

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
SECTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

POST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS

**STB DOCKET NO. AB-33 (SUB-NO. 234X), UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD
COMPANY—ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION—IN WASHINGTON
COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

December 29, 2006

ABANDONMENT TYPE

The time for comments on the Environmental Assessment (EA) has expired in this:

(x) Notice of Exemption () Petition for Exemption () Regulated Abandonment

(x) NO NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED

SEA served an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proceeding on December 8, 2006 for public review and comment. In the EA, SEA recommended two (2) environmental conditions and concluded that the proposed action would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment.

No comments were received during the EA comment period that ended on December 26, 2006.

Conclusions

The EA comment period has ended. Accordingly, SEA recommends that the following conditions previously recommended in the EA should be imposed upon any decision granting abandonment authority:

- The Union Pacific Railroad shall notify the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) at least 90 days prior to beginning salvage activities in order to plan for the possible relocation of the geodetic station markers by NGS.
- The Union Pacific Railroad (UP) shall retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the historic integrity of all sites, buildings, and structures within the project right-of-way that are eligible for listing or listed in the National Register of Historic Places (generally, 50 years old or older) until the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 470f, has been completed. UP shall report back to the Section of Environmental Analysis regarding any consultations with the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Officer and any other Section 106 consulting parties. UP may not file its consummation notice or initiate any salvage activities related to abandonment (including removal of tracks and ties) until the Section 106 process has been completed and the Board has removed this condition.

If the above conditions are imposed, SEA believes that the proposed action will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

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