any incidental fallen material or debris in the waterway must be removed within 24 hours using best management practices, particularly lifting material out of the waterway and not dragging it across the streambed whenever possible.
6. Appropriately designed measures for controlling erosion and sediment must be implemented to prevent sediment from entering the waterbody or leaving the construction site; maintain these measures until construction is complete and all disturbed areas are stabilized.
7. Seed and protect all disturbed streambanks and slopes not protected by other methods that are 3:1 or steeper with erosion control blankets that are heavy-duty, biodegradable, and net free or that use loose-woven / Leno-woven netting to minimize the entrapment and snaring of small-bodied wildlife such as snakes and turtles (follow manufacturer's recommendations for selection and installation); seed and apply mulch on all other disturbed areas.
8. Replace each mature tree removed (trees that are 10" diameter-at-breast height/dbh or larger) with two native trees of 3-gallon stock or larger.

Contact Staff:

Our agency appreciates this opportunity to be of service. Please contact me at RVanVoorhis@dnr.IN.gov or (317) 232-8163 if we can be of further assistance.

Rachel Van Voorhis
Rachel Van Voorhis
Environmental Coordinator
Division of Fish and Wildlife

Date: November 7, 2024