

SERVICE DATE – FEBRUARY 7, 2025

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
WASHINGTON, DC 20423

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Docket No. AB 768X

Mohawk, Adirondack & Northern Railroad Corporation
—Abandonment Exemption—
In Lewis and Jefferson Counties, N.Y.

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

On September 11, 2023, Mohawk, Adirondack & Northern Railroad Corporation (MAN) filed a verified notice of exemption with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) under 49 U.S.C. § 1152.50 from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. § 10903 to abandon:¹ (1) an approximately 16-mile rail line that runs between milepost 58.1 and milepost 74.0 located between the Village of Lowville in Lewis County, N.Y., and the Village of Carthage in Jefferson County, N.Y. (Lowville-Carthage Line); and (2) 0.5 miles of an unused spur track and 300 feet of MAN's terminal main line all within the Village of Lyons Falls, N.Y. (Lyons Falls Track) (collectively, the Line).² The Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) served a Draft EA for this proceeding on January 17, 2025 for public review and comment. In the Draft EA, OEA recommended one condition and concluded that the proposed action would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment.

¹ MAN is a subsidiary of Genesee Valley Transportation Company, Inc. (GVT).

² On September 12, 2023, the Lowville & Beaver River Railroad Company (LBRR), also a subsidiary of GVT, filed a verified notice of exemption in Docket No. AB 180X to abandon a 10.57-mile rail line running from milepost 0.0 in Lowville to milepost 10.57 in Croghan, N.Y. (Lowville-Croghan Line) and a branch line known as the Beaver Falls Secondary Track which extends approximately 0.4 miles. The Line at issue here connects with the Lowville-Croghan Line in Lowville. OEA is conducting a separate environmental review in Docket No. AB 180X.

Conclusions

The Draft EA comment period has ended. Accordingly, OEA recommends that the following condition previously recommended in the Draft EA should be imposed upon any decision granting abandonment authority:³

Mohawk, Adirondack & Northern Railroad Corporation (MAN) shall retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the historic integrity of all historic properties including sites, buildings, structures, and objects within the project right-of-way (the Area of Potential Effect) that are eligible for listing or listed in the National Register of Historic Places until the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act, 54 U.S.C. § 306108, has been completed. MAN shall report back to the Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) regarding any consultations with the New York Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Office (State Historic Preservation Office or SHPO) and the public. MAN may not file its consummation notice or initiate any salvage activities related to abandonment (including removal of tracks, ties and other railroad appurtenances) until the Section 106 process has been completed and the Board has removed this condition.

If the above condition is 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.

³ 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.