

EO-1854

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN DOCKET NO. AB 167 1191X, AB 55 710X
and AB 290 552X

February 15, 2012

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**

OEA served an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proceeding on January 30, 2012, for public review and comment. In the EA, OEA recommended 2 environmental conditions.

Comments on the EA

On February 10, 2012, OEA received an email comment from Conrail correcting a minor error in the EA. The EA indicated that a bridge that crosses Allegheny Avenue is located at milepost 2.80. The correct milepost at which the bridge is located is milepost 2.92.

Of note, on January 30, 2012, CNJ Rail Corporation filed a Notice of Intent to File an OFA. In response, Conrail filed a reply on February 7, 2012. Based on information in these filings, less of the Line may have been salvaged than originally indicated. Because the EA assessed the potential environmental effects of salvage of the Line, the fact that less of the Line may have been salvaged does not change the analysis or the conclusions in the EA.

Conclusions

The EA comment period has ended. Accordingly, OEA recommends that the following 2 environmental conditions previously recommended in the EA should be imposed upon any decision granting abandonment authority. The conditions are:

- 1. Consolidated Rail Corporation (Conrail) shall consult with the City of Philadelphia regarding its concerns prior to initiating any salvage activities. Conrail shall report back to OEA the results of its discussions.**
- 2. Consolidated Rail Corporation (Conrail) shall consult with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Stormwater Section, prior to initiating any salvage activities and shall comply with all reasonable requirements prescribed. Conrail shall report back to OEA the results of its discussions.**

If the above 2 environmental conditions are imposed, OEA believes that the proposed action will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

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