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OEA

SERVICE DATE – OCTOBER 7, 2022

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
WASHINGTON, DC 20423

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Docket No. AB 1324X

Alabama Railroad, LLC – Abandonment Exemption – in Escambia, Conecuh, and Monroe Counties, Ala.

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

(X) NO NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED

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In this proceeding, Alabama Railroad, LLC (ARL) filed a petition under 49 U.S.C. § 10502 seeking exemption from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. § 10903 in connection with the abandonment of a line of railroad in Escambia, Conecuh, and Monroe counties, Alabama. The segment of rail line to be abandoned extends 47.5 miles from milepost 607.73 (at Flomaton, Alabama) to milepost 655.2 (near Tunnel Springs, Alabama), including all sidings and the MR Junction Spur between valuation stations 0+00 and 90+81 (the Line). The Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) served a Draft EA for this proceeding on September 2, 2022 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.

Conclusions

The Draft EA comment period has ended. Accordingly, OEA recommends that the conditions previously recommended in the Draft EA should be imposed upon any decision granting abandonment authority:¹

1. Alabama Railroad, LLC, shall notify the National Geodetic Survey at NGS.Infocenter@noaa.gov at least 90 days prior to beginning abandonment-related salvage activities.

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 this condition is not required with respect to any portion of the Line covered by the interim trail use agreement for the duration of the agreement.

2. Alabama Railroad, LLC, shall refrain from storing or placing equipment or materials on any steep slopes and implement the use of best management practices while conducting salvage activities in Monroe County, prior to and during any abandonment-related salvage activities.
3. In the event that any unanticipated archaeological sites, human remains, funerary items or associated artifacts are discovered during the Alabama Railroad, LLC's (ARL) abandonment-related salvage activities, ARL will immediately cease all work and notify the Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA), interested Federally recognized tribes, and the 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, Director, Office of Environmental Analysis.