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DO

SERVICE DATE - JANUARY 13, 1998

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Docket No. AB-439 (Sub-No. 3X)

DALLAS RAPID TRANSIT--ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION--  
IN DALLAS, TX

Decided: January 12, 1998

The Dallas Rapid Transit (DART) filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F-- Exempt Abandonments to abandon a 6.99-mile line of railroad between milepost D-762.26 in the vicinity of Mockingbird Lane and milepost D-755.27 in the vicinity of the Kansas City Southern Railway Company bridge overpass, in Dallas County, TX. Notice of the exemption was served and published in the Federal Register on December 15, 1997 (62 FR 65732-33). The exemption is scheduled to become effective on January 14, 1998.

The Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) has issued an environmental assessment (EA) in this proceeding, served December 31, 1997. In the EA, SEA states that the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) has identified eight geodetic station markers that may be affected by the abandonment. NGS requests that it be notified 90 days in advance of any activities that may disturb or destroy the eight geodetic station markers. Therefore, SEA recommends that a condition be imposed requiring DART to consult with the NGS and provide NGS with 90 days' notice prior to disturbing or destroying any geodetic markers.

SEA also indicates that DART has advised that the bridges at mileposts D-759.94, D-758.7 and D-758.5 may be potentially eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places and that it intends to replace both the ballast deck pile trestle bridge at milepost D-758.7 and the I-beam girder bridge at milepost D-759.94 prior to DART's future transit use of the corridor. DART intends to relocate the steel bridge at milepost D-758.5 to match an identical historic bridge in Garland and preserve its historic integrity (which was included with DART's environmental report). Based on this information, an evaluation of the potential impact on historic resources has not been completed. Therefore, SEA recommends that DART retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the historic integrity of all sites and structures on the line that are 50 years old or older until completion of the section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 470f.

The recommended conditions 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 conditions that DART shall: (a) consult with the NGS and provide NGS with 90 days' notice prior to disturbing or destroying any geodetic markers; and (b) retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the historic integrity of all sites and structures on the right-of-way that are 50 years old or older until completion of the section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 470f.

3. This decision is effective on its service date.

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

Vernon A. Williams  
Secretary

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