

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

SUPPLEMENTAL FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN DOCKET NO. AB 55 (Sub-No. 709X)

November 13, 2014

ABANDONMENT TYPE

The time for comments on the Environmental Assessment (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, CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT) filed a notice of exemption to abandon approximately 1.49 miles of rail line in Marion County, Indiana (the Line). Because SHPO had not completed its identification and evaluation procedures at the time of the Board's July 11, 2014 decision, the Board imposed a Section 106 condition requiring CSXT to: a) retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the historic integrity of all sites, buildings, structures and objects within the project right-of-way that are eligible for listing or listed in the National Register of Historic Places (generally, 50 years old or older) until the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 470f, has been completed; b) report back to the Office of Environmental Analysis regarding any consultations with the SHPO, any other Section 106 consulting parties and the public; and c) 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.

On November 12, 2014, OEA received a comment from Mitchell Zoll of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Historic Preservation & Archeology (SHPO) stating that based on information provided by CSXT, the proposed abandonment would not adversely affect historic properties so long as bridge QIY 3.10 remains in place. On November 12, 2014, CSXT submitted a comment stating that it would not remove either of the bridges on the Line. Accordingly, OEA recommends that the Section 106 historic preservation condition imposed in the July 11, 2014 decision be removed.

Conclusions

OEA recommends that the Section 106 historic preservation condition imposed in the July 11, 2014 decision be removed.

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