

ENTERED
Office of Chief Counsel
November 21, 2025
Part of
Public Record

LAW OFFICES OF
LOUIS E. GITOMER, LLC

LOUIS E. GITOMER
Lou@lgraillaw.com

600 BALTIMORE AVENUE, SUITE 301
TOWSON, MARYLAND 21204-4022
(410)296-2250
FAX (410) 332-0885

MELANIE B. YASBIN
Melanie@lgraillaw.com

November 21, 2025

Ms. Cynthia T. Brown
Chief of the Section of Administration, Office of Chief Counsel
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423

Re: **Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 824X), CSX Transportation, Inc.—Abandonment
Exemption—in Alachua County, FL**

Dear Ms. Brown:

Enclosed for electronic filing is a Verified Notice of Exemption for CSX Transportation, Inc. (“CSXT”) to abandon an approximately 1.4-mile rail line that runs between milepost AR 715.48 and milepost AR 716.88, on its Southern Region, Jacksonville Division, West Coast Subdivision (the “Line”). The filing fee of \$5,300 has been paid via pay.gov.

Thank you for your assistance. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely yours,



Melanie B. Yasbin
Attorney for CSX Transportation, Inc.

Enclosure

BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 824X)

CSX TRANSPORTATION, INC.–ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION–
IN ALACHUA COUNTY, FL

VERIFIED NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Steven C. Armbrust, Esq.
CSX Transportation, Inc.
500 Water Street
Jacksonville, FL 32202
(904) 359-1229

Louis E. Gitomer, Esq.
Melanie B. Yasbin, Esq.
Law Offices of Louis E. Gitomer, LLC
600 Baltimore Avenue, Suite 301
Towson, MD 21204
(410) 296-2250
Lou@lgraillaw.com

Attorneys for: CSX TRANSPORTATION,
INC.

Dated: November 21, 2025

BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 824X)

CSX TRANSPORTATION, INC.—ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION—
IN ALACHUA COUNTY, FL

VERIFIED NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

CSX Transportation, Inc. (“CSXT”) files this Verified Notice of Exemption pursuant to the class exemption at 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50 for CSXT to abandon an approximately 1.4-mile rail line that runs between milepost AR 715.48 and milepost AR 716.88, on its Southern Region, Jacksonville Division, West Coast Subdivision (the “Line”). CSXT was granted authority to abandon the Line in *CSX Transportation, Inc.—Abandonment Exemption—in Alachua County, FL*, STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 555X), (STB served Nov. 24, 1997). CSXT did not consummate the abandonment and is refiling for abandonment authority in this proceeding. No local rail traffic has moved over the Line during the past two years. Any overhead traffic on the Line can be and has been rerouted.

Based on information in the possession of CSXT, the Line does not contain federally granted rights-of-way. Any documentation in the railroad’s possession will be made available promptly to those requesting it.

1. Proposed consummation date. The proposed consummation date is January 10, 2026.
2. Certification required by 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50(b). *See* Exhibit A.
3. Information required by 49 C.F.R. § 1152.22(a)(1) through (4), (7), and (8), and (e)(4).

(a) General.

(1) Exact name of applicant. CSX Transportation, Inc.

(2) Whether applicant is a common carrier by railroad subject to 49 U.S.C. Subtitle IV, Chapter 105. CSXT is a common carrier by railroad subject to 49 U.S.C. Subtitle IV, Chapter 105.

(3) Relief sought. CSXT seeks to use the class exemption at 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50 to abandon an approximately 1.4-mile rail line that runs between milepost AR 715.48 and milepost AR 716.88, on its Southern Region, Jacksonville Division, West Coast Subdivision (the “Line”). There are no stations on the Line.

(4) Map. *See* Exhibit B.

(7) Name, title, and address of representative of applicant to whom correspondence should be sent. Louis E. Gitomer, Law Offices of Louis E. Gitomer, LLC, 600 Baltimore Avenue, Suite 301, Towson, MD 21204, (410) 296-2250, Lou@lgraillaw.com.

(8) List of all United States Postal Service ZIP Codes that the line proposed for discontinuance traverses. The Line traverses U.S. Postal ZIP Codes 32643.

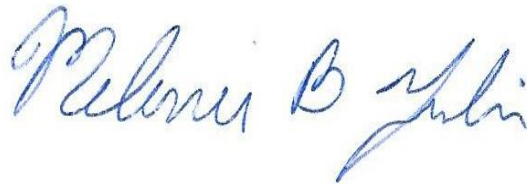
(e) Rural and community impact.

(4) Statement of whether the properties proposed to be abandoned are appropriate for use for other public purposes, including roads and highways, other forms of mass transportation, conservation, energy production or transmission, or recreation. If the applicant is aware of any restriction on the title to the property, including any reversionary interest, which would affect the transfer of title or the use of property for other than rail purposes, this shall be disclosed.

CSXT believes that the property proposed for abandonment may be suitable for other purposes but may be subject to reversionary interests that may affect transfer of title for other than rail purposes.

4. The level of labor protection. The interests of any railroad employees who may be adversely affected by the proposed abandonment will be adequately protected by the labor protective conditions in *Oregon Short Line R. Co. –Abandonment–Goshen*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979).
5. Certification. Certificates of compliance with the notice requirements of 49 C.F.R. §§ 1152.50(d)(1) and 1105.11 are attached as Exhibit C.
6. Environmental Report. See Exhibit D.
7. Historic Report. See Exhibit D.

Respectfully submitted,



Steven C. Armbrust, Esq.
CSX Transportation, Inc.
500 Water Street
Jacksonville, FL 32202
(904) 359-1229

Louis E. Gitomer, Esq.
Melanie B. Yasbin, Esq.
Law Offices of Louis E. Gitomer
600 Baltimore Avenue, Suite 301
Towson, MD 21204
(410) 296-2250
Lou@lgraillaw.com

Attorneys for: CSX TRANSPORTATION,
INC.

Dated: November 21, 2025

EXHIBIT A-VERIFICATION AND CERTIFICATION

**VERIFICATION AND CERTIFICATION THAT RAIL LINE MEETS
CRITERIA OF 49 C.F.R. SECTION 1152.50(b)**

STATE OF FLORIDA)
) ss.
COUNTY OF DUVAL)

I, Trevor Knaus, state that
I am Mgr Cost & Contribution for CSX
Transportation, Inc. ("CSXT"); that I am authorized to make this verification; and that I have
read the foregoing Notice of Exemption and know the facts asserted therein are true and
accurate as stated, to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

I hereby certify that no freight traffic has moved over CSXT's 1.4-mile rail line that runs
between milepost 715.48 and milepost AR 716.88, on its Southern Region, Jacksonville
Division, West Coast Subdivision (the "Line") for two years prior to the date hereof. The Line is
located in Alachua County, Florida. Since this is not a through line, no overhead traffic has
operated; therefore, none needs to be rerouted over other lines. Further, no formal complaint
filed by a user of rail service on the line (or a State or local government entity acting on behalf of
such user) regarding cessation of service over the line either is pending with the Surface
Transportation Board or any U.S. District Court or has been decided in favor of a complainant
within the two-year period. The foregoing certification is made on behalf of CSXT by the
undersigned after due and careful investigation of the matters herein certified and based on the
best of the knowledge, information, and belief of the undersigned.

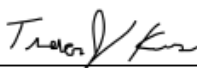
 10/1/2025

EXHIBIT B-MAP

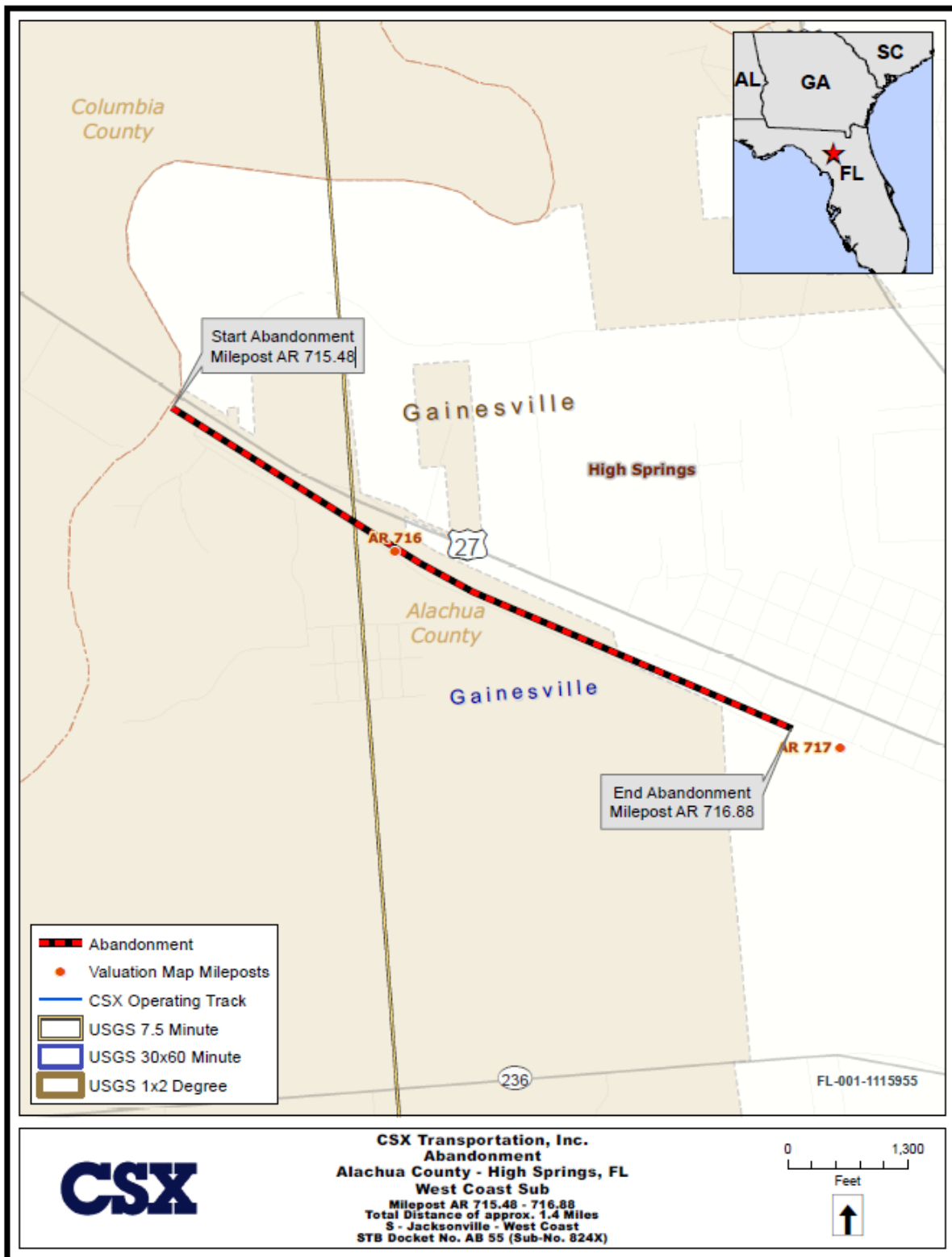


EXHIBIT C-CERTIFICATES OF SERVICE AND PUBLICATION

Pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50 (d) (1), the undersigned hereby certifies that notice of the proposed abandonment in Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 824X) was mailed via first class mail on September 26, 2025, to the following parties:

