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OEA

SERVICE DATE - NOVEMBER 17, 2022

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
WASHINGTON, DC 20423

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Docket No. AB 603 (Sub-No. 5X)

V and S Railway, LLC - Abandonment Exemption – in Franklin County, Mo.

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, V and S Railway, LLC (V&S) filed a notice of exemption with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) under 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50 seeking exemption from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. § 10903 to abandon a line of railroad in Franklin County, Missouri. The segment of rail line to be abandoned extends approximately 9.71 miles from milepost 61.89 at Union to milepost 71.6 at Beaufort (the Line). The Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) served a Draft EA for this proceeding on October 28, 2022 for public review and comment. In the Draft EA, OEA recommended two 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 following conditions previously recommended in the Draft EA should be imposed upon any decision granting abandonment authority:¹

1. V and S Railway, LLC shall consult with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) regarding potential impacts to waters of the United States, including wetlands, and shall comply with the reasonable requirements of the Corps.

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.

2. V and S Railway, LLC shall consult with the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) prior to the commencement of any abandonment-related salvage activities and shall abide by the reasonable requirements of MoDOT to address potential impacts on roadways and at-grade crossings.

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.