

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
SECTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

POST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN STB DOCKET NO. AB-497 (Sub-No. 4X)

November 17, 2008

ABANDONMENT TYPE

The time for comments on the Environmental Assessment (EA) has expired in this:

() Notice of Exemption (X) Petition for Exemption () Regulated Abandonment

(X) NO NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED

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SEA served an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proceeding on October 14, 2008 for public review and comment. In the EA, SEA recommended four environmental conditions and concluded that the proposed action would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment.

Conclusions

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

1. Prior to commencement of any salvage activities, Minnesota Northern Railroad, Inc. shall consult with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture to address its concerns about hazardous waste on the right-of-way.
2. Prior to commencement of any salvage activities, Minnesota Northern Railroad, Inc. shall consult with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency regarding permitting and comply with its reasonable requirements.
3. Minnesota Northern Railroad, Inc. shall consult with the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) and notify NGS at least 90 days prior to beginning salvage activities that will disturb or destroy any geodetic station markers.
4. Minnesota Northern Railroad, Inc. (MNN) shall retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the historic integrity of all sites, buildings, and structures 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. MNN shall report back to the Section of Environmental Analysis regarding any consultations with the SHPO and any other Section 106 consulting parties. MNN

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, SEA believes that the proposed action will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

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DK