

EO-2236

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

**SUPPLEMENTAL FINAL
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN
DOCKET NO. AB 55 (SUB-NO. 718X)
AND
DOCKET NO. AB 507 (SUB-NO. 1X)

March 6, 2014

ABANDONMENT TYPE

The time for comments on the Environmental Assessment (EA) has expired in this:
(X) Notice of Exemption () Petition for Exemption () Regulated Abandonment

() **NO NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED**

(X) **NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED**

In this proceeding, the CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT) and the Florida Northern Railroad Company (FNOR) filed a notice with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) seeking authority for CSXT to abandon 11.62 miles of rail line and for FNOR to discontinue service over approximately 9.81 miles of rail line located in Alachua County, Florida.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) served an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proceeding on December 13, 2013 for public review and comment. In the EA, OEA stated that CSXT and FNOR submitted an Historic Report on the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources (State Historic Preservation Office or SHPO), pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 1105.8(c) as required by the Board's environmental rules [49 C.F.R. § 1105.8(a)]. In response, the SHPO commented that the rail corridor is part of the Henry B. Plant system of railroads in Florida and is recorded on the Florida Master Site File (FMSL) as a linear resource under the Savannah, Florida and Western Railway. The SHPO further commented that the rail corridor is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) and that the proposed undertaking would have an adverse effect on historic properties. The SHPO indicated that the proposed undertaking would be sufficiently mitigated if an updated FMSL were to be completed and required that the update include the relevant historical information that CSXT provided in an earlier correspondence dated August 12, 2013. Accordingly, OEA recommended a condition be imposed on any decision granting abandonment authority requiring CSXT to: (1) retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the historic integrity of all historic properties including sites, buildings, structures, and objects within the project right-of-way (the Area of Potential Effect) that are eligible for listing or listed in the National Register of Historic Places until the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. § 470f, has been completed; (2) report back to OEA regarding any consultations with the SHPO and the public; and (3) refrain from filing 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.¹

New Comments

In a January 24, 2014 letter from the SHPO to CSXT, the SHPO indicated that it had received the requested information and found the documents to be satisfactory. Based on this information, OEA provided a February 7, 2014 response letter to the SHPO stating that the proposed undertaking, as mitigated, would not affect historic resources, pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 800.4(d)(1). In a March 5, 2014 reply letter, the SHPO concurred with OEA by signifying that the adverse effect of the proposed undertaking has been adequately mitigated.

Conclusions

Pursuant to the Section 106 regulations of the National Historic Preservation Act at 36 C.F.R. § 800.4(d)(1), and following consultation with the SHPO and the public, OEA has 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(d), consists of the railroad's historic report, all relevant correspondence, the EA, the Final EA and this Supplemental EA, which have been provided to the SHPO and made available to the public through posting on the Board's website at <http://www.stb.dot.gov>.

Conditions one through three recommended in the EA should be imposed upon any decision granting abandonment authority as follows:

1. The CSXT Transportation, Inc. (CSXT) shall consult with the Alachua County Environmental Protection Department prior to initiating salvage of the rail line to determine what, if any, permits may be required for salvage operations on the rail line.
2. CSXT shall consult with the Alachua Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission prior to initiating salvage of the rail line to determine what, if any, procedures and/or permits may be needed to protect Gopher tortoise habitat areas within 25 feet of the proposed salvage operations.
3. CSXT shall consult with the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) and notify NGS at least 90 days prior to beginning salvage activities that will disturb or destroy any geodetic station markers.

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

OEA CONTACT: Diana Wood 
202-245-0302
woodd@stb.dot.gov
Distribution: Office of Proceedings
OEA Chron
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¹ The Board has deferred its decision in this proceeding until March 17, 2014 in order to give Seaside Holdings, Inc. time to file a notice of financial assistance.



#E1-20461

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT of STATE

RICK SCOTT
Governor

KEN DETZNER
Secretary of State

Ms. JoAnn Burroughs
CSX, Manager Network Services
500 Water Street-J315
Jacksonville, Florida 32202

March 5, 2014

Re: **SHPO Project #: 2012-02212D**
Received by DHR: February 11, 2014
106-Surface Transportation Board - CSX Transportation, Inc.:
STB Docket No. AB 55 (Sub-No. 718X)-CSX Transportation, Inc.
Abandonment Exemption-in Alachua County, Florida &
STB Docket No. AB 507 (Sub-No. 1X)-Florida Northern Railroad Company-
Discontinuance of Service Exemption-In Alachua County, Florida

Dear Ms. Burroughs:

Our office reviewed the referenced property for possible impact to historic properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places, or otherwise of historical, architectural or archaeological value. The review was conducted in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended and 36 CFR Part 800: Protection of Historic Properties.

