

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
SECTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

E0-2978

SUPPLEMENTAL FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN DOCKET NO. AB 6 (Sub-No. 497X)

April 4, 2018

ABANDONMENT TYPE

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

() **NO NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED**

(X) **NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED**

By decision served on January 5, 2018, the Board imposed a condition requiring BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) to retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the historic integrity of all sites and structures on the right-of-way that are eligible for listing or listed in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) until completion of the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. § 306108 (NHPA).

Comments on the EA

BNSF forwarded to the Board a letter dated March 22, 2018, from the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) indicating that, based on additional information provided by BNSF, the line does not retain sufficient integrity to be eligible for listing in the National Register. It is the SHPO's opinion that no historic properties would be affected by the proposed abandonment.

Pursuant to the Section 106 regulations of the NHPA at 36 C.F.R. § 800.5(b), and following consultation with the SHPO and the public, we have determined that the proposed abandonment would not affect historic properties listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register. The documentation for this finding, as specified at 36 C.F.R. § 800.11(e), consists of the railroad's historic report, all relevant correspondence, and the December 15, 2017 Environmental Assessment which have been provided to the SHPO and made available to the public through posting on the Board's website at <http://www.stb.gov>.

Accordingly, we recommend that the Section 106 condition imposed in the Board's January 5, 2018 decision be removed.

SEA CONTACT: Ken Blodgett (202-245-0305)

KHB

m DEPARTMENT OF
ADMINISTRATION
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

EJ-26269

March 22, 2018

Ms. Peggy Munroe
BNSF Railway Company
2500 Lou Menk Drive, AOB-3
Fort Worth, TX 76131

RE: STB Docket No. AB 6 (Sub-No. 497X)
BNSF Railway Company to abandon 1.75 miles of Line Segment 219 between Milepost 0.0 and
Milepost 1.75
St. Cloud, Benton County
SHPO Number: 2017-2586

Dear Ms. Munroe:

Thank you for continuing consultation on the above-referenced project. Information received in our office on 20 February 2018 has been reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given the State Historic Preservation Officer by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and implementing federal regulations at 36 CFR 800.

Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4-5 it is the Federal agency's responsibility to determine the area of potential effect (APE) for the federal undertaking, to identify and evaluate historic properties that may be affected by the proposed federal undertaking, and to assess adverse effects to historic properties, if any.

We have completed a review of the additional information you sent to our office on February 15th as it pertains to the proposed abandonment of this 1.75 mile railroad segment. Based upon historical information provided by your agency as well as our own historic evaluation of this line, we have determined that, while the Great Northern Railway: East St. Cloud to Hinckley Branch rail line may be considered to have significance meeting the criteria of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), this particular segment does not retain sufficient integrity to be eligible for listing in the NRHP. Therefore, it is our opinion that **no historic properties will be affected** by the undertaking, as currently proposed.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding our review. I can be reached at (651) 201-3290 or by e-mail at sarah.beimers@state.mn.us.

Sincerely,

Sarah J. Beimers

Sarah J. Beimers
Environmental Review Program Manager

Blodgett, Kenneth

From: Munroe, Peggy Sue <Peggy.Munroe@BNSF.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2018 2:12 PM
To: Blodgett, Kenneth
Subject: AB 6-497 - BNSF Abandonment in St. Cloud, Benton County, MN ltr from SHPO office resolving the Section 106 condition
Attachments: AB 6-497 - BNSF Abandonment in St. Cloud, Benton County, MN ltr from SHPO office.pdf

Ken,

Attached please find a copy of the letter received from the MN SHOP office with their opinion that no historic properties will be affected by the undertaking, as currently proposed.

Thank you,

Peggy Munroe
Paralegal
BNSF Railway Company
2500 Lou Menk Drive, AOB-3
Fort Worth, Texas 76131-2828
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817-352-2398 (fax)
Peggy.Munroe@bnsf.com



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