State Public Service Commission

Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Military Traffic Management Command

Headquarters
Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command
ATTN: Transportation Engineering Agency (SDTE-SA)
1 Soldier Way Scott AFB, IL 62225-5006

usarmy.scott.sddc.mbx.tea-rnd@mail.mil

National Park Service

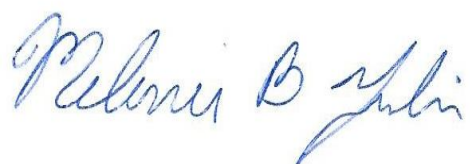
Mr. Bob Ratcliffe
Chief, Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Division
Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program National Park Service
1849 C Street, N.W. (Org Code 2220)
Washington, DC 20240

National Park Service

U.S. Department of Interior
National Park Service
Land Resources Division
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

U.S. Department of Agriculture

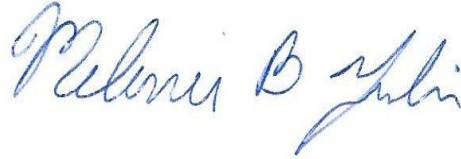
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Chief of the Forest Service
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20250-0003



Melanie B. Yasbin
November 21, 2025

CERTIFICATE OF PUBLICATION

The undersigned hereby certifies that notice of the proposed abandonment in Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 824X) in the following form was advertised on November 20, 2025, in the Alachua County Today Newspaper, a newspaper of general circulation in Alachua County, FL, as required by 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7(c) and .12.



Melanie B. Yasbin
November 21, 2025

Notice of Intent to Abandon

CSX Transportation, Inc. (“CSXT”) gives notice that on or about November 21, 2025, it intends to file with the Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423, a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F—Exempt Abandonments permitting the abandonment of approximately 1.4-mile rail line that runs between milepost AR 715.48 and milepost AR 716.88, on its Southern Region, Jacksonville Division, West Coast Subdivision, running through U.S. Postal Zip Code 32643. The proceeding will be docketed as No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 824X).

The Board’s Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) will generally prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA), which will normally be available 25 days after the filing of the notice of exemption. Comments on environmental and energy matters should be filed no later than 15 days after the EA becomes available to the public and will be addressed in a Board decision. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA or make inquiries regarding environmental matters by writing to the OEA, Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423 or by calling that office at (202) 245-0295.

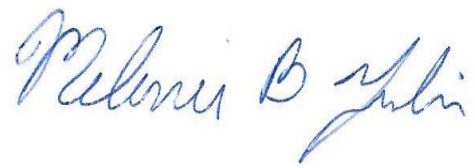
Appropriate offers of financial assistance to continue rail service can be filed with the Board. Requests for environmental conditions, public use conditions, or rail banking/trails use also can be filed with the Board. An original and 10 copies of any pleading that raises matters other than environmental issues (such as trails use, public use, and offers of financial assistance) must be filed directly with the Board’s Section of Administration, Office of Proceedings, 395 E Street, SW, Washington, DC 20423–0001 [See 49 CFR 1104.1(a) and 1104.3(a)], and one copy must be served on applicant’s representative [See 49 CFR 1104.12(a)]. Questions regarding offers of financial assistance, public use or trails use may be directed to the Board’s Office of Public Assistance, Governmental Affairs, and Compliance at (202) 245-0238. Copies of any comments or requests for conditions should be served on the applicant’s representative: Louis E. Gitomer, 600 Baltimore Avenue, Suite 301, Towson, MD 21204, (410)296-2250, Lou@lgrailaw.com.

EXHIBIT D– COMBINED ENVIRONMENTAL AND HISTORIC REPORT

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Pursuant to the requirements of 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7, the undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of the Combined Environmental and Historic Report in Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 824X) was mailed via first class mail and electronic mail where available on September 16, 2025, to the following parties:

Ms. Monica Jones State Conservationist United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service 5709 NW 13 th Street Gainesville, FL 32653-2130 Monica.Jones@usda.gov	Florida Department of Environmental Protection John J. Truitt Deputy Secretary for Regulatory Programs 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard M.S. 49 Tallahassee, FL 32399 Public.services@floridaDEP.gov
Environmental Protection Agency Region 4 Atlanta Federal Center 61 Forsyth Street, SW Atlanta, GA 30303-3104	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service 777 37 th St. Suite D-101 Vero Beach, FL 32960-3559 Fw4flesregs@fws.gov
Florida State Clearinghouse State.clearinghouse@floridaDEP.gov	National Geodetic Survey RRAE@noaa.gov
Jacksonville District USACE 701 San Marco Blvd. Jacksonville, FL 32207 Cesaj-cc@usace.army.mil	National Park Service Southeast Region 100 Alabama Street, SW Atlanta, GA 30303
City of High Springs City Manager's Office 23718 W US Hwy 27 High Springs, FL 32643	

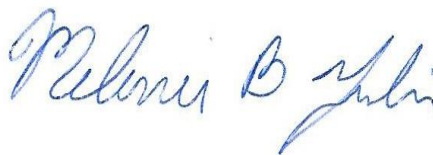


Melanie B. Yasbin
November 21, 2025

HISTORIC REPORT CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Pursuant to the requirements of 49 C.F.R. § 1105.8(c), the undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of the Combined Environmental and Historic Report in Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 824X) was submitted on September 16, 2025, to the following parties:

Florida Division of Historical Resources
R.A. Gray Building
500 S. Bronough Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Melanie B. Yasbin", is positioned above a horizontal line.

Melanie B. Yasbin
November 21, 2025

OMBINED ENVIRONMENTAL AND HISTORIC REPORT (“CEHR”)
(49 C.F.R. 1105.7 and 1105.8)

Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 824X)

CSX TRANSPORTATION, INC.–ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION–
IN PHILADELPHIA COUNTY, PA

Dated: November 21, 2025

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

(1) Proposed Action and Alternatives. Describe the proposed action, including commodities transported, the planned disposition (if any) of any rail line and other structures that may be involved, and any possible changes in current operations or maintenance practices. Also describe any reasonable alternatives to the proposed action. Include a readable, detailed map and drawings clearly delineating the project.

CSX Transportation, Inc., (“CSXT”) proposes to abandon the approximately 1.4-mile rail line that runs between milepost AR 715.48 and milepost AR 716.88, on its Southern Region, Jacksonville Division, West Coast Subdivision (the “Line”). The Line runs through the U.S. Postal Zip Codes 32643.

Abandonment of the Line will result in the removal of whatever rail and crossties that remain and possibly the upper layer of ballast. CSXT does not intend to disturb any sub grade or sub grade structures. Any trail related structures, such as bridges, trestles, culverts, and tunnels will not be salvaged.

The only alternative to a full abandonment would be for CSXT not to abandon the Line.

A map of the proposed abandonment is attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

(2) Transportation System. Describe the effects of the proposed action on regional or local transportation systems and patterns. Estimate the amount of traffic (passenger or freight) that will be diverted to other transportation systems or modes as a result of the proposed action.

There is no passenger traffic on the Line to be diverted to other modes as a result of the proposed abandonment. There is no freight traffic on the Line to be diverted to motor carrier. The proposed abandonment should have no adverse effects on regional or local highway systems and traffic patterns.

(3) Land Use. (i) Based on consultation with local and/or regional planning agencies and/or a review of the official planning documents prepared by such agencies, state whether the proposed action is consistent with existing land use plans. Describe any inconsistencies. (ii) Based on consultation with the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, state the effect of the proposed action on any prime agricultural land. (iii) If the action affects land or water uses within a designated coastal zone, include the coastal zone information required by 1105.9. (iv) If the proposed action is an abandonment, state whether or not the right-of-way is suitable for alternative public use under 49 U.S.C. § 10905 and explain why.

(i) CSXT considers the proposed abandonment of the Line to be consistent with existing land use plans. CSXT notified the City of High Springs by letter dated September 16, 2025 (*See Exhibit 2*) requesting comments and included a copy of the preliminary CEHR. A copy of this Preliminary CEHR has also been mailed to the appropriate local and state agencies for their information and further comment. No comments have been received to date.

(ii) CSXT does not believe that there is any prime agricultural land that will be affected. CSXT notified the United States Department of Agriculture (“USDA”) Natural Resources Conservation Service (the agency succeeding to the responsibilities of the Soil Conservation Service) of the proposed abandonment by letter dated September 16, 2025 (*See Exhibit 2*) requesting comments and included a copy of the Preliminary CEHR. No comments have been received to date.

