

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
SECTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

#E0-395
RL

POST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN STB DOCKET NO. AB-290 (Sub-No.272X)

January 18, 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

(X) **NO NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED**

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SEA served an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proceeding on December 29, 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.

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:

In the event Norfolk Southern Railroad Company (NSR) does not sell or lease the rail line for continued rail use and decides to salvage the line, prior to beginning any salvage activities, NSR shall reinitiate the consultation process pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 470f, and retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the historic integrity of all historic properties including sites, buildings, structures, and objects within the project right-of-way (the Area of Potential Effect) that are eligible for listing or listed in the National Register of Historic Places until completion of the Section 106 process. NSR shall report back to the Section of Environmental Analysis regarding any consultations with the West Virginia Division of Culture and History and any other Section 106 consulting parties that have been identified. NSR may not initiate any salvage activities related to abandonment (including removal of tracks and ties) until the Section 106 process has been completed and the Board has removed this condition.

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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