

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
SECTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

EO-474

CD

POST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN STB DOCKET NO. AB-55 (Sub-No. 672X)

April 19, 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

() **NO NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED**

(X) **NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED**

SEA served an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proceeding on April 3, 2007, for public review and comment. In the EA, SEA recommended two environmental conditions and concluded that the proposed action would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment.

Comments on the EA

SEA received one comment after issuance of the EA. The Florida Department of State's Division of Historical Resources (State Historic Preservation Office or SHPO) has submitted a letter stating that the proposed undertaking will have no effect on historic properties. However, because the rail line was constructed around 1901, the SHPO has requested the following documentation from CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT): any available historic photographs; a current and archival quality black and white photograph of the rail line; a USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle location map with boundaries clearly marked; a large street, plat, or parcel map with resources mapped and labeled; and black and white archival quality photographs or digital images, including aerial photographs (if available). In an April 18, 2007 telephone conversation with SEA, CSXT stated that it intends to prepare such documentation.

Modifications to the EA

In the EA, SEA recommended a condition requiring CSXT to retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the historic integrity of all sites, buildings, and structures within the project right-of-way 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.

Pursuant to the Section 106 regulations of the National Historic Preservation Act at 36 CFR 800.5(b), and following consultation with the SHPO and the public, we have determined that the proposed abandonment would not affect historic properties listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register. Accordingly, SEA believes that no historic preservation condition is necessary.

Conclusions

The EA comment period has ended. Accordingly, SEA recommends that the conditions recommended in the EA, as modified by the recommendations in this document should be imposed upon any decision granting abandonment authority. The condition is:

1. CSX Transportation, Inc. shall conduct salvage activities in the following manner: 1) perform salvage activities within the right-of-way and utilize existing public and private crossings; 2) transport crossties and other debris away from the right-of-way, streams, wetlands, and banks of waterways; 3) avoid disturbing the underlying roadbed and any activities that would cause sedimentation or erosion of the soil; 4) avoid dredging or use of fill in the removal of the track material; and 5) take precautions during salvage operations to prevent or control spills from fuels, lubricants or any other pollutant materials from entering any waterways.

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

SEA CONTACT: Christa Dean 245-0299

E1-2903

CD



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Kurt S. Browning
 Secretary of State
 DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

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

March 19, 2007

RE: DHR Project File No.: 2007-748
 Received by DHR: February 2, 2007
 Surface Transportation Board Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 672X)
 Abandonment and Discontinuance of Service of Railroad Known as the West End of the
 Parrish Spur, Approximately Between Railroad Milepost 871.0 to 871.66 in Palmetto
 Palmetto, Manatee County

Dear Mr. Geraci:

Our office received and reviewed the above referenced project in accordance with Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966*, as amended and *36 CFR Part 800: Protection of Historic Properties* and the *National Environmental Policy Act of 1969*, as amended. The State Historic Preservation Officer is to advise Federal agencies as they identify historic properties (listed or eligible for listing, in the *National Register of Historic Places*), assess effects upon them, and consider alternatives to avoid or minimize adverse effects.

Since the rail spur was first constructed around 1901, it is the opinion of this agency that this historic resource should be documented for inclusion in the Florida Master Site File. Documentation should include a Florida Master Site File Resource Group Form, any available historic photographs, a current & archival quality black and white photograph of the rail spur, and USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle location map with boundaries clearly marked, a large scale street, plat, or parcel map with resources mapped and labeled, and black and white archival quality photographs or digital images, including aerial photographs (if available). Florida Master Site File Resource Group Forms and the required specifications for digital images are available on our website at <http://www.flheritage.com/preservation/sitefile/>.

Nevertheless, based on the information provided, it is the opinion of this office that the proposed undertaking will have no effect on historic properties.

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Historical Museums
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Southeast Regional Office
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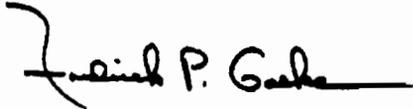
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Mr. Geraci
March 19, 2007
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If you have any questions concerning our comments, please contact James Toner, Historic Sites Specialist, by electronic mail jtoner@dos.state.fl.us, or at 850-245-6333.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frederick P. Gaske". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Frederick P. Gaske, Director, and
State Historic Preservation Officer