

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN
DOCKET NO. AB-290 (Sub-No. 326X) AND DOCKET NO. AB-1093X

August 21, 2013

ABANDONMENT TYPE

The time for comments on the Environmental Assessment (EA) has expired in this:

Notice of Exemption Petition for Exemption Regulated Abandonment

NO NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED

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OEA served an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proceeding on August 5, 2013 for public review and comment. In the EA, OEA recommended two environmental conditions and concluded that the proposed action would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment.

Comments on the EA

No new environmental comments were received following the issuance of the EA.

Conclusions

The EA comment period has ended. Accordingly, OEA recommends that the following conditions previously recommended in the EA should be imposed upon any decision granting abandonment authority:

- 1. Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSR) shall consult with the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) prior to beginning salvage activities. If NGS identifies geodetic station markers that may be affected by the proposed abandonment, NSR shall 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.**
- 2. Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSR) shall retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the historic integrity of all historic properties including sites, buildings, structures, and objects within the project right-of-way (the Area of Potential Effect) that are eligible for listing or listed in the National Register of Historic Places until the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. § 470f, has been completed. NSR shall report back to the Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) regarding any consultations with the Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology of the Indian Department of Natural Resources (State Historic Preservation Office or SHPO), and the public. NSR may not file its consummation notice or initiate any salvage activities related to abandonment (including removal of tracks and ties) until the**

Section 106 process has been completed and the Board has removed this condition.

If the above conditions are imposed, OEA believes that the proposed action will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

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