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OEA

SERVICE DATE – JUNE 4, 2021

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
WASHINGTON, DC 20423**

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Docket No. AB 295 (Sub-No. 10X)

**Indiana Rail Road Company – Abandonment Exemption –
in Vigo County, Ind.**

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, Indiana Rail Road Company (INDR) filed a notice of exemption 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 Vigo County, Indiana. The rail line proposed for abandonment extends approximately 5.92 miles from milepost 6.48 to the end of the track at milepost 12.4 near Riley (the Line). The Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) served a Draft EA for this proceeding on May 14, 2021 for public review and comment. In the Draft EA, OEA recommended three environmental conditions and concluded that the proposed action would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment.

Modifications to the Draft EA

Upon further independent review, OEA believes that Condition 1 in the Draft EA should be modified to clarify that the condition, as with all the recommended conditions, only applies to salvage related to the abandonment. Therefore, Condition 1 has been revised accordingly.

Conclusions

The Draft EA comment period has ended. Accordingly, OEA recommends that the following conditions, as modified by the recommendation in this document, be imposed upon any decision granting abandonment authority:¹

¹ If an interim trail use agreement under 16 U.S.C. § 1247(d) and 49 C.F.R. § 1152.29 is reached for the Line (or a portion thereof), compliance with these conditions is not required with respect to any portion of the Line covered by the interim trail use agreement for the duration of the agreement.

1. Indiana Rail Road Company shall consult with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources regarding potential bridge-related mitigation measures prior to the commencement of abandonment-related salvage activities.
2. Indiana Rail Road Company shall notify the National Geodetic Survey at NGS.Infocenter@noaa.gov at least 90 days prior to beginning abandonment-related salvage activities.
3. In the event that any unanticipated archaeological sites, human remains, funerary items or associated artifacts are discovered during the Indiana Rail Road Company's (INDR) abandonment-related salvage activities, INDR will immediately cease all work and notify the Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA), interested Federally recognized Tribes, and the Indiana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 800.13(b). OEA will then consult with the SHPO, interested Federally recognized Tribes, the railroad, and other consulting parties, if any, to determine whether appropriate mitigation measures are necessary.

If the above conditions are imposed, 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.