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OEA

SERVICE DATE – SEPTEMBER 9, 2025

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
WASHINGTON, DC 20423**

SUPPLEMENTAL 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

() NO NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED

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In this proceeding, Lake State Railroad Company (LSRC) filed a notice of exemption under 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50 with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) 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. By decision served on June 6, 2025, the Board imposed two conditions, including 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 LSRC to: (a) 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 or listed in the National Register of Historic Places until the Section 106 process of the NHPA has been completed; (b) report back to the Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) regarding any consultations with the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Tribal Historic Preservation Office (if on tribal lands), and any other Section 106 consulting parties, and the public; and (c) 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.

Comments

On July 31, 2025, OEA submitted materials to the Michigan SHPO (ER25-489; STB AB 534 4X) requesting concurrence with OEA's determination that there are no historic properties affected by the proposed abandonment. By email on September 4, 2025, OEA confirmed with the SHPO that the 30-day review period under 36 C.F.R. §800.4(d)(1)(i) had expired and that the Board had completed the Section 106 process for the proposed abandonment.

Conclusions

For the reasons stated above, OEA recommends that the Board remove the Section 106 condition imposed in its June 6, 2025 decision.

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