

EO-587
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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
SECTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

POST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN STB DOCKET NO. AB-570 (Sub No. 2X)

August 2, 2007

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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SEA served an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proceeding on June 29, 2007, for public review and comment. In the EA, SEA recommended three environmental conditions and concluded that the proposed action would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment.

Conclusions

The EA comment period has ended. Accordingly, SEA recommends that the three environmental conditions recommended in the EA should be imposed upon any decision granting abandonment authority. The conditions are:

1. The Palouse River & Coulee City Railroad, Inc. (PRCC), shall consult with the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to ensure that DEQ's concerns regarding PRCC's existing right-of-way and salvage activities are addressed. Furthermore, PRCC shall submit the results of these consultations in writing to the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis prior to the onset of salvage operations.
2. The Palouse River & Coulee City Railroad, Inc., shall notify the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) at least 90 days prior to beginning salvage activities in order to plan for the possible relocation of the geodetic station markers by NGS.
3. The Palouse River & Coulee City Railroad, Inc., shall retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the historic integrity of its rail right-of-way (with the exception of the bridge owned by Gritman Medical Center) until the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 470f, has been completed.

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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