(iii) CSXT notified the Florida Coastal Resource Management Program via the Florida State Clearinghouse by letter dated September 16, 2025 (*See Exhibit 2*) requesting comments and included a copy of the preliminary CEHR. By email received on September 19, 2025, the Florida State Clearinghouse (“FSC”) stated that while the abandonment is covered by EO 12372, FSC was not selecting the project for review and that the abandonment could proceed. (*See Exhibit 2*).

(iv) CSXT believes the Line would be suitable for interim trail use/rail banking.

(4) Energy. (i) Describe the effect of the proposed action on transportation of energy resources. (ii) Describe the effect of the proposed action on recyclable commodities. (iii) State whether the proposed action will result in an increase or decrease in overall energy efficiency and explain why. (iv) If the proposed action will cause diversions from rail to motor carriage of more than: (A) 1,000 rail carloads a year; or (B) an average of 50 rail carloads per mile per year for any part of the affected line,

quantify the resulting net change in energy consumption and show the data and methodology used to arrive at the figure given.

(i) The proposed abandonment will have no effect on the ability to transport energy resources.

(ii) The proposed abandonment will have no effect on the transportation of recyclable commodities.

(iii) The proposed abandonment will not change the use of railroad transportation over the line as CSX doesn't currently ship over the line.

(iv) The proposed abandonment will not cause the diversion of more than 1,000 rail carloads a year; or an average of 50 rail carloads per mile per year for any part of the line segments of rail traffic to motor carriage.

(5) Air. (i) If the proposed action will result in either: (A) An increase in rail traffic of at least 100 percent (measured in gross ton miles annually) or an increase of at least eight trains a day on any segment of rail line affected by the proposal, or (B) an increase in rail yard activity of at least 100 percent (measured by carload activity), or (C) an average increase in truck traffic of more than 10 percent of the average daily traffic or 50 vehicles a day on any affected road segment, quantify the anticipated effect on air emissions. For a proposal under 49 U.S.C. § 10901 (or § 10505) to construct a new line or reinstitute service over a previously abandoned line, only the eight train a day provision in sub-section (5)(i)(A) will apply. (ii) If the proposed action affects a class I or nonattainment area under the Clean Air Act, and will result in either: (A) an increase in rail traffic of at least 50 percent (measured in gross ton miles annually) or an increase of at least three trains a day on any segment of rail line; (B) an increase in rail yard activity of at least 20 percent (measured by carload activity); or (C) an average increase in truck traffic of more than 10 percent of the average daily traffic or 50 vehicles a day on a given road segment, then state whether any expected increased emissions are within the parameters established by the State Implementation Plan. However, for a rail construction under 49 U.S.C. § 10901 (or 49 U.S.C. § 10505), or a case involving the reinstitution of service over a previously abandoned line, only the three train a day threshold in this item shall apply. (iii) If transportation of ozone depleting materials (such as nitrogen oxide and freon) is contemplated, identify: the materials and quantity; the frequency of service; safety practices (including any speed restrictions); the applicant's safety record (to the extent available) on derailments, accidents and spills; contingency plans to deal with accidental spills; and the likelihood of an accidental release of ozone depleting materials in the event of a collision or derailment.

(i) The proposed abandonment will not result in meeting or exceeding the specified thresholds.

(ii) The proposed abandonment will not result in meeting or exceeding the specified thresholds.

(iii) The proposed abandonment will not affect the transportation of ozone depleting materials.

(6) Noise. If any of the thresholds identified in item (5)(i) of this section are surpassed, state whether the proposed action will cause: (i) an incremental increase in noise levels of three decibels Ldn or more; or (ii) an increase to a noise level of 65 decibels Ldn or greater. If so, identify sensitive receptors (e.g., schools, libraries, hospitals, residences, retirement communities, and nursing homes) in the project area, and quantify the noise increase for these receptors if the thresholds are surpassed.

Not applicable.

(7) Safety. (i) Describe any effects of the proposed action on public health and safety (including vehicle delay time at railroad grade crossings). (ii) If hazardous materials are expected to be transported, identify: the materials and quantity; the frequency of service; whether chemicals are being transported that, if mixed, could react to form more hazardous compounds; safety practices (including any speed restrictions); the applicant's safety record (to the extent available) on derailments, accidents and hazardous spills; the contingency plans to deal with accidental spills; and the likelihood of an accidental release of hazardous materials. (iii) If there are any known hazardous waste sites or sites where there have been known hazardous materials spills on the right-of-way, identify the location of those sites and the types of hazardous materials involved.

(i) The proposed abandonment will have no detrimental effects on public health and safety.

There are three private road crossings that are closed.

(ii) The proposed abandonment will not affect the transportation of hazardous materials.

(iii) CSXT is not aware of any known hazardous waste sites or sites where there have been known hazardous materials spills on the Line.

(8) Biological Resources. (i) Based on consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, state whether the proposed action is likely to adversely affect endangered or threatened species or areas designated as a critical habitat, and if so, describe the effects. (ii) State whether wildlife sanctuaries or refuges, National or State parks or forests will be affected, and describe any effects.

(i) CSXT does not believe that the proposed action is likely to adversely affect endangered or threatened species or areas designated as a critical habitat. CSXT has notified the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (“USF&W”) of the proposed abandonment by letter dated September 16, 2025 (*See Exhibit 2*) requesting assistance in determining whether the proposed abandonment will adversely affect endangered or threatened species or areas designated as a critical habitat and included a copy of the Preliminary CEHR.

Through use of the USF&W website <https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/> a letter listing threatened, and endangered species was generated on September 10, 2025, finding the Tricolored Bat, West Indian Manatee, Eastern Black Rail, Whooping Crane, Eastern Indigo Snake, Short-tailed Snake, Suwannee Alligator, Oval Pigtoe, Suwannee Moccasinshell, Monarch Butterfly, and Squirrel Chimney Cave Shrip may be in the area but that there are no critical habitats within the project area under USF&W's jurisdiction. (*See Exhibit 2*). In addition to the endangered species list, USF&W notes that there are 19 migratory bird species that may be in the area.

(ii) CSXT does not believe any wildlife sanctuaries or refuges, National or State parks or forests would be adversely affected by the proposed abandonment.

CSXT has notified the National Parks Service of the proposed abandonment by letter dated September 16, 2025 (*See Exhibit 2*) requesting assistance in identifying any potential effects on wildlife sanctuaries or refuges, National or State parks or forests and included a copy of the Preliminary CEHR. No comments have been received to date.

(9) Water. (i) Based on consultation with State water quality officials, state whether the proposed action is consistent with applicable Federal, State or local water quality standards. Describe any inconsistencies. (ii) Based on consultation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, state whether permits under section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1344) are required for the proposed action and whether any designated wetlands or 100-year flood plains will be affected. Describe the effects. (iii) State whether permits under section 402 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1342) are required for the proposed action.

(i) CSXT is confident that the proposed abandonment will be consistent with applicable water quality standards. CSXT notified the State Environmental Protection Agency ("SEPA"), and the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("USEPA") by letters dated September 16, 2025 (*See Exhibit 2*) requesting assistance in identifying any potential effects on water quality standards and included a copy of the Preliminary CEHR. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection ("DEP") provided comments in a letter dated October 8, 2025. (*See Exhibit 2*). In its comments DEP stated that the project

may need to be reviewed by the Suwannee River Water Management District's Environmental Resources Permitting Program. DEP stated that all solid wastes generated during demolition activities be properly disposed of at facilities authorized to manage the respective types of waste, that railroad ties be properly disposed of in a landfill, and requirements if abandonment would require the installation of a petroleum storage tank system to fuel an emergency generator. CSXT does not intend to install a petroleum storage tank system. Finally, DEP states that for a full consistency determination CSXT should contact the State Clearinghouse. As noted above, the Florida State Clearinghouse did not select this project for review and stated that the abandonment could proceed.

(ii) CSXT believes that no permits under section 404 of the Clean Water Act are required for the proposed abandonment and that no designated wetlands or 100-year flood plains will be affected by the proposed abandonment. Upon receiving abandonment authority, removal of material will be accomplished by use of the right-of-way for access. No new access roads are contemplated. CSXT does not intend to disturb any of the underlying roadbed or perform any activities that would cause sedimentation or erosion of the soil and does not anticipate any dredging or use of fill in the removal of the track material. CSXT will transport crossties and/or other debris away from the Line and will not discard them along the right-of-way or place or leave them in streams or wetlands, or along the banks of such waterways. Also, during track removal, appropriate measures will be implemented to prevent or control spills from fuels, lubricants or any other pollutant materials from entering any waterways. Based upon this course of action, CSXT does not believe a permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act will be required.

CSXT notified the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers by letter dated September 16, 2025 (*See* Exhibit 2) requesting assistance in identifying whether permits under section 404 of the Clean Water Act

are required for the proposed abandonment and that no designated wetlands or 100-year flood plains will be affected by the proposed abandonment and included a copy of the Preliminary CEHR.

(iii) CSXT believes that no permit under section 402 of the Clean Water Act would be required for the abandonment. CSXT notified the SEPA and the USEPA by letter dated September 16, 2025 (*See* Exhibit 2) requesting assistance in identifying whether permit under section 402 of the Clean Water Act would be required for the abandonment and included a copy of the Preliminary CEHR.

(10) Proposed Mitigation. Describe any actions that are proposed to mitigate adverse environmental impacts, indicating why the proposed mitigation is appropriate.

CSXT does not expect any adverse environmental impact from the proposed abandonment and, therefore, sees no need for any mitigating actions. CSXT will, of course, adhere to any remedial actions required by the Board.

HISTORIC REPORT

1. A U.S.G.S. topographic map (or alternate map drawn to scale and sufficiently detailed to show buildings and other structures in the vicinity of the proposed action) showing the location of the proposed action, and the locations and approximate dimensions of railroad structures that are 50 years old or older and are part of the proposed action;

U.S. Geological Survey Maps have been supplied to the State Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation (*See Exhibit 3*) along with this preliminary CEHR.

