

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
WASHINGTON, DC 20423**

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Docket No. AB 290 (Sub-No. 406X)

**Norfolk Southern Railway Company–Abandonment Exemption–
in the City of Fort Wayne, Ind.**

ABANDONMENT TYPE

The time for comments on the Draft Environmental Assessment (Draft EA) has expired in this:
() Notice of Exemption (X) Petition for Exemption () Regulated Abandonment

() **NO NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED**

(X) **NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED**

OEA served a Draft EA for this proceeding on February 4, 2020 for public review and comment. In the Draft EA, OEA did not recommend any environmental conditions and concluded that the proposed action would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment.

OEA received one comment during the comment period. By letter dated March 6, 2020,¹ the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology (State Historic Preservation Office or SHPO) commented that it concurred with OEA's determination that the proposed abandonment would have no adverse effect on any historic resources listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The SHPO also reiterated that it would need to assess any future land disturbance activities, should they be contemplated, for potential historic deposits associated with the rail line and any prehistoric or historic archaeological artifacts or human remains. As discussed in the Draft EA and reaffirmed here, OEA has determined that there would be no salvage or other land disturbance activities as a result of the proposed abandonment. Therefore, no mitigation measures pertaining to archeological resources are recommended.

Conclusions

The Draft EA comment period has ended, and no conditions are recommended. Accordingly, OEA believes that the proposed action will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

By the Board, Victoria Rutson, Director, Office of Environmental Analysis.

¹ The SHPO's letter can be found on the Board's website under "Environmental Comments" by docket number.