

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN DOCKET NO. AB 55 (Sub-No. 709X)

July 28, 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**

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OEA served an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proceeding on July 11, 2014 for public review and comment. In the EA, OEA recommended one environmental condition and concluded that the proposed action would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment.

Comments on the EA

OEA received one comment after issuance of the EA. The Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) submitted comments requesting scaled photographs and plan views that would provide information regarding the Line's features for the archeological record. In addition, SHPO recommended that additional parties be invited to participate in the consultation. Therefore, OEA continues to recommend that the Section 106 condition previously recommended in the EA should be imposed upon any decision granting abandonment authority.

Conclusions

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

1. CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT) shall retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the historic integrity of all sites, buildings, structures, and objects within the project right-of-way that are eligible for listing or listed in the National Register of Historic Places (generally, 50 years old or older) until the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. § 470f, has been completed. CSXT shall report back to the Office of Environmental Analysis regarding any consultations with the State Historic Preservation Officer, any other Section 106

consulting parties, and the public. CSXT may not file 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.

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

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