2. A written description of the right of way (including approximate widths, to the extent known), and the topography and urban and/or rural characteristics of the surrounding area;

The right of way is 60 feet in width. The Line begins east of the Santa Fe River and moves southeast running parallel between State Route 27 and NW 270th Terrece.

3. Good quality photographs (actual photographic prints, not photocopies) of railroad structures on the property that are 50 years old or older and of the immediately surrounding area;

There are no CSXT owned structures that are 50 years old or older.

4. The date(s) of construction of the structure(s), and the date(s) and extent of any major alterations, to the extent such information is known;

There are no structures on the Line.

5. A brief narrative history of carrier operations in the area, and an explanation of what, if any, changes are contemplated as a result of the proposed action;

The Atlantic Coast Line Railroad (“ACL”) completed what was initially known as the DuPont-Lakeland Line in 1913. This line operated from Dupont, Georgia, through the town of High Springs, all the way to Lakeland, Florida. It was made up of several subsidiaries of the ACL, including the Croom, Plant System, and the Tampa and Thonotosassa Railroads. While the primary focus of the railroad was freight movement, it did operate a limited number of passenger trains within the State of Florida. Traffic continued to grow and by 1950, it became ACL’s primary route for rail service between Waycross,

Georgia, and Tampa, Florida. When the Seaboard Coast Line and ACL merged in 1967, the line was renamed the West Coast Subdivision. The Seaboard Coast Line operated a parallel route to ACL's Dupont-Lakeland line, making the Dupont-Lakeland line redundant, and traffic declined. In 1980, the Seaboard Coast Line merged with Chessie System, and in 1988 was merged into CSX Railroad. By 1988, most of the West Coast Subdivision between Dunnellon, Florida and Owensboro, Florida, as well as from Dupont, Georgia to High Springs, Florida had been abandoned. The Surface Transportation Board (the "Board") issued a decision granting abandonment of the Line on November 24, 1997. By decision served on January 15, 1998, the Board found that no environmental or historic issues were raised, and the Board made a finding of No Significant Impact regarding the abandonment. However, CSXT never consummated the grant of abandonment authority. There has been no rail traffic on this section of track in nearly 30 years.

7. An opinion (based on readily available information in the railroad's possession) as to whether the site and/or structures meet the criteria for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (36 C.F.R. 60.4), and whether there is a likelihood of archeological resources or any other previously unknown historic properties in the project area, and the basis for these opinions (including any consultations with the State Historic Preservation Office, local historical societies or universities);

It is CSXT's opinion that there are no archeological resources or other railroad related historic properties in the project area.

8. A description (based on readily available information in the railroad's possession) of any known prior subsurface ground disturbance or fill, environmental conditions (naturally occurring or manmade) that might affect the archeological recovery of resources (such as swampy conditions or the presence of toxic waste), and the surrounding terrain.

Based on a review of its records, CSXT believes that there are no known subsurface ground disturbances or fill, or environmental conditions that might affect the archeological recovery of any potential resources. The Line was disturbed during construction by cuts and fill and any archeological

resources that may have been located in the proposed project area would have been affected at that time versus during the proposed salvage operations associated with rail removal.

9. Within 30 days of receipt of the historic report, the State Historic Preservation Officer may request the following additional information regarding specific non railroad owned properties or groups of properties immediately adjacent to the railroad right-of-way: photographs of specified properties that can be readily seen from the railroad right-of-way (or other public rights-of-way adjacent to the property) and a written description of any previously discovered archeological sites, identifying the location and type of the site (*i.e.* prehistoric or native American).

CSXT does not foresee the likelihood that any additional information will need to be supplied in association with the proposed abandonment other than that information previously submitted. But, if any additional information is requested, CSXT will promptly supply the necessary information.

CSXT notified the Florida Division of Historical Resources (*See Exhibit 2*) requesting assistance to determine whether there are any archeological resources or any other previously unknown historic properties and included a copy of the Preliminary CEHR. No comments have been received to date.

EXHIBIT 1 – MAP

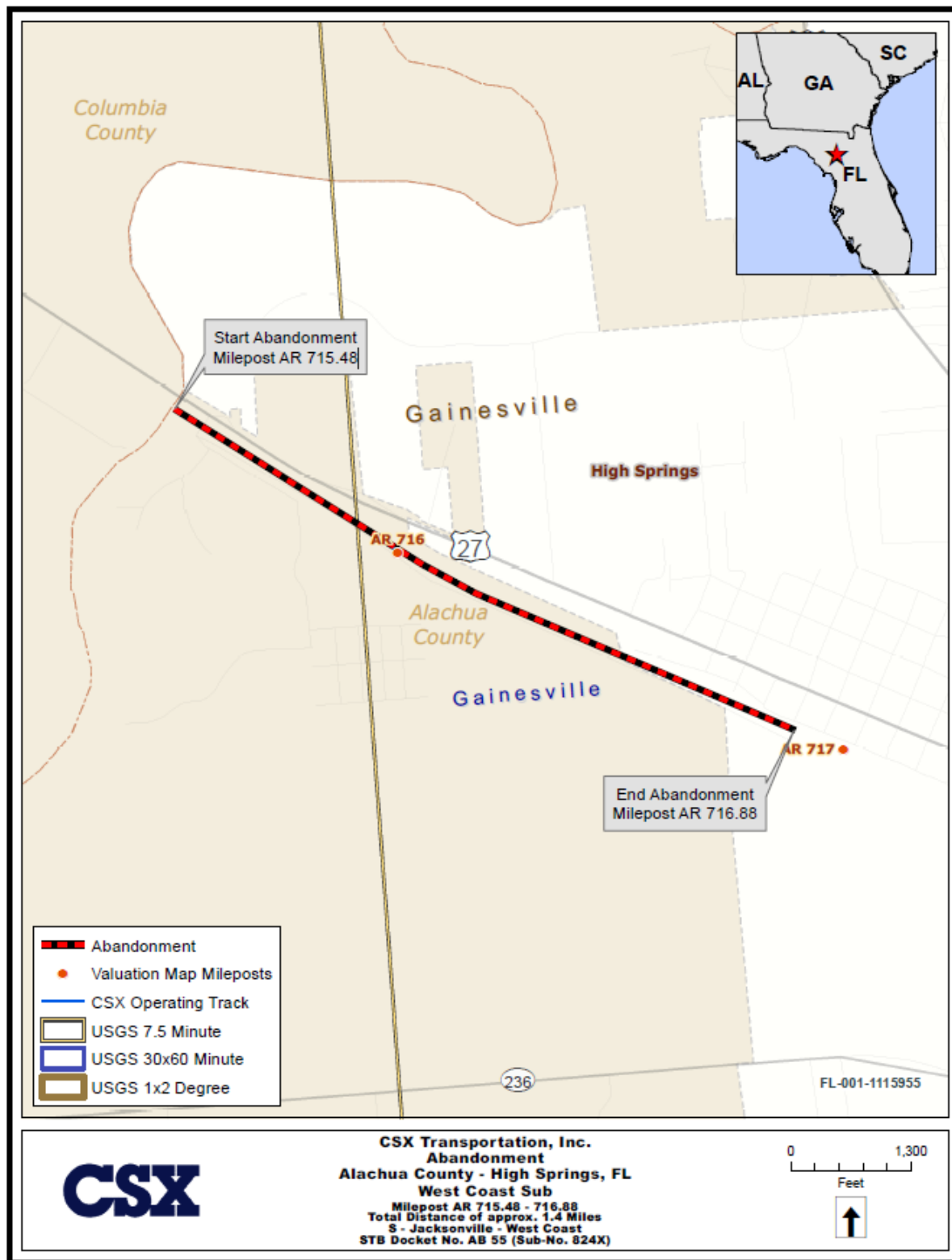


EXHIBIT 2 – LETTERS (WITHOUT MAPS)



500 Water Street, J801
Jacksonville, Florida 32202
Phone (904) 366-4457
Email: Kevin_Hardee@csx.com

Kevin Hardee
Joint Facilities

September 16, 2025

City of High Springs
City Manager's Office
23718 W US Hwy 27
High Springs, FL 32643

Re: STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 824X), CSX Transportation, Inc.—Abandonment Exemption—in
Alachua County, FL

To Whom it May Concern:

On or after October 6, 2025, CSX Transportation, Inc. (“CSXT”) plans to file with the Surface Transportation Board a Notice of Abandonment seeking authority to abandon the approximately 1.4-mile rail line that runs between milepost AR 715.48 and milepost AR 716.88, on its Southern Region, Jacksonville Division, West Coast Subdivision (the “Line”). Attached is a Combined Environmental and Historic Report describing the proposed action and any expected environmental and/or historic effects, as well as a map of the affected area.

We are providing this report so that you may review the information that will form the basis for the STB's independent environmental analysis of this proceeding. If any of the information is misleading or incorrect, if you believe that pertinent information is missing, or if you have any questions about the Board's environmental review process, please contact the Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA), Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC, telephone (202) 245-0295 and refer to Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 824X). Because the applicable statutes and regulations impose stringent deadlines for processing this action, your written comments to OEA (with a copy to our representative) would be appreciated within 3 weeks.

Your comments will be considered by the Board in evaluating the environmental and/or historic preservation impacts of the contemplated action. If there are any questions concerning this proposal, please contact me by email Kevin_Hardee@csx.com or by mail to the above address. our representative directly.

Also enclosed is the distribution list of all parties who have been provided with the CEHR. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kevin D. Hardee". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid.

