

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
SECTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

EO
#152
[Signature]
12/17/07

POST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS

STB DOCKET NO. AB-303 (SUB-NO. 31X)

**Wisconsin Central Ltd.—Abandonment Exemption—in Hayward, Sawyer County,
Wisconsin**

ABANDONMENT TYPE

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

(x) Notice of Exemption () Petition for Exemption () Regulated Abandonment

(x) NO NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED

SEA served an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proceeding on November 27, 2007 for public review and comment. In the EA, SEA recommended five (5) conditions and concluded that the proposed action would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment. The comment period for this proceeding ended on December 12, 2007. No comments were received.

SEA recommends that the following environmental conditions be placed on any decision granting abandonment authority:

1. Wisconsin Central Ltd. (WCL) shall consult with the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) and notify NGS at least 90 days prior to beginning salvage activities that will disturb or destroy any geodetic station markers.
2. WCL shall contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) prior to beginning salvage activities to discuss potential impacts to any Federally-listed endangered or threatened species. The railroad shall report the results of this consultation to the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) in writing. Should any potential impacts be identified, the railroad shall consult with SEA and USFWS to develop appropriate mitigation measures.
3. WCL shall prior to commencement of any salvage activities consult with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) regarding potential impacts on wetlands. WCL shall comply with the reasonable requirements of the Corps, if applicable.
4. WCL shall consult with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) prior to commencement of any salvage activities regarding potential impacts to the floodplain and comply with the reasonable requirements of the WDNR to protect the floodplain. WCL shall consult with WDNR, and comply with the reasonable requirements of WDNR to avoid or reduce potential impacts to state protected species. WCL shall consult with WDNR regarding the disposal of rails and ties following salvage activities.

5. WCL shall contact the Wisconsin Department of Transportation prior to beginning salvage activities to discuss clean-up activities related to salvaging the line.

SEA CONTACT: Phillis Johnson-Ball 245-0304.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Phillis Johnson-Ball', written over a faint dotted line.