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OEA

SERVICE DATE – APRIL 24, 2025

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
WASHINGTON, DC 20423**

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Docket No. AB 1117 (Sub-No. 1X)

**St. Lawrence & Atlantic Railroad Company–Abandonment Exemption–
In Cumberland County, Me.**

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

(X) NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED

In this proceeding, St. Lawrence & Atlantic Railroad Company (SLR) filed a notice of exemption with the Surface Transportation Board 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 Cumberland County, Maine. The rail line proposed for abandonment extends approximately 24.23 miles from milepost 1.74 near East Deering, Me. to milepost 25.97 at the town line between New Gloucester and Auburn, Cumberland County, Me. (the Line).¹ The Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) served a Draft EA for this proceeding on April 3, 2025 for public review and comment. In the Draft EA, OEA recommended no environmental conditions and concluded that the proposed action would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment.

OEA received one comment after issuance of the Draft EA. On April 8, 2025, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) commented that the proposed abandonment would not require a permit under the Clean Water Act (CWA) and concurred with OEA's findings in the Draft EA. USACE noted that should SLR seek ballast removal, dismantling of bridges or other structures, or regrading within the right-of-way, USACE authorization may be required. As discussed in the Draft EA, however, and reaffirmed here, SLR would not conduct any salvage or other land disturbance activities as a result of the proposed abandonment. Therefore, authorization from USACE would not be required.

¹ SLR states that the Maine Department of Transportation is the owner of the underlying property and physical assets.

Conclusions

The Draft EA comment period has ended, and no conditions are recommended by OEA. Accordingly, 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.