

#EO-2124

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN
DOCKET NO. AB 586 (SUB-NO. 3X)

June 28, 2013

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

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In this proceeding, the North Central Railway Association (NCRA) filed a notice under 49 C.F.R. § 1152.52 seeking exemption from the requirements of 49 U.S.C. § 10903 to abandon approximately 10.46 miles of rail line located in Franklin and Hardin Counties, Iowa. The Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) served an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proceeding on June 10, 2013 for public review and comment. In the EA, OEA recommended two environmental conditions and concluded that the proposed action would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment.

Conclusion

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

1. Prior to commencement of any salvage activities, the North Central Railway Association (NCRA) shall consult with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to ensure that any concerns in the right-of-way are addressed regarding fugitive dust; floodplain or wetland disturbances; erosion and sedimentation; and wastewater discharges.
2. In the event that any unanticipated archaeological sites, human remains, funerary items or associated artifacts are discovered during the railroad's salvage activities, NCRA shall immediately cease all work and notify the Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA), interested federally recognized tribes, and the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs (State Historic Preservation Office or SHPO) pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 800.13(b). OEA shall then consult with the SHPO, interested federally recognized tribes, NCRA, and other consulting parties, if any, to determine whether appropriate mitigation measures are necessary.

OEA concludes that if the above conditions are imposed, the proposed action would not significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

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