



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

May 7, 2015

John M. Fowler, Executive Director
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Office of Planning and Review
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 809
Washington, DC 20004

Re: STB Docket No. AB 1068 (Sub-No. 3X) – Missouri Central Railroad Company – Abandonment and Discontinuance of Service Exemption – In Cass, Pettis, Benton, Morgan, Miller, Cole, Osage, Maries, Gasconade, and Franklin Counties, Mo.

STB Docket No. AB 1070 (Sub-No. 3X) – Central Midland Railway Company – Discontinuance of Service and Operating Rights Exemption – In Cass, Pettis, Benton, Morgan, Miller, Cole, Osage, Maries, Gasconade, and Franklin Counties, Mo.; Notification of Adverse Effect

Dear Mr. Fowler:

The Missouri Central Railroad Company (MCRR) and Central Midland Railway Company (CMR) filed a notice under 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50 seeking exemption from the requirements of 49 U.S.C. § 10903 for MCRR to abandon and for MCRR and CMR to discontinue service and operating rights over an approximately 144.3-mile rail line in two segments in Cass, Pettis, Benton, Morgan, Miller, Cole, Osage, Maries, Gasconade, and Franklin Counties, Missouri. The first segment of rail line extends from milepost 263.5 to milepost 262.906, near Pleasant Hill in Cass County, Missouri. The second segment extends from milepost 215.325, near Windsor in Pettis County, Missouri to milepost 71.6, near Beaufort in Franklin County, Missouri.¹ The Board's approval of this abandonment and discontinuance of

¹ The State of Missouri is interested in preserving the corridor by establishing a trail on the right-of-way, pursuant to the National Trails System Act at 16 U.S.C. § 1247(d). The trail would be a separate action by the State and would be an extension of a trail currently being developed on the 5.6-mile portion of the MCRR right-of-way between milepost 262.906 and

service is considered an undertaking under Section 106 of NHPA (16 U.S.C. § 470f) and is thus covered under its provisions.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) is responsible for ensuring the agency's compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and NHPA. Based on available information, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has submitted comments stating that the rail corridor, as well as the 39 bridges, 11 monuments, 3 tunnels, and approximately 458± culverts, are eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. We concur with this finding, and pursuant to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's regulations for implementing the Section 106 process of the NHPA, are notifying you that the proposed abandonment and discontinuance of service may adversely affect these historic resources. OEA has begun the consultation process and is developing a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the SHPO, the railroads, and other concerned or affected parties, to mitigate any adverse effects to the National Register rail line. OEA has also sent letters, dated March 27, 2015, inviting 11 federally recognized tribes that may have knowledge regarding properties of traditional religious and cultural significance within the area of potential effects to participate in the MOA process. To date, we have received no letters of interest from the tribes.

The Missouri State Parks has initiated the process of rail banking this segment of rail line, pursuant to the National Trails System Act at 16 U.S.C. § 1247(d). If negotiations are successful, this action would link the adjoining 5.6-mile portion of trail that was developed on a previously abandoned MCRR right-of-way between milepost 262.906 and milepost 257.283 and another rail line segment that is being developed on the 42-mile portion between milepost 257.283 and milepost 215.325. Both line segments were previously proposed for abandonment. Because this is not a controversial proceeding, we do not seek your participation in the Section 106 process at this time.

The following documents, which describe the proposed undertaking and provide information regarding the rail line, are enclosed for your review: 1) the Notice of Exemption that describes the proposed action and contains information about the rail line; 2) the Environmental and Historic report submitted to OEA by the railroad; 3) the December 12, 2014 Environmental Assessment prepared by OEA; 4) the March 27, 2015 letters that invite the 11 communities/cities that the rail line travels through and the 11 federally recognized tribes to participate in the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) process, pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 800.3; and 5) the December 16, 2014 Missouri Department of Natural Resources trail use request letter.

milepost 257.283, and one that would be developed on the 42-mile portion between milepost 257.283 and milepost 215.325. Both line segments were previously proposed for abandonment.

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

Sincerely,



Diana Wood
Environmental Project Manager
Office of Environmental Analysis

Attachments

cc: Judith Deel, Missouri SHPO (SHPO Log # 003-MLT-15)
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Sandra Brown, Thompson Hine LLP