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OEA

SERVICE DATE—JUNE 5, 2025

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
WASHINGTON, DC 20423

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Docket No. AB 534 (Sub-No. 4X)

**Lake State Railroad Company—Abandonment
Exemption—in Saginaw County, Mich.**

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, Lake State Railroad Company (LSRC) filed a notice of exemption 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 Saginaw County, Michigan. The rail line proposed for abandonment, known as the West Shore Spur, is approximately 6,805 feet extending from Sta. 9+00 approximately 270 feet northeast of the intersection of Carrollton Road and Ellsworth Road to the end of line at Sta. 77+05 approximately 1,000 feet southwest of North Niagara Street in Saginaw County, Michigan. The Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) served a Draft EA for this proceeding on May 16, 2025 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. Lake State Railroad Company (LSRC) 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

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.

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. LSRC shall report back to the Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) regarding any consultations with the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office, Tribal Historic Preservation Office (if on tribal lands), and any other Section 106 consulting parties, and the public. LSRC may not file its consummation notice or initiate any salvage activities related to abandonment (including removal of tracks and ties) until the Section 106 process has been completed and the Board has removed this condition.

2. Prior to commencement of any abandonment-related salvage activities, Lake State Railroad Company shall consult with Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Rail Office and Michigan Department of Natural Resources regarding the concerns raised in MDOT's email dated January 23, 2025.

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