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OEA

SERVICE DATE – MAY 21, 2021

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
WASHINGTON, DC 20423**

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Docket No. AB 1306X

**Blue Ridge Southern Railroad, L.L.C. – Abandonment Exemption –
in Henderson and Transylvania Counties, N.C.**

ABANDONMENT TYPE

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

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

(X) NO NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED

() NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED

In this proceeding, Blue Ridge Southern Railroad, L.L.C. filed a notice under 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50 seeking exemption from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. § 10903 in connection with the abandonment of a line of railroad in Henderson and Transylvania Counties, North Carolina. The rail line proposed for abandonment extends approximately 19.1 miles from milepost 0.7 (approximately 0.1 miles northeast of the Main Street Grade Crossing) at Hendersonville in Henderson County, to milepost 19.8 (at the end of track approximately 0.2 miles west of Lamb Creek) at Pisgah Forest near Brevard, in Transylvania County. OEA served a Draft EA for this proceeding on May 3, 2021 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.

Conclusions

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

By the Board, Danielle Gosselin, Acting Director, Office of Environmental Analysis.