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SERVICE DATE – JUNE 23, 2015

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

Docket No. AB 290 (Sub-No. 354X)

THE CINCINNATI, NEW ORLEANS AND TEXAS PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY—
DISCONTINUANCE OF SERVICE EXEMPTION—
IN SCOTT COUNTY, TENN.

Decided: June 23, 2015

On January 29, 2015, The Cincinnati, New Orleans and Texas Pacific Railway Company (CNOTP), a wholly owned subsidiary of Norfolk Southern Railway Company, filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 C.F.R. pt. 1152 subpart F—Exempt Abandonments and Discontinuances of Service to discontinue service over approximately 3.09 miles of rail line from milepost NR 215.61 near Helenwood to milepost NR 218.7 at New River in Scott County, Tenn. (the Line). By a decision served on March 9, 2015, at CNOTP's request, the Board held in abeyance publication of the notice in the Federal Register and the effectiveness of the exemption, pending completion and filing of an environmental and a historic report. Notice of the exemption was served and published in the Federal Register on June 12, 2015 (80 Fed Reg. 33,588). The exemption is scheduled to become effective on July 12, 2015.

On April 10, 2015, CNOTP filed a combined environmental and historic report. The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) examined the reports, verified their data, and analyzed the probable effect of the proposed action on the quality of the human environment. OEA served a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) on May 8, 2015. No comments to the EA were received by the May 22, 2015 due date. OEA issued a Final EA on May 22, 2015.

In the above-entitled proceeding, no environmental or historic preservation issues have been raised by any party or identified by OEA. Accordingly, a finding of no significant impact under 49 C.F.R. § 1105.10(g) will be made pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 1011.7(a)(2)(ix).

It is ordered:

1. Discontinuance of the Line will have no significant effect on the quality of the human environment and conservation of energy resources or on historic resources.
2. This decision is effective on its service date.

By the Board, Rachel D. Campbell, Director, Office of Proceedings.