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SERVICE DATE - AUGUST 6, 1998

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 554X)

CSX TRANSPORTATION, INC.--ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION--IN  
JASPER COUNTY, SC AND CHATHAM COUNTY, GA

Decided: August 3, 1998

CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT) filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F--Exempt Abandonments to abandon approximately 14.20 miles of its line of railroad from milepost SHC-497.59 near South Hardeeville, SC, to milepost SHC-505.05, and from milepost SH-505.05 to milepost SH-510.06 at North Savannah, GA, and the Hutchison Island Spur from milepost SHB-509.93 to milepost SHB-511.66, in Jasper County, SC, and Chatham County, GA. Notice of the exemption was served and published in the Federal Register on November 24, 1997 (62 FR 62668).

By decision served December 23, 1997, this proceeding was reopened at the request of the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) and the exemption was made subject to the conditions that CSXT: (1) consult with the Savannah District and the Charleston District Offices of the Army Corps of Engineers prior to commencing any salvage operations involving the Broad River Bridge; and (2) retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the integrity of all sites and structures on the right-of-way in Georgia 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.

By letter dated July 20, 1998, the Georgia Historic Preservation Division has informed SEA that the segment of the line proposed for abandonment in Georgia is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Therefore, SEA recommends that the historic preservation condition imposed in the December 23 decision be removed. Accordingly, the proceeding will be reopened and the previously imposed historic preservation condition will be removed.<sup>1</sup>

This action 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.

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<sup>1</sup> The salvage condition imposed in the December 23, 1997 decision remains in effect.

STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 554X)

2. Upon reconsideration, the section 106 historic preservation condition imposed in the December 23, 1997, decision is removed.

3. This decision is effective on its service date.

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

Vernon A. Williams  
Secretary