Kevin Hardee



500 Water Street, J801
Jacksonville, Florida 32202
Phone (904) 366-4457
Email: Kevin_Hardee@csx.com

Kevin Hardee
Joint Facilities

September 16, 2025

Florida Department of Environmental Protection
John J. Truitt
Deputy Secretary for Regulatory Programs
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard M.S. 49
Tallahassee, FL 32399
Public.services@floridaDEP.gov

Re: STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 824X), CSX Transportation, Inc.—Abandonment Exemption—in
Alachua County, FL

Dear Deputy Secretary Truitt:

On or after October 6, 2025, CSX Transportation, Inc. (“CSXT”) plans to file with the Surface Transportation Board a Notice of Abandonment seeking authority to abandon the approximately 1.4-mile rail line that runs between milepost AR 715.48 and milepost AR 716.88, on its Southern Region, Jacksonville Division, West Coast Subdivision (the “Line”). Attached is a Combined Environmental and Historic Report describing the proposed action and any expected environmental and/or historic effects, as well as a map of the affected area.

We are providing this report so that you may review the information that will form the basis for the STB's independent environmental analysis of this proceeding. If any of the information is misleading or incorrect, if you believe that pertinent information is missing, or if you have any questions about the Board's environmental review process, please contact the Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA), Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC, telephone (202) 245-0295 and refer to Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 824X). Because the applicable statutes and regulations impose stringent deadlines for processing this action, your written comments to OEA (with a copy to our representative) would be appreciated within 3 weeks.

Your comments will be considered by the Board in evaluating the environmental and/or historic preservation impacts of the contemplated action. If there are any questions concerning this proposal, please contact me by email Kevin_Hardee@csx.com or by mail to the above address. our representative directly.

Also enclosed is the distribution list of all parties who have been provided with the CEHR. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kevin D. Hardee". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid.

Kevin Hardee



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF Environmental Protection

Northeast District
8800 Baymeadows Way West, Suite 100
Jacksonville, FL 322

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Jay Collins
Lt. Governor

Alexis A. Lambert
Secretary

October 8, 2025

Sent electronically to: Kevin.Hardee@csx.com

Mr. Kevin Hardee
CSX
500 Water Street H801
Jacksonville, Florida 32202

**RE: STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 824X), CSX Transportation, Inc. —
Abandonment Exemption—in Alachua County, FL**

Dear Mr. Hardee,

The Northeast District of the Department of Environmental Protection (Department) has reviewed the STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 824X), CSX Transportation, Inc. - Abandonment Exemption for Rail Lines located in Alachua County, Florida.

Based on the information provided, the following comments and recommendations are offered for this project.

Environmental Resource Permitting Section

This project may need to be reviewed by the Suwannee River Water Management District's (SRWMD) Environmental Resource Permitting Program, according to the Operating Agreement between FDEP and SRWMD. Please contact the SRWMD at (386) 362-1001, to request a permit determination, or if you have questions about permitting requirements.

Hazardous Waste Section

Please ensure that all solid wastes generated during demolition activities, including rail crossties and/or the upper layer of ballast described in the proposal, are managed in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local regulations pertaining to these waste streams whether determined to be hazardous waste, non-hazardous waste, or contaminated media. All waste streams that are generated should be properly disposed of at a facility authorized to manage the respective type of waste. Please contact Matt Kershner at (904) 256-1649, or via email at Matthew.Kershner@FloridaDEP.gov, of the Northeast District hazardous waste section with questions regarding these requirements.

CSX Transportation, Inc.
Abandonment Exemption for Rail Lines
October 8, 2025
Page 2

Solid Waste Section

Please note that waste railroad ties should be properly disposed of in a landfill. Onsite grinding of ties is not authorized without first obtaining a solid waste processing facility permit in accordance with 62-701, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.). Please contact Brian Durden at (904) 256-1575, or via email at Brian.Durden@FloridaDEP.gov, of the Northeast District solid waste section with questions regarding these requirements.

Tanks Section

If this project includes the installation of a petroleum storage tank system to fuel an emergency generator or for fuel delivery, and the tank storing the fuel is greater than a 550-gallon aboveground storage tank (AST) or greater than a 110-gallon underground storage tank (UST), then the tank will be regulated by the Department and the facility must comply with Chapter 62-761 or 62-762, F.A.C., as applicable. In addition, 30 to 45 days prior notice for the installation of the tank is required, and the tank must be registered with the Department. Please contact Jennifer Paul at (904) 256-1619, or via email at Jennifer.Paul@FloridaDEP.gov, with questions regarding notification and/or registration requirements.

In addition, to receive a complete consistency determination for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document(s), please contact the State Clearinghouse, at Clearinghouse@dep.state.fl.us, or Ms. Lindsay Weaver at (850) 717-9037.

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact Victoria Ford at Victoria.Ford@FloridaDEP.gov, or by phone at (904) 256-1505.

Sincerely,



Thomas G. Kallemeyn
Assistant District Director

TGK/vic

cc: Ron Hoenstine, DEP OGC
Tom Kallemeyn, DEP NED
Joni Petry, DEP NED
Katie Miller, DEP NED
Public.Services@FloridaDEP.gov
Lindsay Weaver, State Clearinghouse
Melanie B. Yasbin, melanie@lgrailaw.com

Enclosures (3)



500 Water Street, J801
Jacksonville, Florida 32202
Phone (904) 366-4457
Email: Kevin_Hardee@csx.com

Kevin Hardee
Joint Facilities

September 16, 2025

National Geodetic Survey
RRAE@noaa.gov

Re: STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 824X), CSX Transportation, Inc.—Abandonment Exemption—in
Alachua County, FL

To Whom it May Concern:

On or after October 6, 2025, CSX Transportation, Inc. (“CSXT”) plans to file with the Surface Transportation Board a Notice of Abandonment seeking authority to abandon the approximately 1.4-mile rail line that runs between milepost AR 715.48 and milepost AR 716.88, on its Southern Region, Jacksonville Division, West Coast Subdivision (the “Line”). Attached is a Combined Environmental and Historic Report describing the proposed action and any expected environmental and/or historic effects, as well as a map of the affected area.

We are providing this report so that you may review the information that will form the basis for the STB's independent environmental analysis of this proceeding. If any of the information is misleading or incorrect, if you believe that pertinent information is missing, or if you have any questions about the Board's environmental review process, please contact the Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA), Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC, telephone (202) 245-0295 and refer to Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 824X). Because the applicable statutes and regulations impose stringent deadlines for processing this action, your written comments to OEA (with a copy to our representative) would be appreciated within 3 weeks.

Your comments will be considered by the Board in evaluating the environmental and/or historic preservation impacts of the contemplated action. If there are any questions concerning this proposal, please contact me by email Kevin_Hardee@csx.com or by mail to the above address. our representative directly.

Also enclosed is the distribution list of all parties who have been provided with the CEHR. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kevin D. Hardee". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Kevin Hardee

From: [NOS NGS JIRA](#)
To: [Melanie Yasbin](#)
Subject: [JIRA] (IMOV-16783) CSX Transportation, Inc.--Abandonment Exemption--in Alachua County, FL, STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 824X)
Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2025 12:26:07 PM

A comment is added on your issue:

Re: CSX Transportation, Inc.--Abandonment Exemption--in Alachua County, FL, STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 824X)

Thank you for this information.

After reviewing the note and maps provided, it appear that only one benchmark is in the area of the abandonment. AR1825 is located in the vicinity of the southern/easters end of the proposed abandonment.

From the mark description file:

"THE STATION IS 3.7 METERS (12 FT) NORTHWEST OF A SOUTHWESTERLY PROJECTION OF THE CENTERLINE OF NW 12TH STREET AT A DISTANCE OF 89.0 METERS (292 FT) SOUTHWESTERLY FROM THE INTERSECTION OF SAID CENTERLINE WITH THE CENTERLINE OF THE MAIN TRACK OF THE S.C.L. RAILROAD, 6.0 METERS (19.8 FT) SOUTHEAST (RADIALY) FROM THE CENTERLINE ARC OF A SPUR TRACK, AND 44.3 METERS (145.3 FT) NORTHWEST FROM A LONE PALM TREE."

If you have any other questions or concerns about this matter please feel free to reach out to me.

Timothy Salisbury

Physical Scientist,

NOAA National Geodetic Survey

N/NGS4 SSMC3 #8604

1315 East-West Hwy

Silver Spring MD 20910

Phone: [240 533 9620]tel:(240)%20533-9638]

This message was sent by Atlassian Jira
(v9.12.13#9120013-sha1:30aec89)





500 Water Street, J801
Jacksonville, Florida 32202
Phone (904) 366-4457
Email: Kevin_Hardee@csx.com

Kevin Hardee
Joint Facilities

September 16, 2025

Florida State Clearinghouse
State.clearinghouse@floridaDEP.gov

Re: STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 824X), CSX Transportation, Inc.—Abandonment Exemption—in
Alachua County, FL

To Whom it May Concern:

On or after October 6, 2025, CSX Transportation, Inc. (“CSXT”) plans to file with the Surface Transportation Board a Notice of Abandonment seeking authority to abandon the approximately 1.4-mile rail line that runs between milepost AR 715.48 and milepost AR 716.88, on its Southern Region, Jacksonville Division, West Coast Subdivision (the “Line”). Attached is a Combined Environmental and Historic Report describing the proposed action and any expected environmental and/or historic effects, as well as a map of the affected area.

We are providing this report so that you may review the information that will form the basis for the STB's independent environmental analysis of this proceeding. If any of the information is misleading or incorrect, if you believe that pertinent information is missing, or if you have any questions about the Board's environmental review process, please contact the Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA), Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC, telephone (202) 245-0295 and refer to Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 824X). Because the applicable statutes and regulations impose stringent deadlines for processing this action, your written comments to OEA (with a copy to our representative) would be appreciated within 3 weeks.

Your comments will be considered by the Board in evaluating the environmental and/or historic preservation impacts of the contemplated action. If there are any questions concerning this proposal, please contact me by email Kevin_Hardee@csx.com or by mail to the above address. our representative directly.

Also enclosed is the distribution list of all parties who have been provided with the CEHR. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kevin D. Hardee". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Kevin Hardee

From: [State Clearinghouse](#)
To: [Melanie Yasbin](#); [State Clearinghouse](#)
Subject: RE: CSX Transportation, Inc.--Abandonment Exemption--in Alachua County, FL, STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 824X)
Date: Friday, September 19, 2025 2:41:47 PM

While it is covered by EO 12372, the Florida State Clearinghouse does not select the project for review. You may proceed with your project.

