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SERVICE DATE - FEBRUARY 2, 2004

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Docket No. AB-167 (Sub-No. 1184X)

CONSOLIDATED RAIL CORPORATION—ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION—IN MIDDLESEX  
COUNTY, NJ

Decided: January 30, 2004

Consolidated Rail Corporation (Conrail) filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F—Exempt Abandonments to abandon a portion of a line of railroad known as the Sayreville Running Track, between milepost 10.85± and milepost 11.31± in the Township of North Brunswick, Middlesex County, NJ, a distance of 0.46± miles. Notice of the exemption was served and published in the Federal Register on January 5, 2004 (69 FR 389-90). The exemption is scheduled to become effective on February 4, 2004.

The Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) issued an environmental assessment (EA) in this proceeding that was served on January 9, 2004. In the EA, SEA states that the New Jersey State Historic Preservation Office has not completed its review of the proposed abandonment. Therefore, SEA recommends that an environmental condition be placed on any decision granting abandonment authority requiring Conrail to retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the historic integrity of the line and all sites and structures on the line until the completion of the section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 470f (NHPA).

No comments to the EA were filed by the January 23, 2004 due date. Accordingly, the environmental condition recommended by SEA in the EA will be imposed.

As conditioned, this decision will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

It is ordered:

1. This proceeding is reopened.
2. Upon reconsideration, the exemption of the abandonment of the line described above is subject to the condition that Conrail retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the historic integrity of the line and all sites and structures on the line until the completion of the section 106 process of the NHPA.

3. This decision is effective on its service date.

By the Board, David M. Konschnik, Director, Office of Proceedings.

Vernon A. Williams  
Secretary