Based on our prior receipt and acceptance of the requested documentation (DHR Project File No.: 2012-02212C), it is the opinion of this office that the adverse effect on this historic resource has been adequately mitigated.

For any questions concerning our comments, please contact Robin Jackson, Historic Sites Specialist, by phone at 850.245.6333, or by electronic mail at robin.jackson@dos.myflorida.com. We appreciate your continued interest in protecting Florida's historic properties.

Sincerely

Robert F. Bendus, Director
Division of Historical Resources
and State Historic Preservation Officer



DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES
R. A. Gray Building • 500 South Bronough Street • Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250
Telephone: 850.245.6333 • www.flheritage.com
Commemorating 500 years of Florida history www.viva.florida.org





SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

February 7, 2014

Robert F. Bendus
Director and State Historic Preservation Officer
Florida Department of State
Division of Historical Resources
R.A. Gray Building
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

**Re: STB Docket No. AB 55 (Sub-No. 718X) – CSX Transportation, Inc. –
Abandonment Exemption – In Alachua County, Fla. And STB Docket No.
AB 507 (Sub-No. 1X) – Florida Northern Railroad Company –
Discontinuance of Service Exemption – In Alachua County, Fla.;
SHPO Project 2012-02212C**

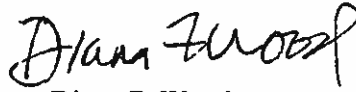
Dear Mr. Bendus:

The Surface Transportation Board's (Board) Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) has made a finding of "no historic properties affected" (36 C.F.R. § 800.4(d)(1)) in the above referenced proceeding. The proposed action consists of the proposed abandonment and discontinuance of an approximately 11.62-mile rail line located in Alachua, Florida. The Board's approval of the proposed action is an undertaking subject to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

The Board's "no historic properties affected" finding is based on research conducted by the applicant(s), and the January 24, 2014 letter from your office indicating that the requested documentation from September 13, 2013 (a completed updated Florida Master Site File Resource Group Form and relevant historical information) has been received and deemed sufficient for mitigating the adverse effect of the proposed abandonment. Therefore, we find that the proposed undertaking, as mitigated, would not affect historic properties.

If you have any questions, require additional information regarding this proceeding, or have any concerns, please do not hesitate to call me at 202-245-0302, or email me at woodd@stb.dot.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diana F. Wood". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Diana" being more prominent.

Diana F. Wood
Environmental Protection Specialist
Office of Environmental Analysis

cc: Robin Jackson, Florida State Historic Sites Specialist
Louis Gitomer, Attorney for CSXT



#E1-20394

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RICK SCOTT
Governor

KEN DETZNER
Secretary of State

Ms. JoAnn Burroughs
CSX, Manager Network Services
500 Water Street-J315
Jacksonville, Florida 32202

January 24, 2014

Re: SHPO Project #: 2012-02212C
Requested Information Received by SHPO: December 23, 2013
106-Surface Transportation Board - CSX Transportation, Inc.:
Mitigation for Proposed Abandonment, STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub No. 718X)
Florida Northern Railroad Company, Inc.
Discontinuance of Service, STB Docket AB-307 (Sub-No. 1X)
11.62 Mile Rail Line between Milepost AR 716.88, High Springs and
Railroad Milepost AR 726.69 at Newberry, and between Milepost ARB 717.11 at
High Springs and Milepost ARB 718.92 at High Springs, Alachua County

Dear Ms. Burroughs:

Our office reviewed the referenced property for possible impact to historic properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places, or otherwise of historical, architectural or archaeological value. The review was conducted in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended and 36 CFR Part 800: Protection of Historic Properties.

On September 13, 2013, this office requested documentation (completion of an updated Florida Master Site File Resource Group Form, and relevant historical information) in order to mitigate the adverse effect of abandonment of the above referenced sections of the National Register eligible Savannah, Florida, and Western Railroad, 8AL5104. This office has received the requested information and finds the documents to be satisfactory.

For any questions concerning our comments, please contact Robin Jackson, Historic Sites Specialist, by phone at 850.245.6333, or by electronic mail at robin.jackson@dos.myflorida.com. We appreciate your continued interest in protecting Florida's historic properties.

Sincerely

Robert F. Bendus, Director
Division of Historical Resources
and State Historic Preservation Officer



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