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SERVICE DATE – SEPTEMBER 29, 2015

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

Docket No. AB 55 (Sub-No. 744X)

CSX TRANSPORTATION, INC.—ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION—
IN EDGAR COUNTY, ILL.

Decided: September 28, 2015

CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT), filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 C.F.R. pt. 1152 subpart F—Exempt Abandonments for CSXT to abandon approximately 1.03 miles of railroad line extending between milepost QSA 21.50 and milepost QSA 22.53 near the City of Paris, Edgar County, Ill. (the Line). Notice of the exemption was served and published in the Federal Register on August 31, 2015 (80 Fed. Reg. 52,537). The exemption is scheduled to become effective on September 30, 2015.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) served an environmental assessment (EA) on September 4, 2015, recommending that two environmental conditions be imposed. In the EA, OEA states that it received comments from the Edgar County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) regarding CSXT's intended salvage activities on the line. SWCD comments that if U.S. Environmental Protection Agency standards are followed and appropriate measures are taken to prevent or control spills of fuels, lubricants, or other pollutant material, the proposed abandonment would not result in any adverse impacts. Therefore, OEA recommends a condition requiring CSXT to consult with SWCD prior to beginning salvage activities regarding the use of appropriate measures to prevent or control spills.

OEA also states that the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) commented that one geodetic station marker is located within the area of the proposed abandonment. Therefore, OEA recommends a condition requiring CSXT to consult with and notify NGS at least 90 days prior to beginning salvage activities that will disturb or destroy any geodetic station markers.

Comments on the EA were due by September 18, 2015. No comments were received. Accordingly, the two conditions recommended by OEA in the EA will be imposed.

Based on OEA's recommendation, the proposed abandonment, if implemented as conditioned, 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 August 31, 2015, exempting the abandonment of the line described above is subject to the following conditions:

(a) Prior to conducting any salvage activities, CSXT shall consult with the SWCD regarding the use of appropriate measures to prevent or control spills of fuels, lubricants, or other pollutant material and shall comply with that agency's reasonable recommendations.

(b) CSXT shall consult with and notify NGS at least 90 days prior to beginning salvage activities that will disturb or destroy any geodetic station markers in order to plan for the possible relocation of the geodetic station markers by NGS.

3. This decision is effective on its service date.

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