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OEA

SERVICE DATE – MAY 31, 2024

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
WASHINGTON, DC 20423**

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Docket No. AB 33 (Sub-No. 350X)

**Union Pacific Railroad Company – Abandonment Exemption –
In St. Louis County, Mo.**

Docket No. AB 1338X

**Missouri Eastern Railroad, LLC – Discontinuance Exemption –
In St. Louis County, Mo.**

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, Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) and Missouri Eastern Railroad, LLC (MER) filed a joint notice of exemption under 49 C.F.R. 1152.50 seeking exemption from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. § 10903 for UP to abandon and MER to discontinue operations in connection with the abandonment of a line of railroad in St. Louis County, Missouri. The rail line proposed for abandonment, also known as the Rock Island Old Passenger Main near Olivette, Missouri, extends approximately 0.55 miles from milepost 11.58 to milepost 11.03 (the Line). The Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) served a Draft EA in this proceeding on May 10, 2024, for public review and comment. In the Draft EA, OEA recommended one environmental condition and concluded that the proposed action would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment.

Modifications to the Draft EA

Upon further independent review, OEA believes that the condition requiring UP to consult with the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District (MSD) should be modified to include the words “abandonment-related” before the word “salvage.”

Conclusions

The Draft EA comment period has ended. Accordingly, OEA recommends that the condition recommended in the Draft EA, as modified by the recommendation in this document, should be imposed upon any decision granting abandonment authority.¹ The condition is:

- Union Pacific Railroad Company shall consult with the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District (MSD) prior to abandonment-related salvage, or consummation of the abandonment if abandonment-related salvage does not occur, regarding MSD's concerns about rights/easements.

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.