

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN
DOCKET NO. AB 290 (Sub-No. 328X)

January 27, 2012

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**

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OEA served an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proceeding on January 6, 2012 for public review and comment. In the EA, OEA recommended 3 environmental conditions and concluded that the proposed action would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment.

Comments on the EA

OEA received 1 comment after issuance of the EA. The comment was supplied by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Southcentral Regional Office who recommended that Norfolk Southern Railway Company's (NSR) contractors and workers involved in salvage activities for the proposed abandonment look out for foreign objects that may have landed from passing trains and may now be located near or on the rail line. This comment is in addition to previous comments provided by DEP's Offices of Waste Management and Water Quality whose concerns were addressed in 1 of the 3 conditions that was included in the EA. The original DEP Condition is as follows:

Prior to the initiation of salvage activities, Norfolk Southern Railway Company shall consult with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Offices of Water Quality and Waste Management to ensure that reasonable measures are taken to minimize airborne dust, to ensure that appropriate water control measures are implemented and to obtain any permits that may be required.

In order to address the new DEP comment, we recommend that the above DEP condition be amended as follows:

Prior to the initiation of salvage activities, Norfolk Southern Railway Company shall consult with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Offices of Water Quality, Waste Management as well as its Southcentral Regional Office to ensure that reasonable measures are taken to minimize airborne dust, to ensure that appropriate water control measures are implemented, to obtain any permits that may be required, and to make certain that Norfolk Southern Railway Company's contractors and workers involved in salvage activities look out for foreign objects that may have landed from passing trains and may now be located near or on the rail line.

The EA comment period has ended. Accordingly, OEA recommends that the condition recommended in the EA, as modified by the recommendations in this document should be imposed upon any decision granting abandonment authority. The conditions are:

1. Prior to the initiation of salvage activities, Norfolk Southern Railway Company shall consult with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Offices of Water Quality, Waste Management as well as its Southcentral Regional Office to ensure that reasonable measures are taken to minimize airborne dust, to ensure that appropriate water control measures are implemented, to obtain any permits that may be required, and to make certain that Norfolk Southern Railway Company's contractors and workers involved in salvage activities look out for foreign objects that may have landed from passing trains and may now be located near or on the rail line.
2. Norfolk Southern Railway Company shall consult with the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) and notify NGS at least 90 days prior to beginning salvage activities that could disturb or destroy any geodetic station markers.
3. Prior to the initiation of salvage activities, Norfolk Southern Railway Company shall consult with the Borough of Marietta regarding the implementation of its flood control program and other issues of concern to the Borough.

If the above conditions are imposed, OEA believes that the proposed action will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

OEA CONTACT: Catherine Glidden, 202-245-0293