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SERVICE DATE - FEBRUARY 4, 1998

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 557X)

CSX TRANSPORTATION, INC.--ABANDONMENT
EXEMPTION--IN ATKINSON COUNTY, GA

Decided: January 27, 1998

CSXT Transportation, Inc. (CSXT) filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F--Exempt Abandonments to abandon approximately 0.51 miles of its line of railroad between milepost AP-617.94 and milepost AP-618.45 at the end of track, in Pearson, Atkinson County, GA. The notice was served and published in Federal Register on January 7, 1998 (63 FR 923). The exemption is scheduled to become effective on February 6, 1998.

The Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) has issued an environmental assessment (EA) in this proceeding, served January 12, 1998. In the EA, SEA indicates that the Georgia State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) advised that the entire line should be considered eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Therefore, SEA recommends that CSXT consult with SHPO to aid the Surface Transportation Board in meeting its responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act. SEA states that the purpose of this consultation is to: (1) determine whether the rail line segment is potentially eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places; and (2) determine ways to avoid or reduce any adverse impacts association with abandonment if the line is eligible for inclusion. Therefore, pending resolution of this issue, SEA recommends that CSXT be required to retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the historic integrity of the line segment until completion of the section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 470f.

This decision will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or 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 condition that CSXT retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the historic integrity of the line segment until completion of the section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act, U.S.C. 470f.
3. This decision is effective on its service date.

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

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary

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