Please send future electronic requests directly to the Florida State Clearinghouse email address, State.Clearinghouse@FloridaDEP.gov.

-

Thank you,

Lindsay Weaver



Lindsay Weaver
Florida State Clearinghouse
Office of Intergovernmental Programs
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
State.Clearinghouse@FloridaDEP.gov
Office: 850-717-9037



500 Water Street, J801
Jacksonville, Florida 32202
Phone (904) 366-4457
Email: Kevin_Hardee@csx.com

Kevin Hardee
Joint Facilities

September 16, 2025

National Park Service
Southeast Region
100 Alabama Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30303

Re: STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 824X), CSX Transportation, Inc.—Abandonment Exemption—in
Alachua County, FL

To Whom it May Concern:

On or after October 6, 2025, CSX Transportation, Inc. (“CSXT”) plans to file with the Surface Transportation Board a Notice of Abandonment seeking authority to abandon the approximately 1.4-mile rail line that runs between milepost AR 715.48 and milepost AR 716.88, on its Southern Region, Jacksonville Division, West Coast Subdivision (the “Line”). Attached is a Combined Environmental and Historic Report describing the proposed action and any expected environmental and/or historic effects, as well as a map of the affected area.

We are providing this report so that you may review the information that will form the basis for the STB's independent environmental analysis of this proceeding. If any of the information is misleading or incorrect, if you believe that pertinent information is missing, or if you have any questions about the Board's environmental review process, please contact the Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA), Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC, telephone (202) 245-0295 and refer to Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 824X). Because the applicable statutes and regulations impose stringent deadlines for processing this action, your written comments to OEA (with a copy to our representative) would be appreciated within 3 weeks.

Your comments will be considered by the Board in evaluating the environmental and/or historic preservation impacts of the contemplated action. If there are any questions concerning this proposal, please contact me by email Kevin_Hardee@csx.com or by mail to the above address. our representative directly.

Also enclosed is the distribution list of all parties who have been provided with the CEHR. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kevin D. Hardee". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Kevin Hardee



500 Water Street, J801
Jacksonville, Florida 32202
Phone (904) 366-4457
Email: Kevin_Hardee@csx.com

Kevin Hardee
Joint Facilities

September 16, 2025

Environmental Protection Agency
Region 4
Atlanta Federal Center
61 Forsyth Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30303-3104

Re: STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 824X), CSX Transportation, Inc.—Abandonment Exemption—in
Alachua County, FL

To Whom it May Concern:

On or after October 6, 2025, CSX Transportation, Inc. (“CSXT”) plans to file with the Surface Transportation Board a Notice of Abandonment seeking authority to abandon the approximately 1.4-mile rail line that runs between milepost AR 715.48 and milepost AR 716.88, on its Southern Region, Jacksonville Division, West Coast Subdivision (the “Line”). Attached is a Combined Environmental and Historic Report describing the proposed action and any expected environmental and/or historic effects, as well as a map of the affected area.

We are providing this report so that you may review the information that will form the basis for the STB's independent environmental analysis of this proceeding. If any of the information is misleading or incorrect, if you believe that pertinent information is missing, or if you have any questions about the Board's environmental review process, please contact the Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA), Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC, telephone (202) 245-0295 and refer to Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 824X). Because the applicable statutes and regulations impose stringent deadlines for processing this action, your written comments to OEA (with a copy to our representative) would be appreciated within 3 weeks.

Your comments will be considered by the Board in evaluating the environmental and/or historic preservation impacts of the contemplated action. If there are any questions concerning this proposal,

please contact me by email Kevin_Hardee@csx.com or by mail to the above address. our representative directly.

Also enclosed is the distribution list of all parties who have been provided with the CEHR. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kevin D. Hardee". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid.

Kevin Hardee



500 Water Street, J801
Jacksonville, Florida 32202
Phone (904) 366-4457
Email: Kevin_Hardee@csx.com

Kevin Hardee
Joint Facilities

September 16, 2025

Jacksonville District USACE
701 San Marco Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL 32207
Cesaj-cc@usace.army.mil

Re: STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 824X), CSX Transportation, Inc.—Abandonment Exemption—in
Alachua County, FL

To Whom it May Concern:

On or after October 6, 2025, CSX Transportation, Inc. (“CSXT”) plans to file with the Surface Transportation Board a Notice of Abandonment seeking authority to abandon the approximately 1.4-mile rail line that runs between milepost AR 715.48 and milepost AR 716.88, on its Southern Region, Jacksonville Division, West Coast Subdivision (the “Line”). Attached is a Combined Environmental and Historic Report describing the proposed action and any expected environmental and/or historic effects, as well as a map of the affected area.

We are providing this report so that you may review the information that will form the basis for the STB's independent environmental analysis of this proceeding. If any of the information is misleading or incorrect, if you believe that pertinent information is missing, or if you have any questions about the Board's environmental review process, please contact the Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA), Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC, telephone (202) 245-0295 and refer to Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 824X). Because the applicable statutes and regulations impose stringent deadlines for processing this action, your written comments to OEA (with a copy to our representative) would be appreciated within 3 weeks.

Your comments will be considered by the Board in evaluating the environmental and/or historic preservation impacts of the contemplated action. If there are any questions concerning this proposal,

please contact me by email Kevin_Hardee@csx.com or by mail to the above address. our representative directly.

Also enclosed is the distribution list of all parties who have been provided with the CEHR. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kevin D. Hardee". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid.

Kevin Hardee



500 Water Street, J801
Jacksonville, Florida 32202
Phone (904) 366-4457
Email: Kevin_Hardee@csx.com

Kevin Hardee
Joint Facilities

September 16, 2025

Ms. Monica Jones
State Conservationist
United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
5709 NW 13th Street
Gainesville, FL 32653-2130
Monica.Jones@usda.gov

Re: STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 824X), CSX Transportation, Inc.—Abandonment Exemption—in
Alachua County, FL

Dear Ms. Jones:

On or after October 6, 2025, CSX Transportation, Inc. (“CSXT”) plans to file with the Surface Transportation Board a Notice of Abandonment seeking authority to abandon the approximately 1.4-mile rail line that runs between milepost AR 715.48 and milepost AR 716.88, on its Southern Region, Jacksonville Division, West Coast Subdivision (the “Line”). Attached is a Combined Environmental and Historic Report describing the proposed action and any expected environmental and/or historic effects, as well as a map of the affected area.

We are providing this report so that you may review the information that will form the basis for the STB's independent environmental analysis of this proceeding. If any of the information is misleading or incorrect, if you believe that pertinent information is missing, or if you have any questions about the Board's environmental review process, please contact the Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA), Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC, telephone (202) 245-0295 and refer to Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 824X). Because the applicable statutes and regulations impose stringent deadlines for processing this action, your written comments to OEA (with a copy to our representative) would be appreciated within 3 weeks.

Your comments will be considered by the Board in evaluating the environmental and/or historic preservation impacts of the contemplated action. If there are any questions concerning this proposal, please contact me by email Kevin_Hardee@csx.com or by mail to the above address. our representative directly.

Also enclosed is the distribution list of all parties who have been provided with the CEHR. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kevin D. Hardee". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid.

Kevin Hardee



500 Water Street, J801
Jacksonville, Florida 32202
Phone (904) 366-4457
Email: Kevin_Hardee@csx.com

Kevin Hardee
Joint Facilities

September 16, 2025

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
777 37th St.
Suite D-101
Vero Beach, FL 32960-3559
Fw4flesregs@fws.gov

Re: STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 824X), CSX Transportation, Inc.—Abandonment Exemption—in
Alachua County, FL

To Whom it May Concern:

On or after October 6, 2025, CSX Transportation, Inc. (“CSXT”) plans to file with the Surface Transportation Board a Notice of Abandonment seeking authority to abandon the approximately 1.4-mile rail line that runs between milepost AR 715.48 and milepost AR 716.88, on its Southern Region, Jacksonville Division, West Coast Subdivision (the “Line”). Attached is a Combined Environmental and Historic Report describing the proposed action and any expected environmental and/or historic effects, as well as a map of the affected area.

We are providing this report so that you may review the information that will form the basis for the STB's independent environmental analysis of this proceeding. If any of the information is misleading or incorrect, if you believe that pertinent information is missing, or if you have any questions about the Board's environmental review process, please contact the Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA), Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC, telephone (202) 245-0295 and refer to Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 824X). Because the applicable statutes and regulations impose stringent deadlines for processing this action, your written comments to OEA (with a copy to our representative) would be appreciated within 3 weeks.

Your comments will be considered by the Board in evaluating the environmental and/or historic preservation impacts of the contemplated action. If there are any questions concerning this proposal, please contact me by email Kevin_Hardee@csx.com or by mail to the above address. our representative directly.

Also enclosed is the distribution list of all parties who have been provided with the CEHR. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kevin D. Hardee". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with the first and last names being more prominent than the middle initial.

Kevin Hardee



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Florida Ecological Services Field Office

777 37th St

Suite D-101

Vero Beach, FL 32960-3559

Phone: (352) 448-9151 Fax: (772) 562-4288

Email Address: fwe@fws.gov

<https://www.fws.gov/office/florida-ecological-services>



In Reply Refer To:

09/10/2025 16:26:11 UTC

Project Code: 2025-0147449

Project Name: STB Docket No. 55 (sub-N0. 824X) CSXT Abandonment Exemption in Alachua County, FL

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat.

Please include your Project Code, listed at the top of this letter, in all subsequent correspondence regarding this project. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered

species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

<https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/endangered-species-consultation-handbook.pdf>

Florida bonneted bat: If the Florida bonneted bat or Florida bonneted bat Critical Habitat is on your Official Species List, please make sure you are using the [2024 Florida Bonneted Bat Guidelines and Key](#) and submitting acoustic survey data to [NABat](#) if acoustic surveys are conducted.

