

SERVICE DATE – APRIL 7, 2025

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
WASHINGTON, DC 20423**

SUPPLEMENTAL FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Docket No. AB 180X

**The Lowville & Beaver River Railroad Company - Abandonment Exemption -
In Lewis County, 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

() NO NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED

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In this proceeding, the Lowville & Beaver River Railroad Company (LBRR) filed a verified notice with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) under 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50 seeking exemption from the requirements of 49 U.S.C. § 10903 in connection with the abandonment of a line of railroad located in Lewis County, New York. The rail line proposed for abandonment is approximately 10.57 miles in length and extends from milepost 00.00 to milepost 10.57 between the Village of Lowville and the Village of Croghan, N.Y. (the Lowville-Croghan Line). In addition, LBRR is seeking to abandon a branch line, which extends approximately 0.4 miles from Deveines Road in the Town of New Bremen northward towards the Hamlet of Beaver Falls in Lewis County (the Beaver Falls Secondary Track). Collectively, the Lowville-Croghan line and Beaver Falls Secondary Track are referred to as “the Line.” By decision served February 12, 2025, the Board imposed a historic preservation condition pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), 54 U.S.C. § 306108 (Section 106 condition).

The Section 106 condition requires LBRR to: 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 and listed in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) until the Section 106 process of the NHPA has been completed. LBRR shall report back to the Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) regarding any consultations with the New York State Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the public. LBRR 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.

Comments

On March 25, 2025, OEA received a letter from the SHPO stating that the proposed abandonment would have No Adverse Effect upon historic properties. Accordingly, pursuant to the Section 106 regulations of the NHPA at 36 C.F.R. § 800.4(d)(1), and following consultation with SHPO and the public, OEA has determined that the proposed abandonment would not affect historic properties listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register. The documentation for this finding, as specified in 36 C.F.R. § 800.11(e), consists of LBRR's historic report, all relevant correspondence, and the EA (Draft, Final, and Supplemental Final), which have been provided to the SHPO and made available to the public through posting on the Board's website at www.stb.gov.

Conclusions

For the reasons stated above, OEA recommends that the Board remove the Section 106 condition imposed in its February 12, 2025 decision.

By the Board, Danielle Gosselin, Director, Office of Environmental Analysis.