

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**  
**SECTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

HEO-346

**POST POST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN STB DOCKET NO. AB- 55 (Sub-No. 665X)

**November 21, 2006**

**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**

**NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED**

SEA served an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proceeding on May 1, 2006 for public review and comment. In the EA, SEA recommended six (6) environmental conditions and concluded that the proposed action would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment.

**Comments on the EA**

**SEA RECEIVED COMMENTS FROM THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AND THE NATIONAL FOREST SERVICE INDICATING THAT THERE WOULD BE NO IMPACTS TO NATIONAL PARKS OR NATIONAL FORESTS AS A RESULT OF THE ABANDONMENT (SEE ATTACHED).**

**ON SEPTEMBER 7, 2006 AND OCTOBER 4, 2006, THE APPLICANT CONTACTED THE KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS BUT TO DATE, HAS NOT RECEIVED A RESPONSE ON POTENTIAL IMPACTS TO STATE PARK LAND. SEA HAS SINCE OBTAINED MAPS OF STATE-OWNED PARK LAND, AS WELL AS FEDERAL WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES AND REFUGES IN HARLAN AND LETCHER COUNTIES, AND HAS DETERMINED THAT NONE OF THESE RESOURCES WOULD BE IMPACTED FROM THE PROPOSED ABANDONMENT. THEREFORE, SEA RECOMMENDS THAT THE FOLLOWING CONDITION BE REMOVED:**

**PRIOR TO COMMENCEMENT OF ANY SALVAGE ACTIVITIES, CSXT SHALL CONSULT WITH THE NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE, SOUTHEAST REGION, AND THE KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS REGARDING ANY IMPACTS TO WILDLIFE SANTUARIES, REFUGES, NATIONAL OR STATE PARKS OR FORESTS. CSXT SHALL REPORT THE RESULTS OF THESE CONSULTATIONS IN WRITING TO THE BOARD'S SEA PRIOR TO THE ONSET OF SALVAGE OPERATIONS.**

SEA CONTACT: Diana Wood, Contact 202-565-1552

Attachment



TRANSPORTATION

Dave Geraci  
Manager - Network Rationalization

500 Water Street - J200  
Jacksonville, FL 32202  
(904) 359-1086  
FAX (904) 359-1111

# E1-2581

October 6, 2006

Surface Transportation Board  
Section of Environmental Analysis  
Attn: Ms. ~~Christa Dean~~ *Diana Wood*  
1925 "K" Street NW - Suite 534  
Washington, DC 20423-0001

RE: CSXT Proposed Abandonment  
Harlan and Letcher Counties, KY  
STB Docket AB-55 (Sub-No. 665X)

Dear Ms. Dean:

CSXT is submitting this letter in accordance with the Section of Environmental Analysis Assessment dated May 1, 2006 (36932 SEA). Enclosed, you will find email correspondence from the National Park Service and the Forest Service.

CSXT has not received a response from the Kentucky Department of Parks (KDP). The KDP website does not list a phone numbers or point of contact, however, there is a email link for correspondence. CSXT has submitted the two enclosed emails soliciting comment with no response.

Based on the correspondence copied to your office on September 25, 2006 and the attached email correspondence, CSXT contends that all consultation conditions have been met.

Sincerely,

Attachment

Copy: Mr. Steven Armbrust, CSXT, 500 Water Street-J150, Jacksonville, FL, 32202  
Mr. Lou Gitomer, 600 Baltimore Ave - Suite 301, Towson, MD, 21204

## Geraci, Dave

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**From:** Anita\_Barnett@nps.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 03, 2006 2:44 PM  
**To:** Geraci, Dave  
**Subject:** Re: CSX Abandonment

**Attachments:** ky-095-1004389\_stb.pdf; ky1.pdf; E1 - Standard CSX.doc



ky-095-1004389\_stb.pdf (204 KB...)



ky1.pdf (64 KB)



E1 - Standard CSX.doc (72 KB)

Dave,

The National Park Service has no comments or concerns with the KY64B-CSXT Proposed Abandonment - Southern region Hunting Division - West, CV Subdivision, a portion of the Poor Fork Branch from Milepost OWC 261.1 (near Cumberland) to Milepost OWC 262.3 and the entire Scotia Branch from Milepost OWD 262.21 to the end of track at Milepost OWD 274 (near Scotia), a distance of 12.9 miles, Harland and Letcher Counties, Kentucky. Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 665X)

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment.

FYI, below is the comment I received from the Forrester Service:

Anita,

Thank you for the notice. The boundary that you saw is likely our proclamation boundary, which is often much wider than the actual boundary of our National Forest lands. We only have one small (1,000 acre) tract of land in KY. I looked at the map and our tract of land in KY is quite a ways from this project so there will be no impacts on our lands and we have no comments on the project.

