

SERVICE DATE – APRIL 24, 2023

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
WASHINGTON, DC 20423

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Docket No. AB 6 (Sub-No. 501X)

**BNSF Railway Company – Abandonment Exemption –
In Contra Costa County, Cal.**

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

(X) NO NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED

() NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED

In this proceeding, BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) filed a notice of exemption 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 a line of railroad in Contra Costa County, Cal. The rail line proposed for abandonment, known as Line Segment 7258, extends approximately 0.79 miles from milepost 1190.9 to milepost 1191.69 near Point Richmond (the Line). The Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) served a Draft EA for this proceeding on April 3, 2023, for public review and comment. In the Draft EA, OEA recommended three environmental conditions and concluded that the proposed action would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment.

Conclusions

The Draft EA comment period has ended. Accordingly, OEA recommends that the following conditions previously recommended in the Draft EA should be imposed upon any decision granting abandonment authority: ¹

1. Pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act (16 U.S.C. § 1451 et seq.) and the Board's environmental regulations at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.9, BNSF shall consult with the California Coastal Commission and obtain state coastal management consistency certification, if necessary. BNSF may not file its consummation notice or initiate any

¹ 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 these condition(s) is not required with respect to any portion of the Line covered by the interim trail use agreement for the duration of the agreement.

salvage activities related to abandonment (including removal of tracks and ties) until it reports the results of these consultations in writing to the Board's Office of Environmental Analysis and the Board has removed this condition.

2. BNSF shall notify the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) at NGS.Infocenter@noaa.gov at least 90 days prior to beginning abandonment-related salvage activities.
3. BNSF 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, 54 U.S.C. § 306108, has been completed. BNSF shall report back to the Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) regarding any consultations with the State Historic Preservation Office and the public. BNSF 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.

By the Board, Danielle Gosselin, Director, Office of Environmental Analysis.