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SERVICE DATE – APRIL 25, 2025

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

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

ST. LAWRENCE & ATLANTIC RAILROAD COMPANY—
ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION—IN CUMBERLAND COUNTY, ME.

Decided: April 25, 2025

St. Lawrence & Atlantic Railroad Company (SLR) filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 C.F.R. part 1152 subpart F—Exempt Abandonments to abandon approximately 24.23 miles of rail line 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). Notice of the exemption was served and published in the Federal Register on March 28, 2025 (90 Fed. Reg. 14,175). The exemption is scheduled to become effective on April 27, 2025.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) served a Draft Environmental Assessment (Draft EA) on April 3, 2024, concluding that the proposed abandonment would not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. OEA solicited comments and issued a Final Environmental Assessment (Final EA) on April 24, 2025. In the Final EA, OEA indicated that it received one comment from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) stating that the proposed abandonment would not require a permit under the Clean Water Act (CWA) and concurring with OEA's finding in the Draft EA. OEA therefore recommended no conditions and reaffirmed its conclusion that the proposed action will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

Accordingly, a finding of no significant impact under 49 C.F.R. § 1105.10(g) will be made pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 1011.7(a)(2)(ix).

It is ordered:

1. Abandonment of the Line will have no significant effect on the quality of the human environment and conservation of energy resources or on historic resources.

2. If consummation has not been effected by SLR's filing of a notice of consummation by March 28, 2026, and there are no legal or regulatory barriers to consummation, the authority to abandon will automatically expire.

3. This decision is effective on its service date.

By the Board, Scott M. Zimmerman, Acting Director, Office of Proceedings.