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OEA

SERVICE DATE – MAY 4, 2026

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
WASHINGTON, DC 20423

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Docket No. AB 1301X

**Belvidere & Delaware River Railway Company – Abandonment Exemption –
In Hunterdon County, N.J.**

ABANDONMENT TYPE

The time for comments on the Draft Environmental Assessment (Draft EA) has expired in this:
(X) Notice of Exemption () Petition for Exemption () Regulated Abandonment

() **NO NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED**

(X) **NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED**

In this proceeding, Belvidere & Delaware River Railway Company (BDR) filed a notice of exemption with the Surface Transportation Board under 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50 seeking exemption from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. § 10903 in connection with the abandonment of a line of railroad in the Borough of Milford, Hunterdon County, New Jersey. The rail line proposed for abandonment extends approximately 3,288 feet from the Alexandria Creek Milepost 34.27 to a point 566.75 feet south of Milepost 35 (the Line). The Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) served a Draft EA for this proceeding on April 14, 2026 for public review and comment. In the Draft EA, OEA recommended a historic preservation condition pursuant to Section 106 the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and concluded that the proposed action would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment.

Modifications to the Draft EA

On April 7, 2026, before the Draft EA was issued, BDR submitted a comment letter from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) that was not considered in the Draft EA. In the letter, NRCS stated that the proposed abandonment would not have an impact on farmland. Accordingly, OEA concludes that the proposed abandonment would have no impact on farmland and is not recommending any additional mitigation.

Comments on the Draft EA

On April 30, 2026, the New Jersey State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) submitted a letter concurring with OEA's no adverse effect determination for the proposed abandonment

because there would be no salvage activities conducted within the right-of-way (the Area of Potential Effect or APE), and thus there would be no impacts to the Milford Historic District or the former Curtis Paper Mill Historic District.

In the Draft EA, OEA recommended a Section 106 condition requiring BDR to retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the historic integrity of historic properties within the APE that are eligible for listing in or listed in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) until completion of the Section 106 process. Pursuant to the Section 106 regulations at 36 C.F.R. § 800.4(d)(1), and following consultation with the SHPO and the public, OEA has determined that the proposed abandonment would not adversely affect historic properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register. The documentation for this finding, as specified at 36 C.F.R. § 800.11(d), consists of BDR's historic report, all relevant correspondence, the Draft EA, and this Final EA, which have been provided to the SHPO and made available to the public through posting on the Board's website at www.stb.gov. Accordingly, The Board has satisfied its responsibilities under Section 106 of the NHPA in this proceeding, and OEA is no longer recommending that the Section 106 condition be imposed on any decision granting abandonment authority.

Conclusions

The Draft EA comment period has ended, and no conditions are recommended by OEA. Accordingly, OEA believes that the proposed action will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

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