

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN DOCKET NO. AB 6 (Sub-No. 482X)

March 25, 2013

ABANDONMENT TYPE

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

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

(X) NO NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED

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The Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) served an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proceeding on February 19, 2013 for public review and comment. In the EA, OEA recommended three environmental conditions and concluded that the proposed action would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment.

Conclusions

The EA comment period has ended and no environmental comments have been received. Accordingly, OEA recommends that the following conditions previously recommended in the EA should be imposed upon any decision granting abandonment authority:

- 1. To ensure appropriate consideration of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements, the BNSF Railway Company shall consult with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency prior to commencement of any salvage activities and shall comply with the reasonable NPDES requirements.**
- 2. Prior to commencement of any salvage activities, BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) shall consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding potential impacts from salvaging activities to federally listed threatened and endangered species that may occur in the vicinity of the line. BNSF shall report the results of these consultations in writing to the Board's Office of Environmental Analysis prior to the onset of salvage operations.**
- 3. BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) shall consult with the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) prior to beginning salvage activities. If NGS identifies geodetic station markers that may be affected by the proposed abandonment, BNSF shall notify NGS at least 90 days prior to beginning salvage activities that will disturb or destroy any geodetic station markers in order to plan for the possible relocation of the geodetic station markers by NGS.**

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

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