

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
SECTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

E0-544
CG

POST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN
STB DOCKET NO. AB-55 (Sub-No. 633X)

July 10, 2007

ABANDONMENT TYPE

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

() Notice of Exemption (X) 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 6/5/2007 for public review and comment. In the EA, SEA recommended one environmental condition and concluded that the proposed action would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment.

Comments on the EA

SEA received two comments following issuance of the EA (see attached). On July 2, 2007, Heidi Peterson of the Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission provided an e-mail comment to SEA indicating the County's interest in acquiring the rail line proposed for abandonment as a trail. According to Ms. Peterson, the County has been in contact with CSXT regarding its interest in purchasing the line for trails use. Ms. Peterson pointed out in her correspondence that a portion of the rail line may be owned by the Genesee County Land Bank.

The second comment to SEA was received from the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan. By letter dated June 20, 2007, the Tribe indicated that it has no concerns or information regarding the location of traditional cultural properties within the right-of-way of the proposed abandonment and does not have any available information to share with SEA at this time.

SEA does not believe that either of the above comments should result in amendment to the EA or the addition of other conditions.

Conclusions

The EA comment period has ended. Accordingly, SEA recommends that the following condition previously recommended in the EA should be imposed upon any decision granting abandonment authority:

1. CSX Transportation Inc. shall notify the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) at least 90 days prior to beginning any salvage activities in order to plan for the possible relocation of geodetic station markers by NGS.

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

SEA CONTACT: Catherine Glidden (202) 245-0293 CG 7/10/07



ZIIBIWING CENTER
of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways

EI-3015
CG

THE SAGINAW CHIPPEWA INDIAN TRIBE
6650 E. Broadway • Mt. Pleasant, Michigan 48858

June 20, 2007

Surface Transportation Board
Case Control Unit
Washington DC 20423
ATTN: Catherine Glidden

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in responds to **Environmental Assessment, STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 633X), CSX Transportation, Inc. – Abandonment Exemption- in Genesee County, MI.**

At this time we do not have any information concerning the presence of any Indian Traditional Cultural Properties, Sacred Sites, or other Significant Properties to the projected project area(s). This is not to say that such a site may not exist, just that this office does not have any available information of the area(s) at this time.

This office would be willing to assist if in the future or during the construction there is a discovery of Native American human remains or burial objects. Feel free to call my office if you have any questions or requests at 989-775-4730.

Thank you for including this Tribe in your plans.

William Johnson

William Johnson/hd

Surface Transportation Board

Incoming Correspondence Record

#EI-3011

* Required Fields		Recorded by Kenneth Blodgett on 07/02/2007	
*Docket #:	AB 55 633 X	Affiliation:	Local Interest
*Name of Sender:	Heidi Peterson	Letter Type:	Other
Group:	Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission		
Attention Of:	Unknown	Description 'Other': e-filing with attachments	
*Date Received:	07/02/2007	NEPA Type:	EA Comment
Date of Letter:	07/02/2007	In Public Docket?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Group's Address:	1101 Beach St, Room 223	Phone Number:	810-257-3010
Group's City:	Flint	Email Address:	hpeterson@co.genesee.mi.us
Group's State:	Michigan	Group's Zip Code:	48502-

The section of rail line undergoing abandonment by CSX Transportation and the section of rail line directly north of on the Old Mainline Branch Valuation Station 9195+50 to the Flint River at Grand Traverse in Flint, Michigan has been identified in the 2007 Genesee County Regional Trail Plan as one of the top priorities for new trail construction in Genesee County. An informal trail advocacy group, the Genesee Regional Trail Council, with staff support supplied by the Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission (GCMPC), is working towards building this section of trail with the support of local governments, the Michigan Department of Transportation, Genesee County Land Bank, Genesee County Parks and Recreation, the Friends of the Flint River Trail, Stockton Center at Spring Grove, and many other groups and individuals. We have contacted CSX Transportation in Jacksonville, Florida and will be sending a letter of interest in purchasing this rail line in later this year. To find out more information on the Trail Plan and the Genesee Regional Trail Council please visit the Genesee County Planning Commission's website at www.gcmpc.org and click on the Transportation page. A portion of the section of rail line undergoing abandonment is also shown as owned by the Genesee County Land Bank by their records. CSX Transportation has been contacted by the Land Bank and GCMPC about this conflict of ownership. This property can be viewed by an interactive map from the Land Bank website at www.thlandbank.org. Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions on this matter at Heidi Peterson, Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission, 1101 Beach St, Room 223, Flint, MI 48502 or (810) 257-3010. Thank you for your consideration of our local interests in this matter. Attached are two maps showing the potential trail connection.

STB's Comment:

Image Attachment(s):

2 maps showing potential trail connection