

52626
OEA

SERVICE DATE – JULY 18, 2025

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
WASHINGTON, DC 20423**

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

**Docket No. AB 290 (Sub-No. 418X)
Norfolk Southern Railway Company – Abandonment Exemption – In Cuyahoga, Geauga,
and Portage Counties, Ohio**

And

**Docket No. AB 1257 (Sub-No. 1X)
Cleveland & Cuyahoga Railway, LLC – Discontinuance of Service Exemption– In
Cuyahoga, Geauga, and Portage Counties, Ohio**

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, Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSR) and Cleveland & Cuyahoga Railway, LLC (CCRL) 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 for NSR to abandon and CCRL to discontinue service in connection with a line of railroad in Cuyahoga, Geauga, and Portage Counties, Ohio. The rail line proposed for abandonment extends approximately 7.0 miles from milepost RH 15.0 on the east side of Harper Road to milepost RH 22.0 north of Treat Road (the Line). The Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) served a Draft EA for this proceeding on June 30, 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 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.

1. Norfolk Southern Railway Company shall only conduct removal of trees with 3-inch dbh or greater in connection with abandonment-related salvage activities between October 1 and March 31.
2. Prior to commencement of any abandonment-related salvage activities, Norfolk Southern Railway Company shall consult with the Geauga County Board of Commissioners to address its concerns regarding consistency with local land use plans.

If the above conditions are 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.