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SERVICE DATE - JULY 30, 2004

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 647X)

CSX TRANSPORTATION, INC.–ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION–IN DARLINGTON
COUNTY, SC

Decided: July 28, 2004

CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT) filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F–Exempt Abandonments to abandon a 1.49-mile line of the Southern Region, Florence Division, Hamlet Subdivision, between milepost SJ 306.13 (V.S. 387+15) and milepost 307.39 (V.S. 465+62.5), in Darlington County, SC. Notice of the exemption was served on July 8, 2004, and published in the Federal Register on July 14, 2004 (69 FR 42241-42). The exemption is scheduled to become effective on August 6, 2004.

The Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) issued an environmental assessment (EA) in this proceeding that was served on July 12, 2004. In the EA, SEA states that the South Carolina Department of Archives and History (State Historic Preservation Office or SHPO) had not responded to the railroad's historic report at the time this EA was prepared. Therefore, pending completion of the SHPO's assessment, SEA recommends a condition to ensure compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 470f (NHPA).

No comments to the EA were filed by the July 26, 2004 due date. Accordingly, the environmental condition recommended by SEA in the EA will be imposed.

As conditioned, this decision will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the 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 right-of-way until completion of the section 106 process of the NHPA.

3. This decision is effective on its service date.

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

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary