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OEA

SERVICE DATE – DECEMBER 29, 2025

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
WASHINGTON, DC 20423**

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Docket No. AB 33 (Sub-No. 354X)

Union Pacific Railroad Co. – Abandonment Exemption – In Jefferson County, Wis.

ABANDONMENT TYPE

The time for comments on the Draft Environmental Assessment (Draft EA) has expired in this:
() Notice of Exemption (X) Petition for Exemption () Regulated Abandonment

() **NO NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED**

(X) **NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED**

In this proceeding, Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP), a Class I rail carrier, filed a petition with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) under 49 U.S.C. § 10502 seeking exemption from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. § 10903 in connection with the abandonment of a rail line in Jefferson County, Wisconsin. The rail line proposed for abandonment, known as the Jefferson Junction Lead, extends approximately .88 miles from milepost 49.12 at the Clyman Subdivision to milepost 50, near the city of Jefferson, all in Jefferson County, Wis. (the Line). The Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) served a Draft EA for this proceeding on November 24, 2025 for public review and comment. In the Draft EA, OEA recommended no environmental conditions and concluded that the proposed action would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment.

Comment on the Draft EA

By email on December 16, 2025, the Wisconsin Historical Society (SHPO) stated that it had no comments or concerns. However, the SHPO also stated that if plans change or cultural materials/human remains are found, all work should cease and its office should be contacted. Accordingly, OEA is recommending an unanticipated discoveries condition be imposed on any decision granting abandonment authority should UP conduct any abandonment-related salvage activities.

Conclusions

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

1. In the event that any unanticipated archaeological sites, human remains, funerary items or associated artifacts are discovered during abandonment-related salvage activities, Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) shall immediately cease all work and notify the Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA), interested federally recognized tribes, and the Wisconsin Historical Society (SHPO) pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 800.13(b). OEA will then consult with the SHPO, interested federally recognized tribes, UP, and other consulting parties, if any, to determine whether appropriate mitigation measures are necessary.

If the above condition is 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.

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 this condition is not required with respect to any portion of the Line covered by the interim trail use agreement for the duration of the agreement.