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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
SECTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

POST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS

STB DOCKET NO. AB-6 (SUB-NO. 457X)

**BNSF RAILWAY COMPANY—ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION—IN STEVENS
COUNTY, MN**

September 28, 2007

ABANDONMENT TYPE

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

(x) Notice of Exemption () Petition for Exemption () Regulated Abandonment

(x) NO NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED

SEA served an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proceeding on September 10, 2007 for public review and comment. In the EA, SEA recommended two (2) environmental conditions and concluded that the proposed action would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment. No comments were received during the EA comment period that ended on September 25, 2007.

CONCLUSION

SEA recommends that the following conditions previously recommended in the EA should be imposed upon any decision granting abandonment authority:

CONDITION

- BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) 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. BNSF shall report back to the Section of Environmental Analysis regarding any consultations with the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office, Tribal Historic Preservation Office (if on tribal lands), any other Section 106 consulting parties that have been identified and the public. BNSF may not file its consummation notice or initiate any salvage activities related to abandonment until the Section 106 process has been completed and the Board has removed this condition.

- BNSF shall consult with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service regarding any impacts on Federally-listed threatened or endangered species if any salvage activities or ground disturbance occurs along the right-of-way as a result of this abandonment.

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

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