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SERVICE DATE - MAY 23, 2003

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD  
WASHINGTON, DC 20423

## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

STB Docket NO. AB-55 (Sub-No. 632X)

CSX Transportation, Inc.—Abandonment Exemption--  
in Lee County, NC

### **BACKGROUND**

In the above entitled proceeding, CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT) has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152.50 seeking exemption from the requirements of 49 U.S.C. 10903 in connection with the abandonment of a 0.64-mile rail line between milepost AE 245.06 to milepost AE 245.70 in Sanford, Lee County, NC. A map depicting the rail line in relationship to the area served is appended to the report. If the exemption becomes effective, the railroad will be able to salvage track, ties and other railroad appurtenances, and to dispose of the right-of-way.

### **DESCRIPTION OF THE LINE**

The right-of-way is approximately 40 feet from the centerline of track. CSXT states that there has been no traffic on the line during the past two years.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

CSXT submitted an environmental report that concludes the quality of the human environment will not be affected significantly as a result of the abandonment or any post abandonment activities, including salvage and disposition of the right-of-way. CSXT served the environmental and historical reports on a number of appropriate Federal, state, and local agencies as required by the Surface Transportation Board's environmental rules [49 CFR 1105.7(b)]. Also we have consulted with appropriate agencies and individuals to verify the railroad's report and to obtain additional information and comments regarding the potential environmental effects of the proposed abandonment. Contacts have included: Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources; Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Division of Archives and History; Intergovernmental Relations, North Carolina State Clearinghouse; Lee County Economic Development Corp.; National Geodetic Survey; National Park Service; Sanford/Lee County Planning & Development Department; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District; U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service; and the U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service.

## **HISTORIC REVIEW**

CSXT submitted a historic report as required by the Surface Transportation Board's environmental rules [49 CFR 1105.8(a)]. CSXT served the report on the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Division of Archives and History (SHPO) pursuant to 49 CFR 1105.8(c). We have reviewed the report and find that no historic properties listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) would be affected by the proposed abandonment.

Pursuant to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's regulations for implementing the section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act at 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1) and 36 CFR 800.8, we have determined that the proposed abandonment will not affect historic properties listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register. The documentation for this finding, as specified at 36 CFR 800.11(d), consists of CSXT's historic report, all relevant correspondence, and this EA, which have been provided to the SHPO and made available to the public.

## **CONDITIONS**

We recommend that no environmental conditions be placed on any decision granting abandonment authority.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

Based on the information provided from all sources to date, we conclude that, as currently proposed, abandonment of the line will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Therefore, the environmental impact statement process is unnecessary.

Alternatives to the proposed abandonment would include denial (and, therefore no change in operations), discontinuance of service without abandonment, and continued operation by another operator. In this case, the existing quality of the human environment and energy consumption should not be affected.

## **PUBLIC USE**

If abandonment and salvage of the rail line does not take place, the right-of-way may be suitable for other public use. A request containing the requisite four-part showing for imposition of a public use condition (49 CFR 1152.28) must be filed with the Board and served on the railroad within the time specified in the Federal Register notice.

## **TRAILS USE**

A request for a notice of interim trail use (NITU) is due to the Board, with a copy to the railroad, within 10 days of publication of the notice of the petition for exemption in the Federal Register. However, the Board will accept late-filed requests as long as it retains jurisdiction to do so in a particular case. This request must comply with the Board's rules for use of rights-of-way as trails (49 CFR 1152.29).

## **PUBLIC ASSISTANCE**

The Board's Office of Public Services responds to questions regarding interim trail use, public use, and other reuse alternatives. You may contact the Office of Public Services directly at (202) 565-1592, or mail inquiries to Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K St., N.W., Office of Public Services, Washington, DC 20423.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL COMMENTS**

If you wish to file comments regarding this environmental assessment, send an **original and two copies** to Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K. St., N.W., Washington, DC 20423, to the attention of Ann Newman, who prepared this environmental assessment. **Please refer to STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 632X) in all correspondence addressed to the Board.** If you have questions regarding this environmental assessment, you should contact Ann Newman at (202) 565-1657, fax at (202) 565-9002, or e-mail at Ann.Newman@STB.dot.gov.

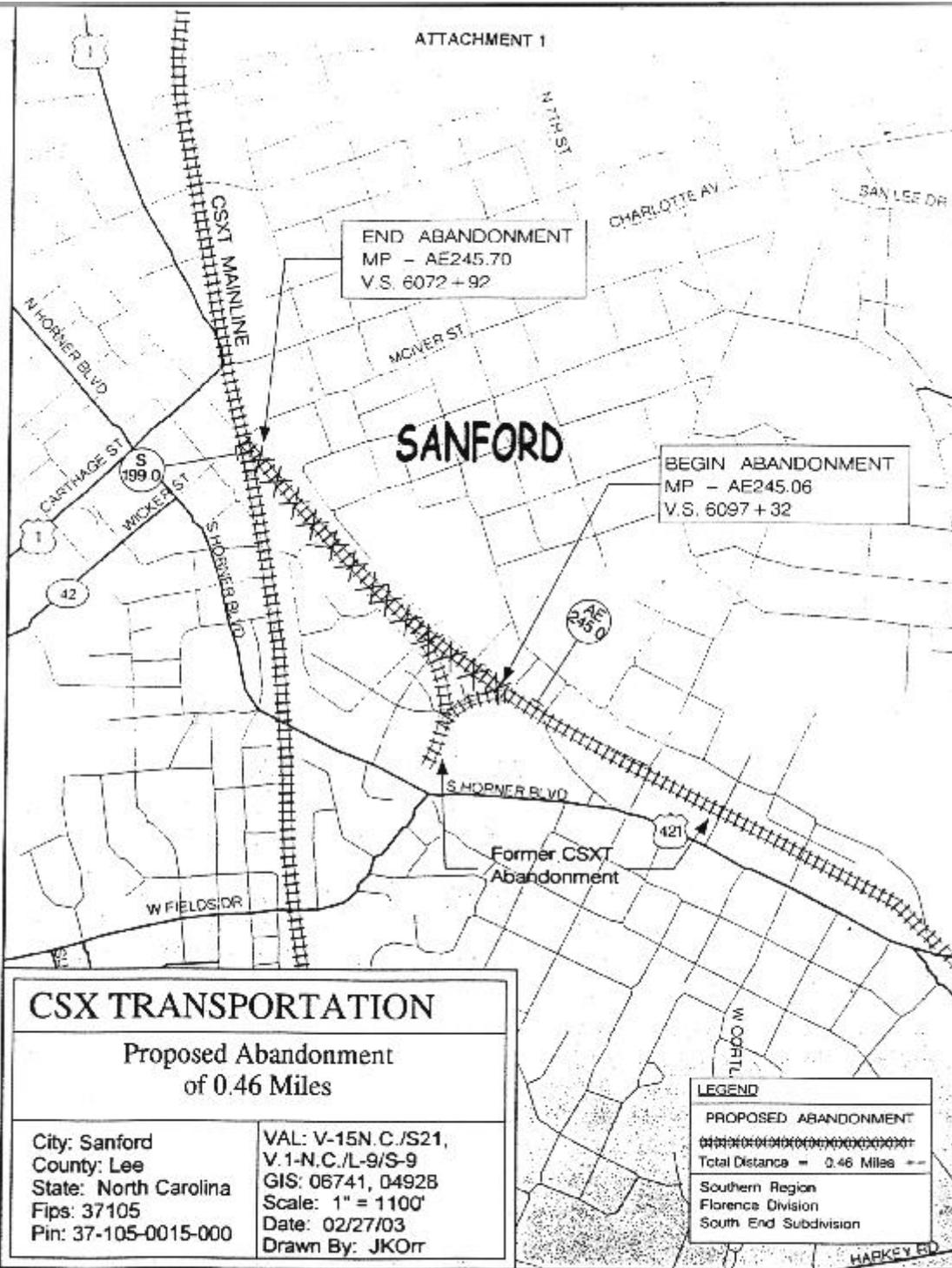
Date made available to the public: May 23, 2003.

**Comment due date: June 9, 2003.**

By the Surface Transportation Board, Victoria Rutson, Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis.

Vernon A. Williams  
Secretary

Attachment



<b>CSX TRANSPORTATION</b>	
Proposed Abandonment of 0.46 Miles	
City: Sanford	VAL: V-15N.C./S21,
County: Lee	V.1-N.C./L-9/S-9
State: North Carolina	GIS: 06741, 04928
Fips: 37105	Scale: 1" = 1100'
Pin: 37-105-0015-000	Date: 02/27/03
	Drawn By: JKOr

<b>LEGEND</b>
PROPOSED ABANDONMENT -----
Total Distance = 0.46 Miles
Southern Region
Florence Division
South End Subdivision