



Dave Geraci
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EI-3261
KB

November 5, 2007

Surface Transportation Board
Section of Environmental Analysis
395 East Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

RE: CSXT Abandonment
Shelby County, TN
STB Docket AB-55 (Sub-No. 684X)

Dear STB - SEA:

This refers to CSX Transportation's Notice of Exemption filed on September 7, 2007, requesting authority to abandon its rail line described above. Enclosed please find a copy of a letter dated October 16, 2007 (received October 24, 2007) from Mr. Lee Barclay, Field Supervisor for the US Fish and Wildlife Service in Cookeville, Tennessee stating *"It appears that the proposed project would result in insignificant damage to the environmental resources. Therefore, we would not object to the abandonment of the subject section of railroad."*

Sincerely,

Attachments

Copy: Mr. Steven Armbrust, CSXT, 500 Water Street-J150, Jacksonville, FL, 32202



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

446 Neal Street
Cookeville, TN 38501

October 16, 2007

Mr. Dave Geraci
CSX Transportation, Inc.
500 Water Street, J200
Jacksonville, Florida 32202

Subject: Proposed abandonment of 13.34 miles of railroad from Memphis at Railroad Milepost ONI 224 to the end of track near Cordova at Railroad Milepost ONI 210.66, Shelby County, Tennessee.

Dear Mr. Geraci:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) biologists have reviewed the Environmental Report for the subject railroad abandonment, which you included with a letter dated August 1, 2007. This action would involve removal of the rail, cross-ties, and upper layer of ballast. Please consider these comments during further development of the project plans.

Endangered species collection records available to the Service do not indicate that federally listed or proposed endangered or threatened species occur within the impact area of the project. We note, however, that collection records available to the Service may not be all-inclusive. Our data base is a compilation of collection records made available by various individuals and resource agencies. This information is seldom based on comprehensive surveys of all potential habitat and thus does not necessarily provide conclusive evidence that protected species are present or absent at a specific locality. Based on the best information available at this time, we believe that potential endangered species concerns have been adequately coordinated. Species concerns should be reconsidered if (1) new information reveals impacts of the proposed action that may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner not previously considered, (2) the proposed action is subsequently modified to include activities which were not considered during this consultation, or (3) new species are listed or critical habitat designated that might be affected by the proposed action.

It appears that the proposed project would result in insignificant damage to environmental resources. Therefore, we would not object to abandonment of the subject section of railroad.

Thank you for this opportunity to review the project plans. Please contact David Pelren of my staff at 931/528-6481 (ext. 204) if you have questions about these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lee A. Barclay". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Lee A. Barclay, Ph.D.
Field Supervisor