Migratory Birds: In addition to responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), there are additional responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to protect native birds from project-related impacts. Any activity resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)). For more information regarding these Acts see <https://www.fws.gov/program/migratory-bird-permits/what-we-do>.

It is the responsibility of the project proponent to comply with these Acts by identifying potential impacts to migratory birds and eagles within applicable NEPA documents (when there is a federal nexus) or a Bird/Eagle Conservation Plan (when there is no federal nexus). Proponents should implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize the production of project-related stressors or minimize the exposure of birds and their resources to the project-related stressors. For more information on avian stressors and recommended conservation measures see <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/threats-birds>.

In addition to MBTA and BGEPA, Executive Order 13186: *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*, obligates all Federal agencies that engage in or authorize activities that might affect migratory birds, to minimize those effects and encourage conservation measures that will improve bird populations. Executive Order 13186 provides for the protection of both migratory birds and migratory bird habitat. For information regarding the implementation of

Executive Order 13186, please visit <https://www.fws.gov/partner/council-conservation-migratory-birds>.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Code in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List
- Marine Mammals

OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

Florida Ecological Services Field Office
777 37th St
Suite D-101
Vero Beach, FL 32960-3559
(352) 448-9151

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2025-0147449
Project Name: STB Docket No. 55 (sub-N0. 824X) CSXT Abandonment Exemption in Alachua County, FL
Project Type: Abandonment of Rail Line
Project Description: CSX Transportation, Inc., ("CSXT") proposes to abandon the approximately 1.4-mile rail line that runs between milepost AR 715.48 and milepost AR 716.88, on its Southern Region, Jacksonville Division, West Coast Subdivision (the "Line"). The Line runs through the U.S. Postal Zip Codes 32643.

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@29.8371478,-82.62211463007282,14z>



Counties: Alachua County, Florida

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 11 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries¹, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

-
1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

MAMMALS

NAME	STATUS
Tricolored Bat <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10515	Proposed Endangered
West Indian Manatee <i>Trichechus manatus</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. This species is also protected by the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and may have additional consultation requirements. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4469 General project design guidelines: https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/KTMB7MVHPRGNDLXGRTX2SK3AM/documents/generated/7281.pdf	Threatened

BIRDS

NAME	STATUS
Eastern Black Rail <i>Laterallus jamaicensis ssp. jamaicensis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10477	Threatened
Whooping Crane <i>Grus americana</i> Population: U.S.A. (AL, AR, CO, FL, GA, ID, IL, IN, IA, KY, LA, MI, MN, MS, MO, NC, NM, OH, SC, TN, UT, VA, WI, WV, western half of WY) No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/758	Experimental Population, Non- Essential

REPTILES

NAME	STATUS
Eastern Indigo Snake <i>Drymarchon couperi</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/646	Threatened
Short-tailed Snake <i>Stilosoma extenuatum</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9266	Proposed Threatened
Suwannee Alligator Snapping Turtle <i>Macrochelys suwanniensis</i> Population: No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10891	Threatened

CLAMS

NAME	STATUS
Oval Pigtoe <i>Pleurobema pyriforme</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat.	Endangered

NAME	STATUS
Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4132	
Suwannee Moccasinshell <i>Medionidus walkeri</i>	Threatened
There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat.	
Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/533	

INSECTS

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i>	Proposed
There is proposed critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat.	Threatened
Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	

CRUSTACEANS

NAME	STATUS
Squirrel Chimney Cave Shrimp <i>Palaemonetes cummingsi</i>	Threatened
No critical habitat has been designated for this species.	
Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1551	

CRITICAL HABITATS

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.

MARINE MAMMALS

Marine mammals are protected under the [Marine Mammal Protection Act](#). Some are also protected under the Endangered Species Act¹ and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora².

The responsibilities for the protection, conservation, and management of marine mammals are shared by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [responsible for otters, walrus, polar bears, manatees, and dugongs] and NOAA Fisheries³ [responsible for seals, sea lions, whales, dolphins, and porpoises]. Marine mammals under the responsibility of NOAA Fisheries are **not** shown on this list; for additional information on those species please visit the [Marine Mammals](#) page of the NOAA Fisheries website.

The Marine Mammal Protection Act prohibits the take of marine mammals and further coordination may be necessary for project evaluation. Please contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Field Office shown.

1. The [Endangered Species Act](#) (ESA) of 1973.

2. The [Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora](#) (CITES) is a treaty to ensure that international trade in plants and animals does not threaten their survival in the wild.
3. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

NAME

West Indian Manatee *Trichechus manatus*

Species profile: <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4469>

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: The Law Offices of Louis E. Gitomer, LLC

Name: Melanie Yasbin

Address: 600 Baltimore Ave, Suite 301

City: Towson

State: MD

Zip: 21204

Email: melanie@lgrailaw.com

Phone: 4102962205

LEAD AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Lead Agency: Surface Transportation Board



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Florida Ecological Services Field Office

777 37th St

Suite D-101

Vero Beach, FL 32960-3559

Phone: (352) 448-9151 Fax: (772) 562-4288

Email Address: fwefilesregs@fws.gov

<https://www.fws.gov/office/florida-ecological-services>



In Reply Refer To:

|11/19/2025 16:15:25 UTC

Project code: 2025-0147449

Project Name: STB Docket No. 55 (sub-N0. 824X) CSXT Abandonment Exemption in Alachua County, FL

Federal Nexus: yes

Federal Action Agency (if applicable): Surface Transportation Board

Subject: Record of project representative's no effect determination for 'STB Docket No. 55 (sub-N0. 824X) CSXT Abandonment Exemption in Alachua County, FL'

Dear Melanie Yasbin:

This letter records your determination using the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system provided to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) on November 19, 2025, for 'STB Docket No. 55 (sub-N0. 824X) CSXT Abandonment Exemption in Alachua County, FL' (here forward, Project). This project has been assigned Project Code 2025-0147449 and all future correspondence should clearly reference this number. **Please carefully review this letter.**

Ensuring Accurate Determinations When Using IPaC

The Service developed the IPaC system and associated species' determination keys in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA; 87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and based on a standing analysis. All information submitted by the Project proponent into IPaC must accurately represent the full scope and details of the Project.

Failure to accurately represent or implement the Project as detailed in IPaC or the **Northern Long-eared Bat and Tricolored Bat Range-wide Determination Key (Dkey)**, invalidates this letter. *Answers to certain questions in the DKey commit the project proponent to implementation of conservation measures that must be followed for the ESA determination to remain valid.*

Determination for the Northern Long-Eared Bat and/or Tricolored Bat

Based upon your IPaC submission and a standing analysis, your project has reached the following effect determinations:

Species	Listing Status	Determination
Tricolored Bat (<i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>)	Proposed	No effect
	Endangered	

Federal agencies must consult with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) when an action *may affect* a listed species. Tricolored bat is proposed for listing as endangered under the ESA, but not yet listed. For actions that may affect a proposed species, agencies cannot consult, but they can *confer* under the authority of section 7(a)(4) of the ESA. Such conferences can follow the procedures for a consultation and be adopted as such if and when the proposed species is listed. Should the tricolored bat be listed, agencies must review projects that are not yet complete, or projects with ongoing effects within the tricolored bat range that previously received a NE or NLAA determination from the key to confirm that the determination is still accurate.

To make a no effect determination, the full scope of the proposed project implementation (action) should not have any effects (either positive or negative), to a federally listed species or designated critical habitat. Effects of the action are all consequences to listed species or critical habitat that are caused by the proposed action, including the consequences of other activities that are caused by the proposed action. A consequence is caused by the proposed action if it would not occur but for the proposed action and it is reasonably certain to occur. Effects of the action may occur later in time and may include consequences occurring outside the immediate area involved in the action. (See § 402.17).

Under Section 7 of the ESA, if a federal action agency makes a no effect determination, no consultation with the Service is required (ESA §7). If a proposed Federal action may affect a listed species or designated critical habitat, formal consultation is required except when the Service concurs, in writing, that a proposed action "is not likely to adversely affect" listed species or designated critical habitat [50 CFR §402.02, 50 CFR§402.13].

Other Species and Critical Habitat that May be Present in the Action Area

The IPaC-assisted determination key for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat does not apply to the following ESA-protected species and/or critical habitat that also may occur in your Action area:

- Eastern Black Rail *Laterallus jamaicensis ssp. jamaicensis* Threatened
- Eastern Indigo Snake *Drymarchon couperi* Threatened
- Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus* Proposed Threatened
- Oval Pigtoe *Pleurobema pyriforme* Endangered
- Short-tailed Snake *Stilosoma extenuatum* Proposed Threatened
- Southern Hognose Snake *Heterodon simus* Proposed Threatened
- Squirrel Chimney Cave Shrimp *Palaemonetes cummingi* Threatened
- Suwannee Alligator Snapping Turtle *Macrochelys suwanniensis* Threatened

- Suwannee Moccasinshell *Medionidus walkeri* Threatened
- West Indian Manatee *Trichechus manatus* Threatened
- Whooping Crane *Grus americana* Experimental Population, Non-Essential

You may coordinate with our Office to determine whether the Action may affect the animal species listed above and, if so, how they may be affected.

Next Steps

If there are no updates on listed species, no further consultation/coordination for this project is required with respect to the species covered by this key. However, the Service recommends that project proponents re-evaluate the Project in IPaC if: 1) the scope, timing, duration, or location of the Project changes (includes any project changes or amendments); 2) new information reveals the Project may impact (positively or negatively) federally listed species or designated critical habitat; or 3) a new species is listed, or critical habitat designated. If any of the above conditions occurs, additional coordination with the Service should take place to ensure compliance with the Act.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or need further assistance, please contact the Florida Ecological Services Field Office and reference Project Code 2025-0147449 associated with this Project.

Action Description

You provided to IPaC the following name and description for the subject Action.