Ken Landgraf  
Planning, Timber and Budget Staff Officer George Washington and Jefferson National Forests  
(540) 265-5170  
e-mail: klandgraf@fs.fed.us

Anita Barnett  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
Planning and Compliance Division  
Southeast Region  
National Park Service  
404-562-3124 x 705

"Geraci, Dave"  
<Dave\_Geraci@csx.com>

10/02/2006 09:24  
AM AST

To: <anita\_barnett@nps.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: CSX Abandonment

Anita,

Thank you for your time and the return phone call this morning. Per our conversation, I have attached the two STB (Surface Transportation Board) filing maps, the environmental report (with the salvage activity procedures highlighted). As I stated, the STB has issued a favorable decision authorizing CSX to remove its track material once we have consulted with the NPS (May 1, 2006 decision).

The filing and the STB's decisions can be found on the STB website ([www.stb.dot.gov](http://www.stb.dot.gov)) using the filing number (AB 55 Sub No 665X)

The line of railroad is described as follows:

KY 64B - CSXT Proposed Abandonment - Southern Region, Huntington Division - West, CV Subdivision, a portion of the Poor Fork Branch from Milepost OWC 261.1 (near Cumberland) to Milepost OWC 262.3 and the entire Scotia Branch from Milepost OWD 262.21 to the end of track at Milepost OWD 274 (near Scotia), a distance of 12.9 miles, Harland and Letcher Counties, Kentucky.

Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 665X)

Please do not hesitate to call if you should have any questions or comments.

Regards,

Dave Geraci  
Manager - CSX Network Rationalization  
(904) 359-1086

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**Geraci, Dave**

**From:** Geraci, Dave  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 07, 2006 4:03 PM  
**To:** 'kentuckystateparks@ky.gov'  
**Cc:** Geraci, Dave  
**Subject:** KY State Parks Web  
**Attachments:** ky-095-1004409\_stb.pdf; ky2.pdf

Dear Kentucky Department of Parks,

CSX Transportation has filed for an abandonment of our rail line (as shown on the attached maps). The Surface Transportation Board – Section of Environmental Analysis (STB – SEA) has issued a decision (dated May 1, 2006) that has required us to consult with your agency in order to solicit comment regarding the proposed action.

As an explanation, upon receiving abandonment authority, removal of material will be accomplished by use of the right of way for access, along with existing public and private crossings, and no new access roads are contemplated. CSX does not intend to disturb any of the underlying roadbed or perform any activities that would cause sedimentation or erosion of the soil, and do not anticipate any dredging or use of fill in the removal of the track material. The crossties and/or other debris will be transported away from the rail line and will not be discarded along the right of way nor be placed or left in streams or wetlands, or along the banks of such waterways. Also, during track removal, appropriate measures will be implemented to prevent or control spills from fuels, lubricants or any other pollutant materials from entering any waterways.

Based upon this course of action, CSX does not believe that the proposed action will have a negative impact on any wildlife sanctuaries, refuges, National or State parks or forests.

Please feel free to contact me at your convenience regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

**Dave Geraci**

Manager - CSX Network Rationalization  
(904) 359-1086

10/4/2006

**Geraci, Dave**

**From:** Geraci, Dave  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 04, 2006 7:41 AM  
**To:** 'kentuckystateparks@ky.gov'  
**Cc:** Geraci, Dave  
**Subject:** RE: KY State Parks Web  
**Importance:** High  
**Attachments:** Re: CSX Abandonment

Dear Kentucky Department of Parks,

Please be advised that CSX has received a "no effect"/"no impact" response from the National Park Service and the Kentucky Forest Service (see attached). CSX proposes to move forward with abandonment procedures and would very much like to consider any comments that your department may have. Based on the responses, and the lack of a phone number by which I can call anyone in your office, if no response is received by Friday, October 6, 2006, CSX will contend that your department has no comments and takes a "no effect/no impact" response for the proposed action.

If there are comments or concerns, or should your department need any further time to review, please feel free to contact me by email or via phone at (904) 359-1086.

Thank you,

**Dave Geraci**

Manager - CSX Network Rationalization  
(904) 359-1086

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As an explanation, upon receiving abandonment authority, removal of material will be accomplished by use of the right of way for access, along with existing public and private crossings, and no new access roads are contemplated. CSX does not intend to disturb any of the underlying roadbed or perform any activities that would cause sedimentation or erosion of the soil, and do not anticipate any dredging or use of fill in the removal of the track material. The crossties and/or other debris will be transported away from the rail line and will not be discarded along the right of way nor be placed or left in streams or wetlands, or along the banks of such waterways. Also, during track removal, appropriate measures will be implemented to prevent or control spills from fuels, lubricants or any other pollutant materials from entering any waterways.

Based upon this course of action, CSX does not believe that the proposed action will have a negative impact on any wildlife sanctuaries, refuges, National or State parks or forests.

Please feel free to contact me at your convenience regarding this matter.

10/4/2006

**Sincerely,**

**Dave Geraci**

Manager - CSX Network Rationalization

(904) 359-1086

10/4/2006