

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN DOCKET NO. AB 1122X

February 13, 2015

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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OEA served an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proceeding on January 23, 2015 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. Upon further review of comments submitted by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) and the Arkansas Department of Health, OEA believes that two conditions should be added. LDEQ's requested consultation if Ouachita Railroad, Inc. encounters solid or hazardous wastes or contaminated soils or groundwater during the project. The Arkansas Department of Health requested that Ouachita Railroad, Inc. consult with Junction City Waterworks because the project area crosses the wellhead protection areas of both Junction City Waterworks wells in Junction City.

Conclusions

The EA comment period has ended. Accordingly, OEA recommends that the conditions recommended in the EA, as well as the additional conditions recommended in this document, should be imposed upon any decision granting abandonment authority. The combined conditions are:

- 1. Ouachita Railroad, Inc. 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.**
- 2. Ouachita Railroad, Inc. shall consult with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development and the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission prior to commencement of any salvage activities regarding potential impacts to the floodplain and shall comply with the reasonable requirements of these offices.**
- 3. Ouachita Railroad, Inc. shall consult with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) if it encounters any solid or hazardous wastes or contaminated soils or groundwater during the project. Additionally, the railroad should take necessary precautions to protect workers from these hazards should any arise.**

- 4. Ouachita Railroad, Inc. shall consult with Junction City Waterworks prior to commencement of any salvage activities regarding potential impacts to the Junction City Waterworks and shall take necessary precautions to protect wellhead protection areas in Junction City.**

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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