

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
SECTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

ED-332
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POST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN STB DOCKET NO. AB-6 (Sub-No. 444X)

October 23, 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

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SEA served an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proceeding on October 3, 2006 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 one comment after issuance of the EA. The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Indian Reservation, Montana (The Tribes) have indicated that The Tribes do not have any concerns about the abandonment as described. The Tribes suggest that, should there be massive excavation or earth movement, a Cultural Resources Inventory be done. The abandonment would not involve massive excavation or earth movement. No new conditions are recommended as a result of The Tribes' comment.

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:

BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) shall consult with the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Water Protection Bureau (MDEQ) prior to commencement of any salvage activities to address MDEQ's requirements under the Montana Water Quality Act.

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

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