

EO-2862

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

POST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN STB DOCKET NO. AB- 33 (Sub No. 290X)

July 6, 2016

ABANDONMENT TYPE

The time for comments on the Environmental Assessment (EA) has expired in this:

☐ Notice of Exemption ☒ Petition for Exemption ☐ Regulated Abandonment

☐ NO NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED

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Summary

Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 C.F.R. pt. 1152 subpart F—Exempt Abandonments to abandon a line of railroad known as the North Little Rock Junction Bridge Line, extending from milepost 343.65 to the end of the line at milepost 343.97, a distance of .32 miles, in North Little Rock, in Pulaski County, Ark. Notice of the exemption was served and published in the Federal Register on October 21, 2010 (75 Fed. Reg. 65,049). The exemption became effective on November 20, 2010.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) served an environmental assessment (EA) in this proceeding on October 26, 2010, requesting comments by November 10, 2010. In the EA, OEA recommended that the Board not impose environmental conditions on any decision granting abandonment authority and concluded that the proposed action would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment. No comments were received during the comment period.

On November 18, 2010, OEA received a late-filed comment from the National Geodetic Survey (NGS). NGS identified one geodetic station marker that may be affected by the proposed abandonment. Accordingly, OEA recommended a condition requiring UP to consult with NGS and notify NGS at least 90 days prior to beginning salvage activities that could disturb or destroy any geodetic station markers. Based on OEA's recommendation, the Board by a decision dated November 19, 2010, imposed the NGS condition.

On June 29, 2016, UP filed a letter with the Board explaining that the City of North Little Rock, Arkansas, has approached UP with a request to purchase the entire .32 mile of line at issue in this proceeding. To facilitate the transfer of the line from UP to North Little Rock, UP states that it must confirm with Little Rock that UP has complied with the NGS condition. UP attached a letter from NGS to the Board dated June 9, 2016, stating that UP has complied fully with the NGS condition.

Typically, the Board considers NGS conditions as “self-executing,” meaning that the condition can be considered satisfied without reopening the proceeding to remove the condition. Here, however, UP states that removal of the condition would facilitate the transfer of the line to Little Rock. We are able to accommodate UP’s request. Accordingly, we note that UP has complied fully with the NGS condition and recommend that the NGS condition be removed. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

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Copies furnished to OEA Chron and ECT