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10-3-08

(Armstrong)
Eans CO
1084

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
SECTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

POST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN STB DOCKET NO. AB-1020X

November 3, 2008

ABANDONMENT TYPE

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

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

() **NO NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED**

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SEA served an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proceeding on September 30, 2008, for public review and comment. In the EA, SEA recommended three environmental conditions and concluded that the proposed action would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment.

Comments on the EA

SEA received five comments after issuance of the EA.

1. In a letter dated August 24, 2008, Mr. Richard Bates, Reading Company Technical & Historical Society, notes a number of structures on the Colebrookdale Line that he believes are notable. Mr. Bates also states that he supports the retention of the Colebrookdale Line if there is a continuing need for rail service.
2. In a letter October 31, 2008, Mr. Benjamin Bernhart, The Historical Society of Berks County Museum & Library, states that the Colebrookdale Line played an important role in the industrialization of Berks and Montgomery Counties. Mr. Bernhart further states the he supports any effort to preserve the Colebrookdale line and requests that a full historical survey be conducted prior to undertaking any abandonment activities
3. In an undated letter, Ms. Lindsay Dierolf, Boyertown Area Historical Society, outlines the Colebrookdale Line's importance to the area as well as identifying an Indian burial mound in the vicinity of Pine Forge. She further states that she believes that the historic report prepared by East Penn Railroad, LLC., does not fully represent many of these historic features. Lastly, she notes that the Colebrookdale Line may be useful as a tourist attraction, continued freight and/or light passenger rail service.

4. In an undated letter, Mr. Nathaniel Guest, submitted a 12 page letter outlining the historic importance of the Colebrookdale Line as well as a number of reasons why the historic report prepared by East Penn Railroad, LLC., was deficient and the review undertaken by the Pennsylvania State Historic Office was deficient.
5. In a letter dated October 29, 2008, Ms. Andrea MacDonald, Chief, Pennsylvania Bureau for Historic Preservation, Division of Preservation Services (SHPO), re-evaluated the National Register eligibility of the Colebrookdale Line based on additional information provide by local historical societies and concerned citizens. Based on the new information submitted, the SHPO finds no reason to alter it previous evaluation of not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. However, the SHPO also states that, if interested, local groups may submit Historic Resource Forms for the evaluation of the individual bridges.

Conclusions

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

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