

EO-530

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
SECTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

POST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN STB DOCKET NO. AB-6 (Sub-No. 459X)

June 25, 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 June 5, 2007 for public review and comment. In the EA, SEA recommended three environmental conditions and concluded that the proposed action would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment.

Comments on the EA

Not applicable.

Modifications to the EA

Not applicable.

Conclusions

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

1. BNSF Railway Company shall be prohibited from performing any salvage activities and consummating abandonment until completion of the Section 7 consultation process of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1535) with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Western Washington Fish and Wildlife Office (USFWS). The railroad shall also report the results of any consultation with the USFWS 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.
2. Prior to commencement of any salvage activities, BNSF Railway Company shall consult with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) regarding potential impacts to waters of the United States, including wetlands, and shall comply with the reasonable requirements of the Corps.
3. BNSF Railway Company shall be prohibited from performing any salvage activities until the Federal consistency certification and concurrence process is completed pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. 1451 *et seq.* and the Board's environmental regulations at 49 CFR 1105.9.

If the above conditions are imposed, SEA believes that the proposed action would not significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

SEA CONTACT: Dave Navecky
202-245-0294
naveckyd@stb.dot.gov

Distribution: Ann Newman, Office of Proceedings
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