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SERVICE DATE – DECEMBER 6, 2011

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

Docket No. AB 55 (Sub-No. 713X)

CSX TRANSPORTATION, INC.—ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION—IN MONROE
COUNTY, ALA.

Decided: December 5, 2011

CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT), filed a notice of exemption under 49 C.F.R. pt. 1152 subpart F—Exempt Abandonments to abandon an approximately 1.5-mile rail line on its Southern Region, Atlanta Division, Southern Alabama Subdivision, between mileposts 0RA 676.27 and 0RA 677.79 at the end of the track, in Hybart, Monroe County, Ala. Notice of the exemption was served and published in the Federal Register on November 10, 2011 (76 Fed. Reg. 70,223). The exemption is scheduled to become effective on December 10, 2011.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) served an environmental assessment (EA) in this proceeding on November 15, 2011. In the EA, OEA indicates that the Alabama Department of Transportation (AL-DOT) has no objection to the proposed abandonment. However, if the abandonment is approved, AL-DOT requests that the crossing at milepost 0RA 677.28 be paved or the track removed, and the crossbuck be taken down. OEA recommends that a condition be imposed requiring CSXT to consult with AL-DOT regarding salvage and abandonment procedures prior to commencing any salvage activities.

OEA states that, in an e-mail dated October 28, 2011, the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Geodetic Survey (NGS) stated there is one geodetic survey marker located in the area proposed for abandonment. OEA recommends that a condition be imposed requiring CSXT to consult with NGS at least 90 days prior to commencement of any salvage activities that will disturb or destroy the survey station marker.

Comments to the EA were due November 30, 2011. No comments were received. Accordingly, the conditions recommended by OEA in the EA will be imposed.

As conditioned, 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.

2. Upon reconsideration, the notice served and published in the Federal Register on November 10, 2011, exempting the abandonment of the line described above, is subject to the conditions that CSXT shall: (1) consult with AL-DOT regarding salvage and abandonment procedures prior to commencing any salvage activities; and (2) consult with NGS at least 90 days prior to commencing any salvage activities that would disturb or destroy the geodetic survey marker.

3. This decision is effective on its service date.

By the Board, Joseph H. Dettmar, Acting Director, Office of Proceedings.