1. Name

STB Docket No. 55 (sub-N0. 824X) CSXT Abandonment Exemption in Alachua County, FL

2. Description

The following description was provided for the project 'STB Docket No. 55 (sub-N0. 824X) CSXT Abandonment Exemption in Alachua County, FL':

CSX Transportation, Inc., ("CSXT") proposes to abandon the approximately 1.4-mile rail line that runs between milepost AR 715.48 and milepost AR 716.88, on its Southern Region, Jacksonville Division, West Coast Subdivision (the "Line"). The Line runs through the U.S. Postal Zip Codes 32643.

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@29.8371478,-82.62211463007282,14z>



DETERMINATION KEY RESULT

Based on the information you provided, you have determined that the Proposed Action will have no effect on the species covered by this determination key. Therefore, no consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service pursuant to Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) is required for those species.

QUALIFICATION INTERVIEW

1. Does the proposed project include, or is it reasonably certain to cause, intentional take of listed bats or any other listed species?

Note: Intentional take is defined as take that is the intended result of a project. Intentional take could refer to research, direct species management, surveys, and/or studies that include intentional handling/encountering, harassment, collection, or capturing of any individual of a federally listed threatened, endangered or proposed species?

No

2. Is the action area wholly within Zone 2 of the year-round active area for northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat?

Automatically answered

Yes

3. Your project overlaps with Zone 2 of the area where northern long-eared bats and tricolored bats may be present and roosting in trees year-round.

Do you understand that your project may impact bats at any time during the year?

Yes

4. Does any component of the action involve leasing, construction or operation of wind turbines? Answer 'yes' if the activities considered are conducted with the intention of gathering survey information to inform the leasing, construction, or operation of wind turbines.

No

5. Is the proposed action authorized, permitted, licensed, funded, or being carried out by a Federal agency in whole or in part?

Note for projects in Pennsylvania: Projects requiring authorization under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and/or Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act would be considered as having a federal nexus. Since the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has issued the Pennsylvania State Programmatic General Permit (PASPGP), which may be verified by the PA Department of Environmental Protection or certain Conservation Districts, the need to receive a Corps authorization to perform the work under the PASPGP serves as a federal nexus. As such, if proposing to use the PASPGP, you would answer 'yes' to this question.

Yes

6. Is the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), or Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding or authorizing the proposed action, in whole or in part?

No

7. Are you an employee of the federal action agency or have you been officially designated in writing by the agency as its designated non-federal representative for the purposes of Endangered Species Act Section 7 informal consultation per 50 CFR § 402.08?

Note: This key may be used for federal actions and for non-federal actions to facilitate section 7 consultation and to help determine whether an incidental take permit may be needed, respectively. This question is for information purposes only.

No

8. Is the lead federal action agency the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or Federal Communications Commission (FCC)? Is the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or Federal Communications Commission (FCC) funding or authorizing the proposed action, in whole or in part?

No

9. Is the lead federal action agency the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)?

No

10. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.5 miles of a known bat hibernaculum or winter roost? **Note:** The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your state wildlife agency.

Automatically answered

No

11. Does the action area contain any winter roosts or caves (or associated sinkholes, fissures, or other karst features), mines, rocky outcroppings, or tunnels that could provide habitat for hibernating bats?

No

12. Will the action cause effects to a bridge?

Note: Covered bridges should be considered as bridges in this question.

No

13. Will the action result in effects to a culvert or tunnel at any time of year?

No

14. Are trees present within 1000 feet of the action area?

Note: If there are trees within the action area that are of a sufficient size to be potential roosts for bats answer "Yes". If unsure, additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

Yes

15. Does the action include the intentional exclusion of bats from a building or building-like structure? **Note:** Exclusion is conducted to deny bats' entry or reentry into a building. To be effective and to avoid harming bats, it should be done according to established standards. If your action includes bat exclusion and you are unsure whether northern long-eared bats or tricolored bats are present, answer "Yes." Answer "No" if there are no signs of bat use in the building/structure. If unsure, contact your local Ecological Services Field Office to help assess whether northern long-eared bats or tricolored bats may be present. Contact a Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator (NWCO) for help in how to exclude bats from a structure safely without causing harm to the bats (to find a NWCO certified in bat standards, search the Internet using the search term "National Wildlife Control Operators Association bats"). Also see the White-Nose Syndrome Response Team's guide for bat control in structures.

No

16. Does the action involve removal, modification, or maintenance of a human-made building-like structure (barn, house, or other building) **known or suspected to contain roosting bats?**

No

17. Will the action cause construction of one or more new roads open to the public?

For federal actions, answer 'yes' when the construction or operation of these facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for an action taken by a federal agency (federal permit, funding, etc.).

No

18. Will the action include or cause any construction or other activity that is reasonably certain to increase average night-time traffic permanently or temporarily on one or more existing roads? **Note:** For federal actions, answer 'yes' when the construction or operation of these facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for an action taken by a federal agency (federal permit, funding, etc.).

No

19. Will the action include or cause any construction or other activity that is reasonably certain to increase the number of travel lanes on an existing thoroughfare?

For federal actions, answer 'yes' when the construction or operation of these facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for an action taken by a federal agency (federal permit, funding, etc.).

No

20. Will the proposed Action involve the creation of a new water-borne contaminant source (e.g., leachate pond, pits containing chemicals that are not NSF/ANSI 60 compliant)?

Note: For information regarding NSF/ANSI 60 please visit <https://www.nsf.org/knowledge-library/nsf-ansi-standard-60-drinking-water-treatment-chemicals-health-effects>

No

21. Will the proposed action involve the creation of a new point source discharge from a facility other than a water treatment plant or storm water system?

No

22. Will the action include drilling or blasting?

No

23. Will the action involve military training (e.g., smoke operations, obscurant operations, exploding munitions, artillery fire, range use, helicopter or fixed wing aircraft use at night)?

No

24. Will the proposed action involve the use of herbicides or pesticides (e.g., fungicides, insecticides, or rodenticides)?

No

25. Will the action include or cause activities that are reasonably certain to cause chronic or intense nighttime noise (above current levels of ambient noise in the area) in suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat during the active season?

Chronic noise is noise that is continuous or occurs repeatedly again and again for a long time. Sources of chronic or intense noise that could cause adverse effects to bats may include, but are not limited to: road traffic; trains; aircraft; industrial activities; gas compressor stations; loud music; crowds; oil and gas extraction; construction; and mining.

Note: Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

No

26. Does the action include, or is it reasonably certain to cause, the use of permanent or temporary artificial lighting within 1000 feet of suitable northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat roosting habitat?

Note: Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

No

27. Will the action include tree cutting or other means of knocking down or bringing down trees, tree topping, or tree trimming?

No

28. Will the proposed action result in the use of prescribed fire?

Note: If the prescribed fire action includes other activities than application of fire (e.g., tree cutting, fire line preparation) please consider impacts from those activities within the previous representative questions in the key. This set of questions only considers impacts from flame and smoke.

No

29. Does the action area intersect the tricolored bat species list area?

Automatically answered

Yes

30. Is the action area located within 0.5-mile of radius of an entrance/opening to any known tricolored bat hibernacula or winter roost?

Note: The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your state wildlife agency.

Automatically answered

No

31. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.25 miles of a culvert that is known to be occupied by northern long-eared or tricolored bats? **Note:** The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency.

Automatically answered

No

32. Your project overlaps with an area where tricolored bats may be present and roosting in trees year-round.

Has a presence/probable absence survey for the tricolored bat following the Service's [Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-Eared Bat Survey Guidelines](#) been conducted within the project area? If unsure, answer "No."

No

33. Your project overlaps with an area where tricolored bats may be present and roosting in trees year-round.

Is suitable tricolored bat habitat present within 1000 feet of project activities? Note: If there are trees within the action area that may provide potential roosts for tricolored bats (e.g., clusters of leaves in live and dead deciduous trees, Spanish moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*), clusters of dead pine needles of large live pines) answer "Yes." Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

Yes

34. Do you have any documents that you want to include with this submission?

No

PROJECT QUESTIONNAIRE

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: The Law Offices of Louis E. Gitomer, LLC

Name: Melanie Yasbin

Address: 600 Baltimore Ave, Suite 301

City: Towson

State: MD

Zip: 21204

Email: melanie@lgraillaw.com

Phone: 4102962205

LEAD AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Lead Agency: Surface Transportation Board



500 Water Street, J801
Jacksonville, Florida 32202
Phone (904) 366-4457
Email: Kevin_Hardee@csx.com

Kevin Hardee
Joint Facilities

September 16, 2025

Florida Division of Historical Resources
R.A. Gray Building
500 S. Bronough Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250

Re: STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 824X), CSX Transportation, Inc.—Abandonment Exemption—in
Alachua County, FL

To Whom it May Concern:

On or after October 6, 2025, CSX Transportation, Inc. (“CSXT”) plans to file with the Surface Transportation Board a Notice of Abandonment seeking authority to abandon the approximately 1.4-mile rail line that runs between milepost AR 715.48 and milepost AR 716.88, on its Southern Region, Jacksonville Division, West Coast Subdivision (the “Line”). Attached is a Combined Environmental and Historic Report describing the proposed action and any expected environmental and/or historic effects, as well as a map of the affected area.

We are providing this report so that you may review the information that will form the basis for the STB's independent environmental analysis of this proceeding. If any of the information is misleading or incorrect, if you believe that pertinent information is missing, or if you have any questions about the Board's environmental review process, please contact the Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA), Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC, telephone (202) 245-0295 and refer to Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 824X). Because the applicable statutes and regulations impose stringent deadlines for processing this action, your written comments to OEA (with a copy to our representative) would be appreciated within 3 weeks.

Your comments will be considered by the Board in evaluating the environmental and/or historic preservation impacts of the contemplated action. If there are any questions concerning this proposal, please contact me by email Kevin_Hardee@csx.com or by mail to the above address. our representative directly.

Also enclosed is the distribution list of all parties who have been provided with the CEHR. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kevin D. Hardee". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid.

Kevin Hardee

EXHIBIT 3 – USGS MAPS

