

SERVICE DATE – MAY 24, 2021

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

Docket No. AB 1306X

BLUE RIDGE SOUTHERN RAILROAD, LLC—ABANDONMENT
EXEMPTION—IN HENDERSON AND TRANSYLVANIA COUNTIES, N.C.

Decided: May 24, 2021

On April 7, 2021, Blue Ridge Southern Railroad, L.L.C. (BRS), filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 C.F.R. part 1152 subpart F—Exempt Abandonments to abandon an approximately 19.1-mile rail line between milepost 0.7 (approximately 0.1 miles northeast of the Main Street grade crossing) at Hendersonville in Henderson County, and milepost 19.8 (at the end of track approximately 0.2 miles west of Lamb Creek) at Pisgah Forest near Brevard, in Transylvania County, N.C. (the Line). Notice of the exemption was served and published in the Federal Register on April 27, 2021 (86 Fed. Reg. 22,295). The exemption is scheduled to become effective on May 27, 2021.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) served a Draft Environmental Assessment on May 3, 2021, solicited comments, and issued a Final Environmental Assessment on May 21, 2021. No environmental or historic preservation issues were raised by any party or identified by OEA. Accordingly, a finding of no significant impact under 49 C.F.R. § 1105.10(g) will be made pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 1011.7(a)(2)(ix).

It is ordered:

1. Abandonment of the Line will have no significant effect on the quality of the human environment and conservation of energy resources or on historic resources.
2. If consummation has not been effected by BRS's filing of a notice of consummation by April 27, 2022, and there are no legal or regulatory barriers to consummation, the authority to abandon will automatically expire.
3. This decision is effective on its service date.

By the Board, Scott M. Zimmerman, Acting Director, Office of Proceedings.