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ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
August 11, 2016
Part of
Public Record

August 10, 2016

E-FILED

Cynthia Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Surface Transportation Board
Office of Proceedings
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

Re: Docket No. AB 6 (Sub-No. 491X), BNSF Railway Company --
Abandonment Exemption -- In Stearns County, Minn.

Dear Ms. Brown:

On September 10, 2015, BNSF Railway Company ("BNSF") filed a Notice of Exemption to abandon service on a 0.45-mile line of railroad located between Milepost 80.66 and Milepost 81.11, in St. Joseph, Stearns County, Minnesota (the "Line").

By decision served September 30, 2015, the Surface Transportation Board ("Board") granted the requested exemption effective October 30, 2015. By decision served October 29, 2015, the Board reopened the proceeding and imposed the following two conditions: BNSF shall: "(1) consult with NGS and notify NGS at least 90 days prior to beginning any salvage activities that will disturb or destroy any geodetic station markers...; and (2) consult with USFWS to assess potential impacts to the northern long-eared bat or other federally listed threatened or endangered species and identify any appropriate mitigation measures."

By e-mail dated November 6, 2015, BNSF notified NGS that BNSF will commence salvage operations no sooner than 90 days from the date of the e-mail. See Exhibit 1. By e-mail dated January 13, 2016, USFWS notified BNSF that the proposed abandonment will have "no effect" under the Endangered Species Act. See Exhibit 2.

BNSF hereby notifies the Board that on July 28, 2016, BNSF consummated the abandonment of the Line.

If you have any questions, please call me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karl Morell". The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent loop on the 'K' and a long tail on the 'l'.

Karl Morell

cc: Minnesota Department of Transportation

Karl Morell

From: Thompson, Emily Jean <Emily.Thompson@BNSF.com>
Sent: Friday, November 06, 2015 2:49 PM
To: simon.monroe@noaa.gov
Cc: Karl Morell
Subject: Docket No. AB 6 (Sub-No. 491X)

Mr. Monroe,

Pursuant to the STB Decision served October 29, 2015, in the above-referenced proceeding, BNSF Railway Company hereby gives the National Geodetic Survey notice that BNSF will commence salvage operations no sooner than 90 days from today. BNSF does not believe that any geodetic survey markers will be disturbed or destroyed as a result of the salvage operations. Let me know if you have any questions. Thank you.

Emily Thompson
Paralegal III
BNSF Law Department
2500 Lou Menk Dr. AOB-3
Fort Worth, Texas 76131-2898
Office 817-352-2376
Emily.Thompson@BNSF.com



This message may be confidential and should be read or retained only by the intended recipient. If you have received this transmission in error, please immediately notify the sender by replying to this message and then delete it from your system. Thank you.

Karl Morell

From: Horton, Andrew <andrew_horton@fws.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 13, 2016 4:41 PM
To: Thompson, Emily Jean
Subject: Re: FW: BNSF Abandonment AB-6-491X Stearns County, MN - northern long-eared bat

Emily,

Thank you for your inquiry. This notice is all you need to move forward with this project. Keep this "no effect" determination for your records and on our end, since federally species are not being impacted per your determination, section 7 under the Endangered Species Act does not need to occur. We recognize your determination and you may move forward at your discretion. Let me know if you need any additional assistance.

- Andrew

Andrew Horton
Twin Cities Ecological Services Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
4101 American Blvd East
Bloomington, MN 55425-1665
(612) 725-3548 ext. 2208

On Wed, Jan 13, 2016 at 10:41 AM, Peter Fasbender <peter_fasbender@fws.gov> wrote:

Here's another. Let me know if you're the guy. Thanks –

Pete

Peter J. Fasbender

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Twin Cities Ecological Services Field Office

4101 American Boulevard East

Bloomington, Minnesota 55425

612/725-3548, ext. 2210